

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

January 3, 2021

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church: 978-874-2479
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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

Lay Sermon Reader	Patrick Jackson
Liturgist (9:00 am)	Dave Farabaugh
(11:00 am)	Ray Arsenault
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

Before worship: Lord Jesus, as You were present in Your Father's house, so be present here among us, that Your Word would enlighten and guide us in the Gospel. Amen.

Before communion: Lord Jesus, You invite all who are burdened with sin to come to You for rest. We now come at Your invitation to the heavenly feast, which You have provided for Your children on earth.

Preserve us from impenitence and unbelief, cleanse us from our unrighteousness, and clothe us with the righteousness purchased with Your blood.

Strengthen our faith, increase our love and hope, and assure us a place at Your heavenly table, where we will eat eternal manna and drink of the river of Your pleasure forever and ever. Hear us, Jesus, for Your own sake. Amen.

After communion: 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

The Twelve-Year-Old Jesus in the Temple (ca. 1851–1860)
from *Die Bible in Bildern (The Bible in Pictures)*
by Julius Schnorr von Carolsfeld.

OPENING HYMN – TUNE & TEXT: LSB 376

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|--|---|
| <p>1 Once in royal David's city
 Stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby
 In a manger for His bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child.</p> <p>2 He came down to earth from heaven,
 Who is God and Lord of all,
And His shelter was a stable,
 And His cradle was a stall;
With the poor and mean and lowly
Lived on earth our Savior holy.</p> <p>5 Not in that poor, lowly stable with the oxen standing by
 Shall we see Him, but in heaven, set at God's right hand on high.
Then like stars His children, crowned, all in white, His praise will sound!</p> | <p>3 For He is our childhood's pattern,
 Day by day like us He grew;
He was little, weak, and helpless,
 Tears and smiles like us He knew;
And He feels for all our sadness,
And He shares in all our gladness.</p> <p>4 And our eyes at last shall see Him,
 Through His own redeeming love;
For that child so dear and gentle
 Is our Lord in heav'n above;
And He leads His children on
 To the place where He is gone.</p> |
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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

All-Powerful God, our Maker and our Redeemer, we poor sinners confess to You that we are sinful and unclean by nature and also that we have sinned against You in our thoughts, our words, and our actions. And so we flee to find refuge in Your infinite mercy, looking and pleading for Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Most merciful God, who gave Your only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy on us and for His sake forgive us all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us real knowledge of You and of Your will and real obedience to Your Word, so that by Your grace, we will come to everlasting life through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe on His name He gives power to become the children of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this, Lord, unto us all.

Amen.

THE INTROIT

John 1:14; Psalm 147:1, 5, 11–12

*The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory,
glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

*Praise the LORD! For it is good to sing praises to our God;
for it is pleasant, and a song of praise is fitting.*

*Great is our Lord, and abundant in power;
His understanding is beyond measure.*

*But the LORD takes pleasure in those who fear Him,
in those who hope in His steadfast love.*

Praise the LORD, O Jerusalem!

Praise your God, O Zion!

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 COLLECT

Let us pray. Almighty God, You have poured into our hearts the true Light of Your incarnate Word. Grant that this Light may shine forth in our lives; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, 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: 1 Kings 3:4–15

After the reading:

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE PSALM

Psalm 119:97–104; antiphon v. 99

*I have more understanding than all my teachers,
for Your testimonies are my meditation.*

Oh how I love Your law!

It is my meditation all the day.

*Your commandment makes me wiser than my enemies,
for it is ever with me.*

*I have more understanding than all my teachers,
for Your testimonies are my meditation.*

*I understand more than the aged,
for I keep Your precepts.*

*I hold back my feet from every evil way,
in order to keep Your word.*

*I do not turn aside from Your just decrees,
for You have taught me.*

*How sweet are Your words to my taste,
sweeter than honey to my mouth!*

*Through Your precepts I get understanding;
therefore I hate every false 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.**

*I have more understanding than all my teachers,
for Your testimonies are my meditation.*

from the Letters: Ephesians 1:3–14

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 2:40–52

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 341 – TEXT: TLH 133, ALT. RMH

- 1 Here in His Father's house, a Son is found at home;
Thus to His Temple, suddenly, the long-sought Lord has come.
The teachers of the Law meet Mercy undefiled,
And wonder at the wisdom here in one amazing Child.**
- 2 Yet not to them is giv'n the awesome truth to know,
To lift the earthly veil that hides Incarnate God below.
The secrets of the Lord no sin-filmed eye can see
And even faithful hearts must wait for full epiphany.**

(Continued on the next page.)

