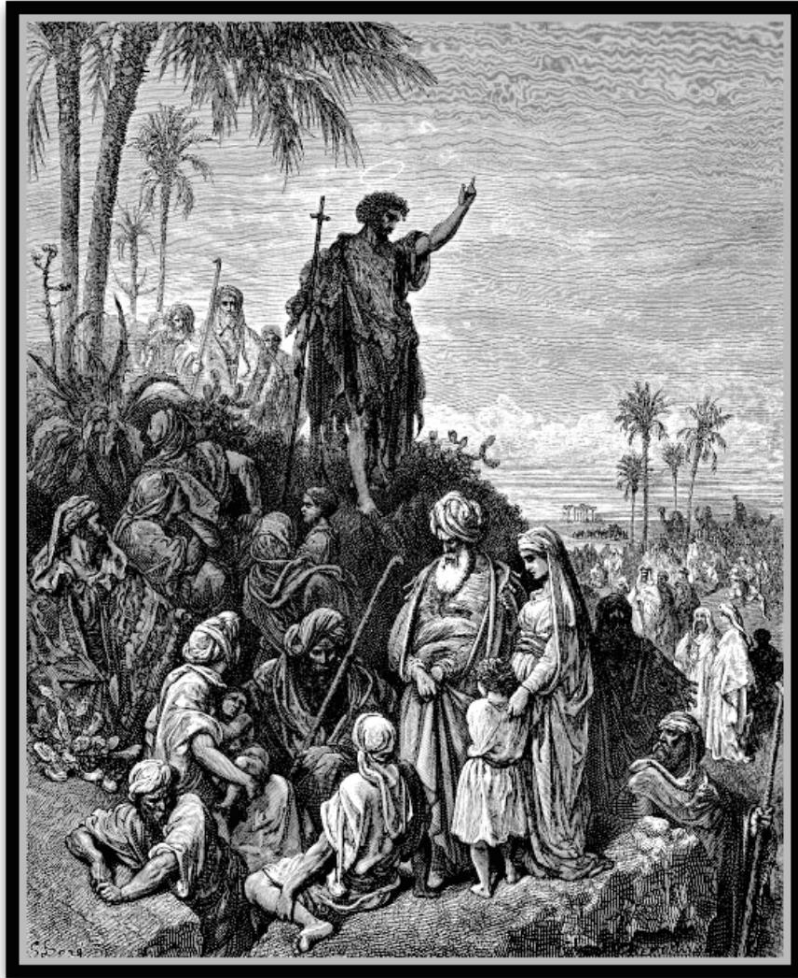


SOLA SCRIPTURA ✘ SOLA GRATIA ✘ SOLA FIDE

Divine Service



Our Savior Lutheran Church

Westminster, Massachusetts

SCRIPTURE ALONE ✘ GRACE ALONE ✘ FAITH ALONE

1 Hager Park Road
(Junction 140, 2, and 2A)
Westminster, MA 01473

Our Savior Lutheran Church

December 6, 2020

office@oursaviorlcms.com
church: 978-874-2479
www.oursaviorlcms.com

Service Guidelines

- Follow the directions of greeters, hosts, Pastor, and elders about how and when to enter, where to sit, how to receive communion, when to exit, and so forth
- Don't come if you are sick, have symptoms, or have potentially been exposed
- No handshakes, hugs, or touches. Keep 6 feet apart unless you are a joint household
- Masks are to be worn at all times, those with medical or health issues excepted
- Movement into & out of the sanctuary should be kept to a minimum
- Be gracious & considerate of your neighbors
- Don't overcrowd – cars, conversations/groups in walkways or doorways, etc.
- Extended conversations are encouraged, but outdoors & after service

Holy Communion

We welcome to the Lord's Table members of Our Savior and members of sister congregations of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Visitors may come forward with arms crossed for a blessing. Our pastor would be glad to instruct you so that you can confess Jesus Christ with us and receive His holy body and blood for forgiveness, life, and salvation.

The body of Christ will be placed into the hand. The blood of Christ will be received from individual glass cups. Distribution will be in a continuous line rather than at the altar rail.

Spiritual Care

Individual confession and absolution, spiritual care, and pastoral counsel are available by phone, by appointment at church, or by home visit. Please contact the church office to schedule a time.

