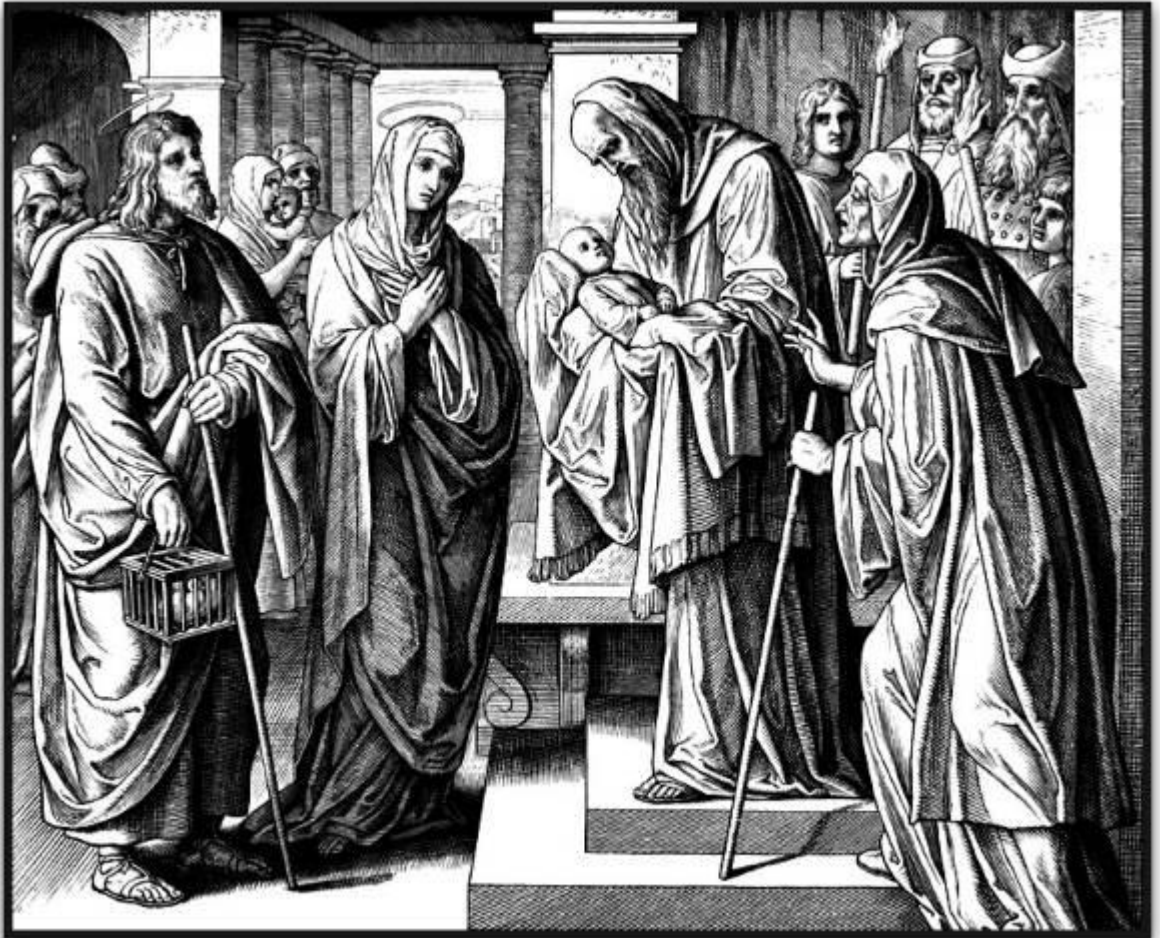


SOLA SCRIPTURA ✘ SOLA GRATIA ✘ SOLA FIDE

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 27, 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

Masks are required. Anyone unable to wear a mask due to medical or health issues should speak with pastor. The evening service is spoken.

