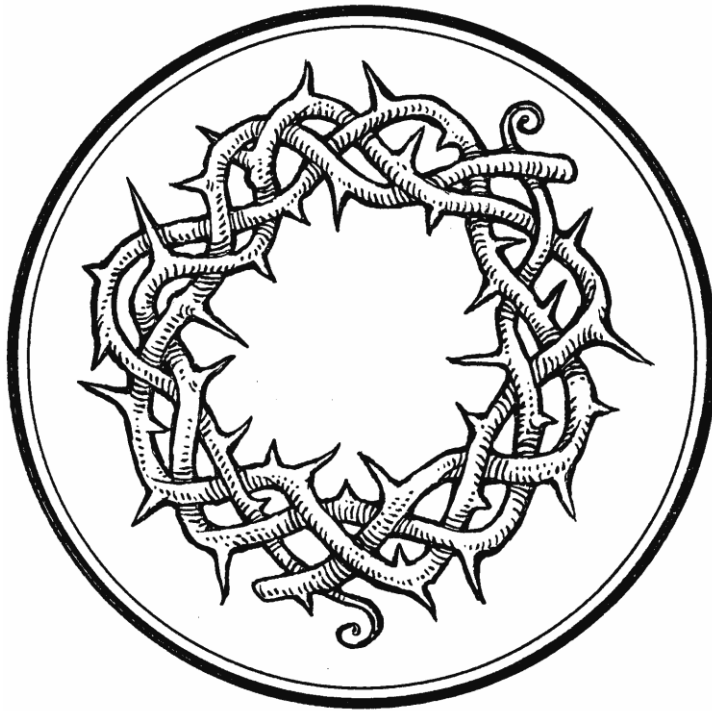


SOLA SCRIPTURA ✘ SOLA GRATIA ✘ SOLA FIDE

*Ash Wednesday*  
*Divine Liturgy*



*Our Savior Lutheran Church*

*Westminster, MA*

SCRIPTURE ALONE ✘ GRACE ALONE ✘ FAITH ALONE

*Note: Ash Wednesday begins the special season of penitential reflection that we call Lent. Ashes are a sign of repentance and sorrow and also a reminder of our human mortality. As this day and this season remind us of our sin and its wages, it is with repentant joy that we are also reminded of our forgiveness through Christ's sacrifice on the cross. Intending to amend our sinful lives, we receive with thankfulness the renewal that comes by the forgiveness delivered in the Lord's Supper. Out of love for God's Word and God's people, guests who desire to commune are asked to speak with the pastor before the service.*

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## ***The Imposition of Ashes***

*For those who desire, the imposition of ashes will take place in the narthex prior to the service*

*Note: The liturgy for the service is spoken.*

## ***The Lenten Admonition***

*Silence for reflection follows the admonition.*

### THE LITANY FOR ASH WEDNESDAY

*O Lord, **have mercy.** O Christ, **have mercy.** O Lord, **have mercy.***

*O Christ, **hear us.***

*God the Father in heaven, **have mercy.***

*God the Son, Redeemer of the world, **have mercy.***

*God the Holy Spirit, **have mercy.***

*Be gracious to us. **Spare us, good Lord.***

*Be gracious to us. **Help us, good Lord.***

*By the mystery of Your holy incarnation; by Your holy nativity; by Your baptism, fasting, and temptation; by Your agony and bloody sweat; by Your cross and passion; by Your precious death and burial; by Your glorious resurrection and ascension; and by the coming of the Holy Spirit, the Comforter: **help us, good Lord.***

*In all time of our tribulation; in all time of our prosperity; in the hour of death; and in the day of judgment: **help us, good Lord.***

*We poor sinners implore You **to hear us, O Lord.***

*To prosper the preaching of Your Word; to bless our prayer and meditation; to strengthen and preserve us in the true faith; and to give heart to our sorrow and strength to our repentance: **we implore You to hear us, good Lord.***



*To draw all to Yourself; to bless those who are instructed in the faith; to watch over and console the poor, the sick, the distressed, the lonely, the forsaken, the abandoned, and all who stand in need of our prayers; to give abundant blessing to all works of mercy; and to have mercy on us all:*  
**we implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

*To turn our hearts to You; to turn the hearts of our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers; and graciously to hear our prayers;*  
**we implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

*Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,*  
**we implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

*Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,*  
**have mercy.**

*Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,*  
**have mercy.**

*Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,*  
**grant us Your peace.**

*O Christ, hear us. O Lord, have mercy. O Christ, have mercy.*

*O Lord, have mercy. Amen.*

*O God, you desire not the death of sinners, but rather that they turn from their wickedness and live. We implore You to have compassion on the frailty of our mortal nature, for we acknowledge that we are dust and to dust we shall return. Mercifully pardon our sins that we may obtain the promises You have laid up for those who are repentant; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now forever. Amen.*



THE TEN COMMANDMENTS: EXODUS 20

*Thus says the LORD: I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of bondage.*