Serving in Worship Today

Preacher & Celebrant	Rev. Peter Gregory
Assisting (9:00 am)	Dave Farabaugh
(11:00 am)	Tom Connell
Organist (9:00 & 11:00 am)	Anne Bennet

Divine Service, Singing, and COVID-19

Along with what we are already doing on Sundays (*masks when coming, going, and moving about; physical distancing; running HEPA filters; multiple services*) and in light of the rising number of cases, including locally, we have made these changes to our Sunday services:

- For all services **masks are required**, especially while singing the liturgy and hymns. *Anyone unable to wear a mask due to medical or health issues should speak with pastor.*
- The 6:00 pm evening service will be entirely spoken. **There will be no singing.**

Prayer for Worship

Dear Jesus, through sin we had become aliens, yes, prisoners of Satan and enemies of God. But by Your most holy Advent all our losses are made good.

O grace abounding! Love unspeakable! For Your sake, O Jesus, the strangers are made friends, the prisoners are set free, the enemies of God are made His beloved, sinners become God's children, the fallen are raised.

O holy Advent, by which we who were condemned to death obtain life, by which we who were fallen from grace are clothed with glory and honor on Your account.

For this is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance: that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. Amen.

Cover Illustration

"John the Baptist Preaching in the Wilderness"
by Gustave Doré (1832–1883).

OPENING HYMN—TUNE: TLH 63—TEXT: LSB 344

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 On Jordan’s bank the Baptist’s cry
Announces that the Lord is nigh;
Awake and hearken, for he brings
Glad tidings of the King of kings! | 3 We hail Thee as our Savior, Lord,
Our refuge and our great reward;
Without Thy grace we waste away
Like flow’rs that wither and decay. |
| 2 Then cleansed be ev’ry life from sin;
Make straight the way for God within,
And let us all our hearts prepare
For Christ to come and enter there. | 4 Lay on the sick Thy healing hand
And make the fallen strong to stand;
Show us the glory of Thy face
Till beauty springs in ev’ry place. |

△ 5 **All praise, eternal Son, to Thee
Whose advent sets Thy people free,
Whom with the Father we adore
And Holy Spirit evermore.**

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THE INVOCATION

Matthew 28:19b; [18:20]

In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

THE CONFESSION OF SINS

Beloved in the Lord, let us draw near with sincere hearts to confess our sins to God, our Father, and to plead in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ for His forgiveness.

*Our help is in the name of the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.*

Psalm 124:8

*I said, I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,
and You forgave the guilt of my sin.*

Psalm 32:5

Silence for reflection on God’s Word and self-examination.

Almighty God, our Maker and our Redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. And so we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

O most merciful God, who has given Your only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us, and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will and true obedience to Your Word, so that by Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

The Absolution

[John 20:19–23]

Amen.

THE INTROIT

Psalm 80:3, 1, 8a, 9b, 7

Restore us, O God;

let Your face shine, that we may be saved!

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, You who lead Joseph like a flock!

You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth.

You brought a vine out of Egypt;

it took deep root and filled the land.

Restore us, O God of hosts;

let Your face shine, that we may be saved!

THE GLORIA PATRI

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.**

THE KYRIE

Mark 10:47

Lord, have mercy on us.

Christ, have mercy on us.

Lord, have mercy on us.

THE SALUTATION

2 Timothy 4:22

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

THE COLLECT

Let us pray. Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The Reading of God's Word

from the Old Testament: Isaiah 40:1–11

After the reading:

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Surely His salvation is near to those who fear Him,
that glory may dwell in our land.

LORD, You were favorable to Your land;
You restored the fortunes of Jacob.

You forgave the iniquity of Your people;
You covered all their sin.

You withdrew all Your wrath;
You turned from Your hot anger.

Restore us again, O God of our salvation,
and put away Your indignation toward us!

Will You be angry with us forever?
Will You prolong Your anger to all generations?

Will You not revive us again,
that Your people may rejoice in You?

Show us Your steadfast love, O LORD,
and grant us Your salvation.

Let me hear what God the LORD will speak,
for He will speak peace to His people, to His saints; but let them not turn back to folly.

Surely His salvation is near to those who fear Him,
that glory may dwell in our land.

Steadfast love and faithfulness meet;
righteousness and peace kiss each other.

Faithfulness springs up from the ground,
and righteousness looks down from the sky.

Yes, the LORD will give what is good,
and our land will yield its increase.

Righteousness will go before Him
and make His footsteps a way.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Surely His salvation is near to those who fear Him,
that glory may dwell in our land.

from the Letters: 2 Peter 3:8–14

After the reading:

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE ALLELUIA AND VERSE

Luke 3:4b, 6

*Alleluia. Prepare the way of the Lord, make His paths straight;
all flesh shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia.*

The Holy Gospel: Mark 1:1–8

Glory be to You, O Lord!

After the reading:

Praise be to You, O Christ!

THE APOSTLES' CREED

Having heard the Word, what do you believe?

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

The third day He rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

and sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty.

From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy Christian church,

the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body,

and the life † everlasting. Amen.