Prayer for Worship

For the Year End and the New Year: Eternal God, we commit to Your mercy and forgiveness the year now past and commend to Your blessing and love the times yet to come. In the new year, abide among us with Your Holy Spirit that we may always trust in the saving name of our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and rules with You and the Spirit, one eternal God, now and in the endless world to come. Amen.

Collect for the Circumcision and Name of Jesus (Jan 1): Lord God, You made Your beloved Son, our Savior, subject to the Law and caused Him to shed His blood on our behalf. Grant us the true circumcision of the Spirit that our hearts may be made pure from all sins; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Before communion: Lord Jesus Christ, You are the bread of life. Grant us eternal life in Your body and blood and raise us up on the Last Day. Amen.

After communion: My eyes have seen your salvation, O Lord; a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel. Amen.

Cover Illustration

Presentation of Christ in the Temple (ca. 1851–1860)
from *Die Bible in Bildern (The Bible in Pictures)*
by Julius Schnorr von Carolsfeld.

The First Sunday after Christmas December 27, 2020

OPENING HYMN – TUNE: TLH 136 – TEXT: LSB, STS. 1–2, 4–5

**1 Angels from the realms of glory,
Wing your flight o’er all the earth;
Ye who sang creation’s story,
Now proclaim Messiah’s birth. Refrain**

**3 Saints before the altar bending,
Watching long in hope and fear,
Suddenly the Lord, descending,
In His temple shall appear. Refrain**

Refrain **Come and worship, come and worship;
Worship Christ, the newborn King.**

**△ 4 All creation, join in praising
God the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore your voices raising
To the_ eternal Three in One. Refrain**

**2 Shepherds in the field abiding,
Watching o’er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing,
Yonder shines the Infant Light. Refrain**

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

All-Powerful God, merciful Father, I, a poor, pitiful sinner, confess to You all my sins and unrighteousness. By them I have continually offended You and fairly deserved Your punishment, both now and eternally. But from my heart I am sorry for them, and I sincerely repent of them, and I pray You, in Your limitless mercy for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

The Absolution

[John 20:19–23]

Amen.

THE INTROIT

Isaiah 52:10; Psalm 98:1-4

The LORD has bared His holy arm before the eyes of all the nations,
and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for He has done marvelous things!
His right hand and His holy arm have worked salvation for Him.

The LORD has made known His salvation;
He has revealed His righteousness in the sight of the nations.

He has remembered His steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel.
All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth;
break forth into joyous song and sing praises!

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 GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

Luke 2:14; John 1:29

Glory to God on high:
and on earth peace, good will toward men.
We praise You, we bless You, we worship You, we glorify You,
we give thanks to You for Your great glory.
O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty.
O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ;
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
You take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.
You take away the sin of the world, receive our prayer.
You sit at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy on us.
For You only are holy; You only are the Lord.
You only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, are most high
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

The Lord be with you.
And with your spirit.

THE COLLECT

Let us pray. O God, our Maker and Redeemer, You wonderfully created us and in the incarnation of Your Son yet more wondrously restored our human nature. Grant that we may ever be alive in Him who made Himself to be like us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

THE COLLECT FOR ST. JOHN, APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST

Merciful Lord, cast the bright beams of Your light upon Your Church that we, being instructed in the doctrine of Your blessed apostle and evangelist John, may come to the light of everlasting life; 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 61:10–62:3

After the reading:

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE PSALM

Psalm 111; antiphon v. 9a, b

He sent redemption to His people;

He has commanded His covenant forever.

Praise the LORD! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart,

in the company of the upright, in the congregation.

Great are the works of the LORD,

studied by all who delight in them.

Full of splendor and majesty is His work,

and His righteousness endures forever.

He has caused His wondrous works to be remembered;

the LORD is gracious and merciful.

He provides food for those who fear Him;

He remembers His covenant forever.

He has shown His people the power of His works,

in giving them the inheritance of the nations.

