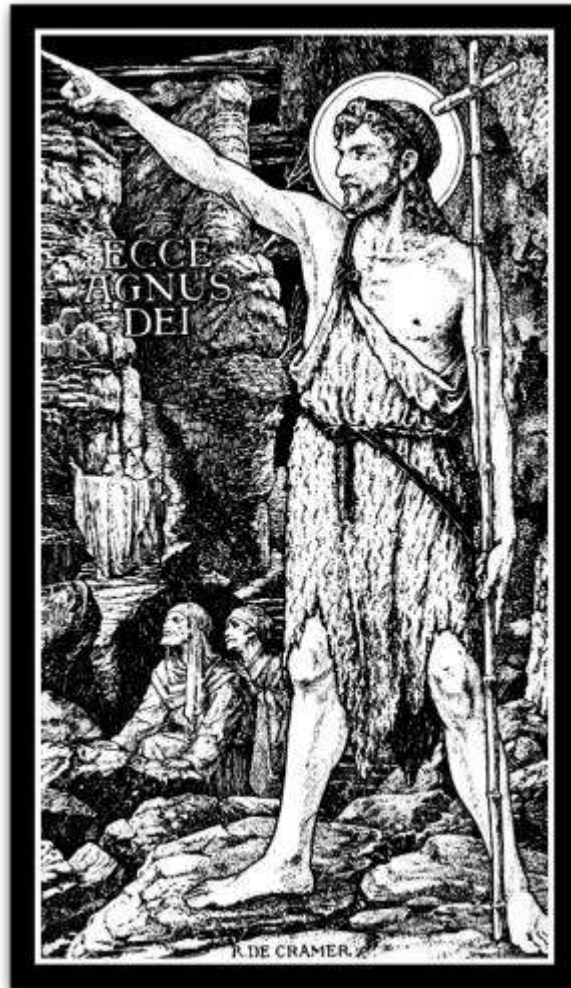


SOLA SCRIPTURA ✘ SOLA GRATIA ✘ SOLA FIDE

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 13, 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)	Ed Shaffer
(11:00 am)	Patrick Jackson
Organist (9:00 & 11:00 am)	Anne Bennet

Divine Service, Singing, and COVID-19

In light of the rising number of cases locally, masks are now required for all services. Anyone unable to wear a mask due to medical or health issues should speak with pastor. The services at 12:00 noon on Wednesdays and 6:00 pm on Sundays are spoken.

Prayer for Worship

Of repentance: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

For right reception of the Lord's Supper: O Lord, our God, in Holy Baptism You have called us to be Christians and granted us the remission of sins. Make us ready to receive the most holy body and blood of Christ for the forgiveness of all our sins, and grant us grateful hearts that we may give thanks to You, O Father, to Your Son, and to the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Thanksgiving after receiving the Sacrament: Blessed Savior, Jesus Christ, You have given Yourself to us in this holy Sacrament. Keep us in Your faith and favor that we may live in You even as You live in us. May Your body and blood preserve us in the true faith to life everlasting. Hear us for the sake of Your name. Amen.

Cover Illustration

"Ecce Agnus Dei" (Behold, the Lamb of God)
by Rene de Cramer (1876–1951).

OPENING HYMN—TUNE: TLH 68—TEXT: TLH 68, ALT. RMH

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1 Sing “Advent!” to our King.
“He comes!” the Holy Boy.
Sing songs of welcome, echoing
His Father’s loving joy.</p> <p>2 The Everlasting Son
Incarnate bows to be;
He puts a servant’s nature on
To set His servants free.</p> <p>3 O Zion’s Daughter, rise
To meet your lowly King,
Could any Christian heart despise
The peace He comes to bring?</p> | <p>4 As Judge on clouds of light
He soon will come again
And His believers all unite
To reign with Him in Heav’n.</p> <p>5 Before that dawning Day,
Let sin’s dark deeds be gone!
The sinful self be put away,
The new self now put on.</p> <p>△ 6 All glory to the Son
Who comes to set us free,
With Father, Spirit, ever one
Through all eternity.</p> |
|---|--|

Text: Public Domain

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 85:7, 8–9, 12–13

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.

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.

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. Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The Reading of God's Word
from the Old Testament: Isaiah 61:1–4, 8–11

After the reading:

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Those who sow in tears

shall reap with shouts of joy!

When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,

we were like those who dream.

Then our mouth was filled with laughter,

and our tongue with shouts of joy;

then they said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them."

The LORD has done great things for us; we are glad.

Restore our fortunes, O LORD,

like streams in the Negeb!

Those who sow in tears

shall reap with shouts of joy!

He who goes out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing,

shall come home with shouts of joy, bringing his sheaves with him.

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.

Those who sow in tears

shall reap with shouts of joy!

from the Letters: 1 Thessalonians 5:16–24

After the reading:

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE ALLELUIA AND VERSE

Matthew 11:10b

Alleluia. Behold, I send My messenger before Your face,

who will prepare Your way before You. Alleluia.