**You shall have no other gods.**

**You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God.**

**Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.**

**Honor your father and your mother.**

**You shall not murder.**

**You shall not commit adultery.**

**You shall not steal.**

**You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.**

**You shall not covet your neighbor's house.**

**You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

1 John 1:8-9

*If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.*

**But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

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

*Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.*

**Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

## ***The Absolution***

*[John 20:19–23]*

**Amen.**

THE SALUTATION

*2 Timothy 4:22*

*The Lord be with you.*

**And with your spirit.**

THE COLLECT

*Let us pray. Almighty and everlasting God, You despise nothing You have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and contrite hearts that lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness we may receive from You full pardon and forgiveness; through 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: Joel 2:12–19*

*After the reading:*

**Thanks be to God.**

THE GRADUAL

*Hebrews 12:2*

*O come, let us fix our eyes on Jesus,*

**the founder and perfecter of our faith,**

*who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame,*

**and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.**

*from the Letters: 2 Corinthians 5:20b–6:10*

*After the reading:*

**Thanks be to God.**

THE VERSE

*Joel 2:13b*

*Return to the LORD, your God,*

**for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.**

*from the Gospels: Matthew 6:1–6, 16–21*

**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 324/LSB 609 – TEXT: LSB 609

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <p><b>1 Jesus sinners doth receive;<br/>Oh, may all this saying ponder<br/>Who in sin's delusions live<br/>And from God and heaven wander!<br/>Here is hope for all who grieve:<br/>Jesus sinners doth receive.</b></p> <p><b>2 We deserve but grief and shame,<br/>Yet His words, rich grace revealing,<br/>Pardon, peace, and life proclaim;<br/>Here our ills have perfect healing.<br/>Firmly in these words believe:<br/>Jesus sinners doth receive.</b></p> | <p><b>3 Sheep that from the fold did stray<br/>No true shepherd e'er forsaketh;<br/>Weary souls that lost their way<br/>Christ, the Shepherd, gently taketh<br/>In His arms that they may live:<br/>Jesus sinners doth receive.</b></p> <p><b>4 Jesus sinners doth receive;<br/>Also I have been forgiven;<br/>And when I this earth must leave,<br/>I shall find an open heaven.<br/>Dying, still to Him I cleave:<br/>Jesus sinners doth receive.</b></p> |
|---|---|

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## *The Sermon*

*Joel 2:12–19*

THE PSALM

*Psalm 51:10–12, antiphon v. 17*

*The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;  
a broken and contrite heart, O God, You will not despise.*

*Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within me.*

*Cast me not away from Your presence,*  
**and take not Your Holy Spirit from me.**

*Restore to me the joy of Your salvation,*  
**and uphold me with a willing spirit.**

**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 sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;*  
**a broken and contrite heart, O God, You will not despise.**

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

### ***Prayer of the Church***

#### *THE PREFACE*

*The Lord be with you.*

*2 Timothy 4:22*

**And with your spirit.**

*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, who overcame the assaults of the devil and gave His life as a ransom for many that with cleansed hearts we might be prepared joyfully to celebrate the paschal feast in sincerity and truth. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore 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.**

#### *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.**

# *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.**

# *The 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.*

*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 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 POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

*Let us pray. We thank You, all-powerful God, for refreshing us with this healing gift, and we pray: Father of mercy, by this Holy Food make us strong in faith toward You, and in deep love for each other, that through us other beloved sinners may kneel to You and receive with us grace and life in Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one eternal God, now, and forever. **Amen.***

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.**

Preacher & Celebrant: Rev Peter F. Gregory  
Liturgist: Patrick Jackson (7:00 pm)  
Organist: Judy Greenlees (12:00 pm); Anne Bennet (7:00 pm)

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## **Lenten Midweek Services—February 24, March 3, 10, 17, 24**

Pre-Service Bible Study – 11:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday Services – 12:00 noon & 7:00 p.m.

Join in a 45-minute Bible study in the sanctuary before each service. The focus from God's Word for the Bible studies and services will be from the book of 1 Peter and theme will be Christian hope.

### **Christian Hope: 1 Peter**

|             |                   |                                |
|-------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|
| February 24 | 1 Peter 1:1–16    | Hope through Christ            |
| March 3     | 1 Peter 1:13–2:10 | Hope with Holiness of Life     |
| March 10    | 1 Peter 2:11–3:7  | Hope while Living in the World |
| March 17    | 1 Peter 3:8–4:11  | Hope in spite of Suffering     |
| March 24    | 1 Peter 4:12–5:14 | Hope for Those Humbled         |

Each week we will also meditate on Jesus' suffering and death through the hymns and the Litany (Prayer) of the Passion.

### **Holy Week begins on Palm Sunday, March 28**

Coming soon! Look for the service schedule for Holy Week—Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday (Easter Vigil), and Easter Sunday—on the church web site, in bulletin inserts, and through email announcements.

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*Visitor, you are very welcome here.*

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