The works of His hands are faithful and just;
all His precepts are trustworthy;
they are established forever and ever,
to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.

He sent redemption to His people; He has commanded His covenant forever.
Holy and awesome is His name!

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding.
His praise endures forever!

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.

He sent redemption to His people;
He has commanded His covenant forever.

from the Letters: Galatians 4:4–7

After the reading:

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN – TUNE: LSB 368 – TEXT: RMH

△ **Glory to the Father be! Glory, Virgin-born, to Thee!**
Glory to the Holy Ghost, praised by men and heav'nly host!
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

The Holy Gospel: Luke 2:22–40

Glory be to You, O Lord!

After the reading:

Praise be to You, O Christ!

THE NICENE CREED

Having heard the Word, what do you believe?

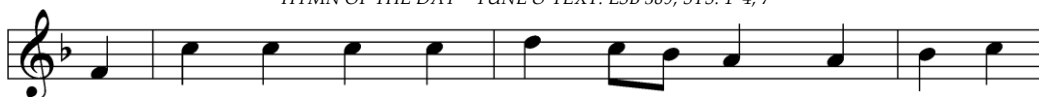
I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. *(Continued on the next page.)*

He suffered and was buried, and the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of the Father, and He shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead, whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord and giver of life, who proceedeth from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified, who spake by the prophets. And I believe in one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life † of the world to come. Amen.

HYMN OF THE DAY—TUNE & TEXT: LSB 389, STS. 1-4, 7



1 Let all to - geth - er praise our God Be - fore His
 2 He leaves His heav'n - ly Fa - ther's throne, Is born an
 3 With - in an earth - born form He hides His all - cre -
 4 He un - der - takes a great ex - change, Puts on our
 △ 7 Your grace in low - li - ness re - vealed, Lord Je - sus,



glo - rious throne; To - day He o - pens heav'n a - gain To
 in - fant small, And in a man - ger, poor and lone, Lies
 at - ing light; To serve us all He hum - bly cloaks The
 hu - man frame, And in re - turn gives us His realm, His
 we a - dore And praise to God the Fa - ther yield And



give us His own Son, To give us His own Son.
 in a hum - ble stall, Lies in a hum - ble stall.
 splen - dor of His might, The splen - dor of His might.
 glo - ry, and His name, His glo - ry, and His name.
 Spir - it ev - er - more; We praise You ev - er - more.

Text (st. 2) and tune: Public domain. Text (sts. 1, 3-4, 7): © 1969 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110002389

The Sermon

Luke 2:22-40

- 1 **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.**
- 2 **O Christian true, no matter who,
Come, rest in gladness; let no sorrow move you.
For God's own Child in mercy mild
Joins you to Him. How greatly God must love you!**

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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

after each petition:

*Lord, in Your mercy,
hear our prayer.*

THE PREFACE

The Lord be with you.
And with your spirit.

2 Timothy 4:22

Lift up your hearts.

[Colossians 3:1]

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

[Psalm 136]

It is good and right that we do.

THE PROPER PREFACE

It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for in the mystery of the Word made flesh You have given us a new revelation of Your glory that, seeing You in the person of Your Son, we may know and love those things which are not seen. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify Your glorious name, forever praising You and saying:

THE SANCTUS

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9

**Holy, holy, holy LORD God of Sabaoth; heav'n and earth are full of Your glory.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

**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.**

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.**

Christmas Communion

The coming of Christ in the flesh at Bethlehem was a concrete outward act of God in humble means that was despised by the world. The flesh and blood coming of Christ in the sacrament is also a concrete outward act of God in humble means that can be despised. Rather than despise it, however, God would have us delight in it!

With deep thankfulness for His gifts to us here we also express our deep desire to celebrate it according to God's will. Since this includes oneness in the faith we confess (doctrine), guests who desire to commune are asked to speak with pastor first. Anyone is welcome to come forward with arms crossed to receive a blessing.