- 1 “Comfort, comfort ye My people,
Speak ye peace,” thus saith our God;
“Comfort those who sit in darkness,
Mourning ‘neath their sorrows’ load.
Speak ye to Jerusalem
Of the peace that waits for them;
Tell her that her sins I cover
And her warfare now is over.”
- 2 Yea, her sins our God will pardon,
Blotting out each dark misdeed;
All that well deserved His anger
He no more will see or heed.
She hath suffered many’a day,
Now her griefs have passed away;
God will change her pining sadness
Into ever-springing gladness.
- 3 Hark, the herald’s voice is crying
In the desert far and near,
Calling sinners to repentance,
Since the Kingdom now is here.
O that warning cry obey!
Now prepare for God a way;
Let the valleys rise to meet Him
And the hills bow down to greet Him.
- 4 Make ye straight what long was crooked;
Make the rougher places plain.
Let your hearts be true and humble,
As befits His holy reign.
For the glory of the Lord
Now o’er earth is shed abroad,
And all flesh shall see the token
That His Word is never broken.

Text: Public domain

The Sermon

Isaiah 40:1–11; Mark 1:1–8

THE OFFERTORY HYMN—TUNE & TEXT: LSB 518, ST. 24

**Our thanks for John the Baptist
Who, till his dying day,
Made straight paths for the Savior
And heralded His way!
In witnessing to Jesus
Through times of threat or shame
May we with faith and courage
The Lamb of God proclaim.**

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Note: The offering of tithes and gifts will take place as you come forward for Holy Communion

The Prayer of the Church

the prayer concludes with:

. . . one God, now and forever. Amen.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

We give You thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. Send Your Spirit, we pray, on this bread and wine that they may also be the Body and Blood of Him who is coming in the clouds, that even now He may come to us and into us with grace and pardon. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9–13

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.

Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

PRE-COMMUNION HYMN—TUNE: TLH 62—TEXT: LSB 357, ST. 1

**O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!**

The Words of Institution

Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25

THE PAX DOMINI

John 20:19

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

THE AGNUS DEI

John 1:29

O Christ, Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

O Christ, Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

O Christ, Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world, grant us Your peace. Amen.

Holy Communion

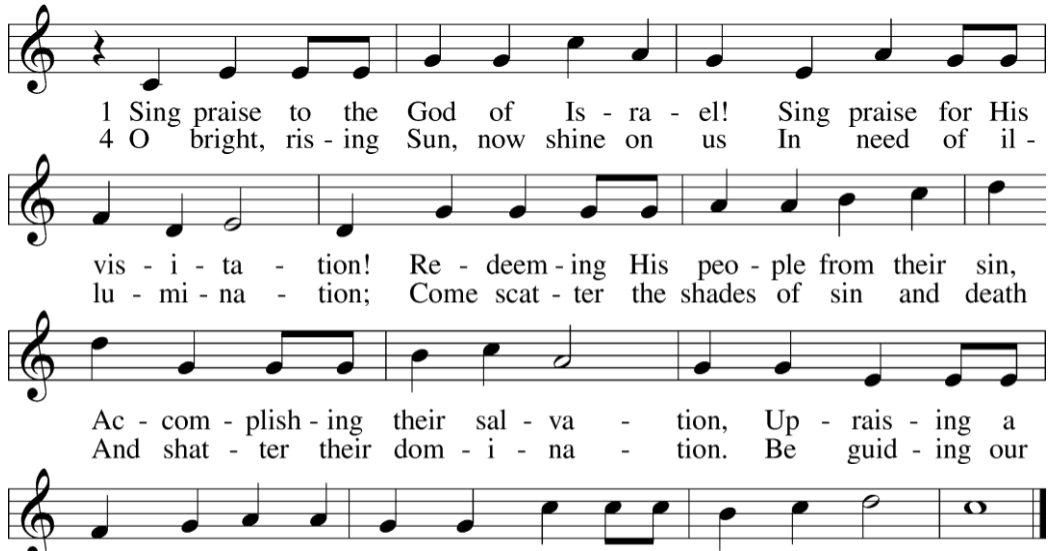
> *All who receive Holy Communion here must first be instructed. Our pastor will be very glad to instruct you. Please contact the office for an appointment. Those who have not been instructed may come forward with their arms crossed to receive a blessing.*

For those who will be receiving Holy Communion, please follow the directions of the hosts and pastor.

During the distribution, silently pray for your brothers and sisters in Christ present and absent, for those in need, for your own family and friends, and for yourselves. <

THE POST-COMMUNION HYMN – TUNE & TEXT: LSB 936, STS. 1, 4

Following the common dismissal for Holy Communion, we stand and sing these hymn stanzas based on the Benedictus (Luke 1:68–79), the Song of Zechariah, father of John the Baptist.



