

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 20, 2020

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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)	Ray Arsenault
Organist (9:00 & 11:00 am)	Anne Bennet

Divine Service, Singing, and COVID-19

Because of the rising number of cases locally, masks are required for all services. Anyone unable to wear a mask due to medical or health issues should speak with pastor. The evening service is spoken.

Prayer for Worship

O Jesus, You have come in human flesh for my benefit. You have come into the world for my sake. Come to me and dwell in my heart! Sanctify my heart wholly and prepare it for Yourself so that it may become Your dwelling place. Strengthen my faith, and fill me with Your love, that I may choose You above the world and its pleasures. Amen.

Before communion: Father, as Your Son comes to us in the body and blood that He took up in the womb of the Virgin Mary, renew us in our life in Him. Let this gift of Your love, that He makes present on the altar and places in our mouths and our hearts, strengthen our faith and deepen our love. Amen.

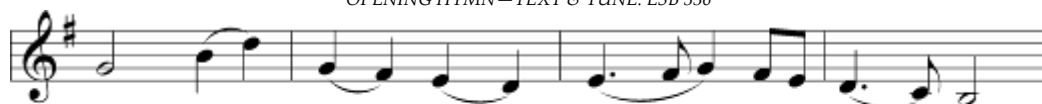
After communion: Lord, now let your servant depart in peace according to Your word, for my eyes have seen Your salvation. Amen.

From the Litany: By the mystery of Your holy incarnation and by Your holy nativity: Help us, good Lord. Amen.

Cover Illustration

The Annunciation (ca. 1440–1445)
is an Early Renaissance fresco by Fra Angelico
in the Convent of San Marco in Florence, Italy.

OPENING HYMN—TEXT & TUNE: LSB 336



1 Lo! He comes with clouds de - scend - ing,
 2 Ev - 'ry eye shall now be - hold Him
 3 Those dear to - kens of His pas - sion
 4 Yea, a - men, let all a - dore Thee,



Once for ev - 'ry sin - ner slain;
 Robed in glo - rious maj - es - ty;
 Still His daz - zling bod - y bears,
 High on Thine e - ter - nal throne;



Thou - sand thou - sand saints at - tend - ing
 Those who set at naught and sold Him,
 Cause of end - less ex - ul - ta - tion
 Sav - ior, take the pow'r and glo - ry,



Swell the tri - umph of His train:
 Pierced and nailed Him to the tree,
 To His ran - somed wor - ship - ers.
 Claim the king - dom as Thine own.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
 Deep - ly wail - ing, deep - ly wail - ing, deep - ly
 With what rap - ture, with what rap - ture, with what
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -



lu - ia! Christ the Lord re - turns to reign.
 wail - ing, Shall their true Mes - si - ah see.
 rap - ture Gaze we on those glo - rious scars!
 lu - ia! Thou shalt reign, and Thou a - lone!

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

Isaiah 45:8a, b; Psalm 19:1, 4c, 5–6

*Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain down righteousness;
let the earth open, that salvation and righteousness may bear fruit.*

The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims His handiwork.

In them He has set a tent for the sun,

*which comes out like a bridegroom leaving his chamber,
and, like a strong man, runs its course with joy.*

*Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them,
and there is nothing hidden from its heat.*

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.**

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 Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; 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: 2 Samuel 7:1–11, 16

After the reading:

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE PSALM

Psalm 89:1–5, 19–29; antiphon v. 8

O LORD God of hosts, who is mighty as You are, O LORD,
with Your faithfulness all around You?

I will sing of the steadfast love of the LORD, forever;
with my mouth I will make known Your faithfulness to all generations.

For I said, "Steadfast love will be built up forever;
in the heavens You will establish Your faithfulness."

You have said, "I have made a covenant with My chosen one;
I have sworn to David My servant:

'I will establish your offspring forever,
and build your throne for all generations.'"

Let the heavens praise Your wonders, O LORD,
Your faithfulness in the assembly of the holy ones!

Of old You spoke in a vision to Your godly one, and said: "I have granted help to one who is mighty;
I have exalted one chosen from the people.

I have found David, My servant;
with My holy oil I have anointed him,
so that My hand shall be established with him;
My arm also shall strengthen him.

The enemy shall not outwit him;
the wicked shall not humble him.

I will crush his foes before him
and strike down those who hate him.

My faithfulness and My steadfast love shall be with him,
and in My name shall his horn be exalted.

I will set his hand on the sea
and his right hand on the rivers.

He shall cry to Me, 'You are my Father,
my God, and the Rock of my salvation.'

And I will make him the firstborn,
the highest of the kings of the earth.

My steadfast love I will keep for him forever,
and My covenant will stand firm for him.

I will establish his offspring forever
and his throne as the days of the heavens.

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.

O LORD God of hosts, who is mighty as You are, O LORD,
with Your faithfulness all around You?

from the Letters: Romans 16:25–27

After the reading:

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE ALLELUIA AND VERSE

Matthew 1:23a

Alleluia. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall call his name Immanuel. Alleluia.