- 3 Teach us, O Lord, to love each slightest shining here
And by Your Word to know the Face that soon, now, shall appear;
Till, though Your ways be dark, we trust all that You do,
For if we know not how or why, yet, Jesus, we know You.
- 4 Then from our clouded sight the clouds shall pass away
And on our light-washed souls shall burst the everlasting Day
To know as we are known in His high House above
The Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, All One, All Wise, All Love.

The Sermon

Luke 2:40–52

THE OFFERTORY HYMN—TUNE: TLH 81—TEXT: TLH 81, STS. 1 & 4, ALT. RMH

- 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 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.**

1 O Morning Star, how fair and bright!
You shine with God's own truth and light,
Aglow with grace and mercy!
Of Jacob's race, King David's son,
Our Lord and master, You have won
Our hearts to serve You only!
Lowly, holy!
Great and glorious,
All victorious,
Rich in blessing!
Rule and might o'er all possessing!

2 Come, heav'nly Bridegroom, Light divine,
And deep within our hearts now shine;
There light a flame undying!
In Your one body let us be
As living branches of a tree,
Your life our lives supplying.
Now, though daily
Earth's deep sadness
May perplex us
And distress us,
Yet with heav'nly joy You bless us.

3 Lord, when You look on us in love,
At once there falls from God above
A ray of purest pleasure.
Your Word and Spirit, flesh and blood
Refresh our souls with heav'nly food.
You are our dearest treasure!
Let Your mercy
Warm and cheer us!
O draw near us!
For You teach us
God's own love through You has reached us.

4 Almighty Father, in Your Son
You loved us when not yet begun
Was this old earth's foundation!
Your Son has ransomed us in love
To live in Him here and above:
This is Your great salvation.
Alleluia!
Christ the living,
To us giving
Life forever,
Keeps us Yours and fails us never!

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THE COLLECT FOR THE WORD

Let us pray. Blessed Lord, since 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 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 BENEDICTION

*The grace of our Lord ✠ Jesus Christ and the love of God
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with us all.
Amen. Amen. Amen.*

2 Corinthians 13:14

- 1 From east to west, from shore to shore**
Let ev'ry heart awake and sing
The holy child whom Mary bore,
The Christ, the everlasting king.
- 2 Behold, the world's creator wears**
The form and fashion of a slave;
Our very flesh our maker shares,
His fallen creatures all to save.
- 3 For this how wondrously He wrought!**
A maiden, in her lowly place,
Became, in ways beyond all thought,
The chosen vessel of His grace.
- 4 And while the angels in the sky**
Sang praise above the silent field,
To shepherds poor the Lord Most High,
The one great Shepherd, was revealed.

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 63:1–14	Luke 2:21–40
M	Isaiah 63:15–65:2	Luke 2:41–52
Tu	Isaiah 65:8–25	Luke 3:1–20
W	Isaiah 66:1–20	Luke 3:21–38
Th	Ezekiel 1:1–14, 22–28	Romans 1:1–17
F	Ezekiel 2:1–3:11	Romans 1:18–32
Sa	Ezekiel 3:12–27	Romans 2:1–16

The Lord's Prayer

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

The Third Petition

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

What does this mean? The good and gracious will of God is done even without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may be done among us also. God's will is done when He breaks and hinders every evil plan and purpose of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature, which do not want us to hallow God's name or let His kingdom come; and when He strengthens and keeps us firm in His Word and faith until we die. This is His good and gracious will.

From the Large Catechism: If we would be Christians, therefore, we must surely count on having the devil with all his angels and the world as our enemies and on their inflicting every possible misfortune and grief upon us. For where God's Word is preached, accepted, or believed, and bears fruit, there the blessed holy cross will not be far away. . . . We must remain steadfast, suffer patiently whatever befalls us, and let go whatever is taken from us.

Hymn

The hymn stanza may be sung or spoken.

Behold, the world's creator wears
The form and fashion of a slave;
Our very flesh our maker shares,
His fallen creatures all to save. *LSB 385:2*

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

Almighty God, You have poured into our hearts the true Light of Your incarnate Word. Grant that this Light may shine forth in our lives; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Readings for the Epiphany, Wednesday, Jan. 6

Isa 60:1–6; Ps 72:1–11; Eph 3:1–12; Matt 2:1–12

Readings for the Baptism of Our Lord, Sun., Jan. 10

Genesis 1:1–5; Ps 29; Romans 6:1–11; Mark 1:4–11