The Holy Gospel: John 1:6–8, 19–28

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.**

HYMN OF THE DAY—TUNE: TLH 153—TEXT: TLH 60, ALT. RMH

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1 Hear the thrilling voice that's calling!
"Christ is near!" we hear it say,
"Throw aside the works of darkness,
All you children of the Day!"
Startled at the solemn warning,
Let the drowsing Christian wake.
Shall the sunrise catch you sleeping?
Look! The Dawn begins to break!</p> <p>2 On the Day of wrath and mourning,
Where shall shaking sinners hide
When the Judge of all, descending,
This creation thrusts aside?
Skies and earth in fire dissolving
As Christ lifts His righteous hand—
If You, LORD, should count transgressions,
Ah, LORD God! Oh, who could stand?</p> | <p>3 Patiently, the Lamb, still lowly,
Comes with pardon now from heav'n.
Hurry then, with tears, repentant,
One and all to be forgiv'n!
Then, when He returns in glory
And the world is wrapped in fear,
He will shield us with His mercy
And with words of love draw near.</p> <p>4 Holy God, our gentle Savior,
Judge of all, once crucified,
Come for those who wait to see You;
Raise the dead for whom You died.
Then, like rolling peals of thunder,
Like the roaring of the sea,
Shall break forth a "Hallelujah"
Rising to eternity!</p> |
|---|---|

The Sermon

John 1:6–8, 19–28

THE OFFERTORY HYMN – TUNE: TLH 75 – TEXT: LSB 354, ST. 1 & 4

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1 Arise, O Christian people!
Prepare yourselves today;
Prepare to greet the Savior,
Who takes your sins away.
To us by grace alone
The truth and light were given;
The promised Lord from heaven
To all the world is shown.</p> | <p>2 Prepare my heart, Lord Jesus;
Turn not from me aside,
And help me to receive You
This blessed Adventtide.
From stall and manger low
Come now to dwell within me;
I'll sing Your praises gladly
And forth Your glory show.</p> |
|---|---|

Text: Public domain

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!

*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 CHURCH

Almighty God, grant to Your Church Your Holy Spirit and the wisdom that comes down from above, that Your Word may not be bound but have free course and be preached to the joy and edifying of Christ's holy people, so that in steadfast faith we may serve You and, in the confession of Your name, abide unto the end; 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: TLH 272 & TEXT: LSB 346

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1 When all the world was cursed
By Moses' condemnation,
Saint John the Baptist came
With words of consolation.
With true forerunner's zeal
The greater One he named,
And Him, as yet unknown,
As Savior he proclaimed.</p> | <p>2 Before he yet was born,
He leaped in joyful meeting,
Confessing Him as Lord
Whose mother he was greeting.
By Jordan's rolling stream,
A new Elijah bold,
He testified of Him
Of whom the prophets told:</p> |
|--|---|

(Continued on the next page.)

**3 Behold the Lamb of God
That bears the world's transgression,
Whose sacrifice removes
The devil's dread oppression.
Behold the Lamb of God,
Who takes away our sin,
Who for our peace and joy
Will full atonement win.**

**4 O grant, dear Lord of love,
That we receive, rejoicing,
The word proclaimed by John,
Our true repentance voicing,
That gladly we may walk
Upon our Savior's way
Until we live with Him
In His eternal day.**

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 29:15–30:14	Revelation 1:1–20
M	Isaiah 30:15–26	Revelation 2:1–29
Tu	Isaiah 30:27–31:9	Revelation 3:1–22
W	Isaiah 32:1–20	Revelation 4:1–11
Th	Isaiah 33:1–24	Revelation 5:1–14
F	Isa. 34:1–2; 34:8–35:10	Revelation 6:1–17
Sa	Isaiah 40:1–17	Revelation 7:1–17

The Lord's Prayer

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

The First Petition

Hallowed be Thy name.

What does this mean? God's name is certainly holy in itself, but we pray in this petition that it may be kept holy among us also.

From the Large Catechism: How does [God's name] become holy among us? The plainest answer is: When both our teaching and our life are godly and Christian. Since in this prayer we call God our Father, it is our duty in every way to behave as good children so that He may receive from us not shame but honor and praise. . . . We should pray for ourselves who have the Word of God but are ungrateful for it and fail to live according to it as we ought.

Luther's Small Catechism © 1986 Concordia Publishing House, cph.org;
LC III.39, 47

Verse for Meditation

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.
1 Thessalonians 5:16–18

Hymn

The hymn stanza may be sung or spoken.

Prepare my heart, Lord Jesus;
Turn not from me aside,
And help me to receive You
This blessed Adventide.
From stall and manger low
Come now to dwell within me;
I'll sing Your praises gladly
And forth Your glory show. LSB 354:4

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

Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Readings for the Fourth Sunday in Advent, Dec. 20

2 Sam. 7:1–11, 16; Ps. 89; Rom. 16:25–27; Lk 1:26–38