The Holy Gospel: Luke 1:26–38

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 62—TEXT: LSB 357, ST. 2–5

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>2 O come, Thou Wisdom from on high,
Who ord'rest all things mightily;
To us the path of knowledge show,
And teach us in her ways to go.</p> <p><i>Refrain</i> Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!</p> <p>3 O come, O come, Thou Lord of might,
Who to Thy tribes on Sinai's height
In ancient times didst give the Law
In cloud and majesty and awe. <i>Refrain</i></p> | <p>4 O come, Thou Branch of Jesse's tree,
Free them from Satan's tyranny
That trust Thy mighty pow'r to save,
And give them vict'ry o'er the grave. <i>Refrain</i></p> <p>5 O come, Thou Key of David, come,
And open wide our heav'nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery. <i>Refrain</i></p> |
|---|--|

Text: Public domain

The Sermon

Luke 1:26–38

6 O come, Thou Dayspring from on high,
And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

7 O come, Desire of nations, bind
In one the hearts of all mankind;
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease,
And be Thyself our King of Peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

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.

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

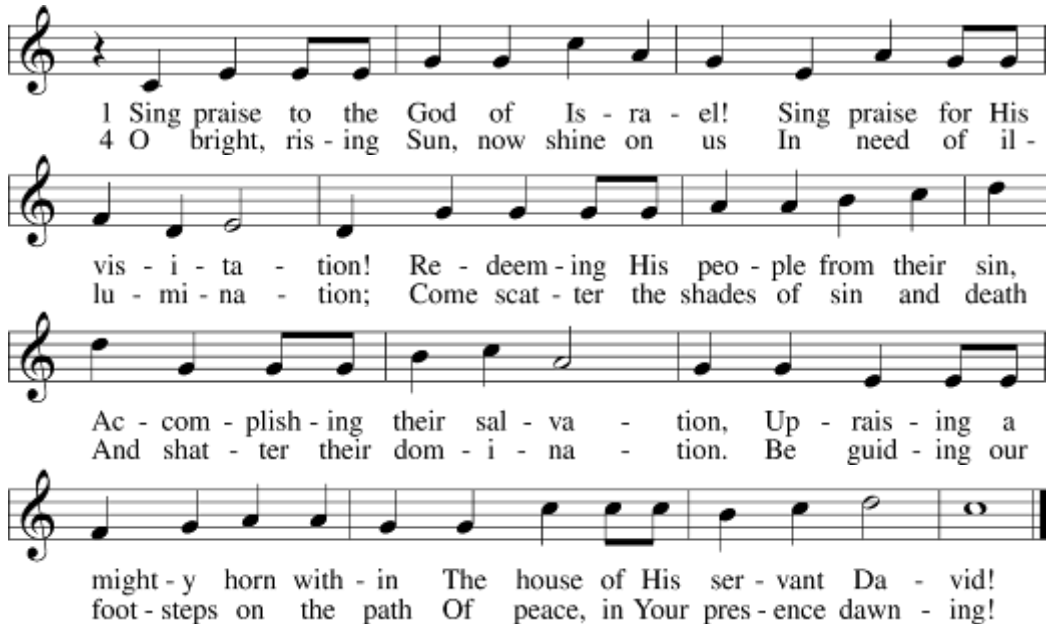
> All who receive Holy Communion here must first be instructed. Our pastor will be very glad to instruct you. Please contact the office for an appointment. Those who have not been instructed may come forward with their arms crossed to receive a blessing.

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: LSB 370

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1 What child is this, who, laid to rest,
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the king,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,
The babe, the son of Mary!</p> | <p>2 Why lies He in such mean estate
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce Him through,
The cross be borne for me, for you;
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,
The babe, the son of Mary!</p> |
|---|---|

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 40:18–41:10	Revelation 8:1–13
M	Isaiah 42:1–25	Revelation 9:1–12
Tu	Isaiah 43:1–24	Rev. 9:13–10:11
W	Isaiah 43:25–44:20	Revelation 11:1–19
Th	Isa. 44:21–45:13, 20–25	Revelation 12:1–17
F	Isaiah 49:1–18	Matthew 1:1–17
Sa	Isa. 49:22–26; 50:4–51:8, 12–16	Matt 1:18–25

On the Incarnation

Incarnate means "in the flesh."

*This word confesses that our Lord Jesus Christ took on
human flesh for us and for our salvation.*

We believe, teach, and confess that now, since the incarnation, each nature in Christ does not exist by itself. . . . These two natures [divine and human] are so united that they make up one single person, in which the divine and the received human nature are and exist at the same time. So now, since the incarnation, there belongs to the entire person of Christ personally not only His divine nature, but also His received human nature. So without His divinity, and also without His humanity, the person of Christ or the incarnate Son of God is not complete. We meant the Son of God who has received flesh and become man. Therefore, Christ is not two distinct persons, but one single person, even though two distinct natures are found in Him, unconfused in their natural essence and properties.

The Solid Declaration of the Formula of Concord
Article VIII. The Person of Christ, paragraph 11.

Hymn

The hymn stanza may be sung or spoken.

O Jesus Christ, Your manger is
My paradise of peace beyond all knowing
For there, O Lord, there lies the Word
Made flesh for us, with love and mercy glowing.

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 Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Readings for the Nativity of Our Lord, Dec. 25

Isaiah 52:7–10; Psalm 2; Hebrews 1:1–6; John 1:1–14

Readings for the First Sun. after Christmas, Dec. 27

Isa. 61:10–62:3; Psalm 111; Gal. 4:4–7; Luke 2:22–40