1 Sing praise to the God of Is - ra - el! Sing praise for His
4 O bright, ris - ing Sun, now shine on us In need of il -
vis - i - ta - tion! Re - deem - ing His peo - ple from their sin,
lu - mi - na - tion; Come scat - ter the shades of sin and death
Ac - com - plish - ing their sal - va - tion, Up - rais - ing a
And shat - ter their dom - i - na - tion. Be guid - ing our
might - y horn with - in The house of His ser - vant Da - vid!
foot - steps on the path Of peace, in Your pres - ence dawn - ing!

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THE THANKSGIVING

Psalm 107:1

*Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good,
And His mercy endures forever.*

THE THANKSGIVING COLLECT

Let us pray. Almighty and everlasting God, we thank and praise You for feeding us the life-giving body and blood of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Send us Your Holy Spirit that, having with our mouths received the holy Sacrament, we may by faith obtain and eternally enjoy Your divine grace, the forgiveness of sins, unity with Christ, and life eternal, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

THE COLLECT FOR THE WORD

Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them that, by patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

THE SALUTATION

2 Timothy 4:22

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

THE BENEDICAMUS

[Psalm 103:1]

Bless we the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE BENEDICTION

Numbers 6:24–26

The LORD bless you and keep you.

The LORD make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The LORD lift up His countenance upon you and † give you peace.

Amen. Amen. Amen.

HYMN TO DEPART—TUNE & TEXT: TLH 72, STS. 1 & 4

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1 Rejoice, rejoice, believers,
And let your lights appear!
The evening is advancing,
And darker night is near.
The Bridegroom is arising,
And soon He draweth nigh;
Up, pray and watch and wrestle!
At midnight comes the cry.</p> | <p>2 Our Hope and Expectation,
O Jesus, now appear;
Arise, Desire of nations,
O'er this benighted sphere.
With hearts and hands uplifted,
We plead, O Lord, to see
The day of earth's redemption,
That brings us unto Thee!</p> |
|--|--|

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God's People at Prayer

For Home Devotions

The sign of the cross may be made in remembrance of Baptism.

In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son
and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Readings from Holy Scripture

*These may be read in the morning and evening, as suggested
here, or in any way that best works with your schedule.*

	Morning Prayer	Evening Prayer
Su	Isaiah 14:1–23	2 Peter 3:1–18
M	Isaiah 24:1–13	1 John 1:1–2:14
Tu	Isaiah 24:14–25:12	1 John 2:15–29
W	Isaiah 26:1–19	1 John 3:1–24
Th	Isaiah 26:20–27:13	1 John 4:1–21
F	Isaiah 28:14–29	1 John 5:1–21
Sa	Isaiah 29:1–14	Jude 1–25

The Lord's Prayer

As the head of the family should teach it in a simple way to his household

The Introduction

Our Father who art in heaven.

What does this mean? With these words God tenderly invites us to believe that He is our true Father and that we are His true children, so that with all boldness and confidence we may ask Him as dear children ask their dear father.

From the Large Catechism: Before we explain the Lord's Prayer part by part, it is very necessary first to encourage and stir people to prayer. . . . The first thing to know is this: It is our duty to pray because God has commanded it. For that is what we heard in the Second Commandment. . . . In the second place, we should be all the more urged and encouraged to pray because God has promised that our prayer will surely be answered, as He says in Psalm 50:15, "Call upon Me in the day of trouble, and I will deliver you."

Luther's Small Catechism © 1986 Concordia Publishing House, cph.org;
LC III.4–5, 19

Hymn

The hymn stanza may be sung or spoken.

"Comfort, comfort ye My people,
Speak ye peace," thus saith our God;
"Comfort those who sit in darkness,
Mourning 'neath their sorrows' load.
Speak ye to Jerusalem
Of the peace that waits for them;
Tell her that her sins I cover
And her warfare now is over." *LSB 347:1*

Daily Prayer

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Prayers for Others and Ourselves

As children of the heavenly Father, we are bold to pray.

- Su For God's name to be kept holy through pure teaching and holy living
- M For God's kingdom to come and increase through the gift of the Holy Spirit
- Tu For God to hinder every evil plan and purpose of the world, the devil, and the sinful nature
- W For daily bread and contentment in all things
- Th For forgiveness of our sins and of those who sin against us
- F For protection in the midst of temptation
- Sa For rescue from all evils of body and soul and, when our last hour comes, a blessed end

The Lord's Prayer

Collect of the Week

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Readings for the Third Sunday in Advent, Dec. 13

Isaiah 61:1–4, 8–11; Psalm 126;
1 Thessalonians 4:16–24; John 1:6–8, 19–28