THE NUNC DIMITTIS

Luke 2:29–32

**Now, Lord, You dismiss Your servant in peace, as You have promised,
 for my eyes have seen the Salvation You prepared before the face of all people,
 a Light to enlighten the Gentiles and the Glory of Your people Israel!
 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 THANKSGIVING

Psalms 107:1

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

THE THANKSGIVING COLLECT

Let us pray. O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; 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 98 — TEXT: LSB 384, STS. 1–2, 4–5

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1 Of the Father's love begotten
Ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega,
He the source, the ending He,
Of the things that are, that have been,
And that future years shall see
Evermore and evermore.</p> <p>2 Oh, that birth forever blessed,
When the virgin, full of grace,
By the Holy Ghost conceiving,
Bore the Savior of our race,
And the babe, the world's Redeemer,
First revealed His sacred face
Evermore and evermore.</p> | <p>3 O ye heights of heav'n, adore Him;
Angel hosts, His praises sing.
Pow'rs, dominions, bow before Him
And extol our God and King.
Let no tongue on earth be silent,
Ev'ry voice in concert ring
Evermore and evermore.</p> <p>△ 4 Christ, to Thee, with God the Father,
And, O Holy Ghost, to Thee
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving
And unending praises be,
Honor, glory, and dominion,
And eternal victory
Evermore and evermore.</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 51:17–52:12	Matthew 2:1–12
M	Isaiah 52:13–54:10	Matthew 2:13–23
Tu	Isaiah 55:1–13	Luke 1:1–25
W	Isaiah 58:1–59:3, 14–21	Luke 1:26–38
Th	Isaiah 60:1–22	Luke 1:39–56
F	Isaiah 61:1–11	Luke 1:57–80
Sa	Isaiah 62:1–12	Luke 2:1–20

The Lord's Prayer

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

The Second Petition

Thy kingdom come.

What does this mean? The kingdom of God certainly comes by itself without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may come to us also. God's kingdom comes when our heavenly Father gives us His Holy Spirit, so that by His grace we believe His holy Word and lead godly lives here in time and there in eternity.

From the Large Catechism: We pray that the kingdom may come to those who are not yet in it, and that it may come by daily growth here and in eternal life hereafter to us who have received it. All this is simply to say: "Dear Father, we pray, give us first Your Word, so that the Gospel may be preached properly throughout the world. Second, may the Gospel be received in faith and work and live in us, so that through the Word and the Holy Spirit's power, Your kingdom may triumph among us."

Luther's Small Catechism © 1986 Concordia Publishing House, cph.org;
LC III.53–54

Hymn

The hymn stanza may be sung or spoken.

O ye heights of heav'n, adore Him;
Angel hosts, His praises sing.
Pow'rs, dominions, bow before Him
And extol our God and King.
Let no tongue on earth be silent,
Ev'ry voice in concert ring
Evermore and evermore. LSB 384:4

Daily Prayer

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

Prayers for Others and Ourselves

The following topics may guide your prayer each day.

- Su For the joy of the resurrection among us
- M For one's calling and daily work, coworkers,
and the unemployed
- Tu For deliverance against temptation and evil;
for all who suffer and are afflicted
- W For immediate, extended, and church family;
for our schools, communities, and
neighborhoods
- Th For the Church and her pastors, all who serve
in the congregation, and missionaries
- F For the preaching of the holy cross of our
Lord Jesus Christ; for the sick and dying
- Sa For faithfulness to the end; for receptive
hearts and minds to God's Word

The Lord's Prayer

Collect of the Week

O God, our Maker and Redeemer, You wonderfully created us and in the incarnation of Your Son yet more wondrously restored our human nature. Grant that we may ever be alive in Him who made Himself to be like us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Readings for the Second Sun. aft. Christmas, Jan. 3

1 Kgs 3:4–15; Ps 119:97–104; Eph. 1:3–14; Lk 2:40–52