

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 19, 2021

office@oursaviorlcms.com
church: 978-874-2479
www.oursaviorlcms.com

Visitor, you are very welcome here.

Please contact us with questions or prayer requests, and come worship with us again. Our pastor would be very glad to meet with you. May our Lord's Word be a blessing to all who gather in His name.

For those caring for young children or who have difficulty standing for the prayers, hymns, or other parts of the service, please know that you may sit as you find need or comfort.

Don't be embarrassed if your children make noise during worship—all children do. We encourage families to worship together. If needed, there is a nursery available in the basement during service and Bible class.

Out of courtesy to your brothers and sisters, please turn off your cell phone ringer and refrain from leaving or entering the sanctuary during the readings and the prayers.

Holy Communion

We welcome to the Lord's Table members of Our Savior and members of sister congregations of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Pastor Gregory would be very 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.

Spiritual Care

Individual confession and absolution, spiritual care, and pastoral counsel are available by appointment. Please contact the church office to schedule a time.

Christian Education

Sunday School and Adult Bible Study follow the service. Pre-Kindergarten through seventh grade students meet in the basement, high school students in pastors' study, and adults in the sanctuary.

Serving in Worship Today

Celebrant	Rev. Peter Gregory
Liturgist	Paul Diggins
Organist	Anne Bennet
Acolytes	John Terhune, Luis Albert

Advent Note

During Advent, the Divine Service changes. We use a different confession of sins. The Gloria in Excelsis (first sung by the angels to the shepherds when Jesus was born) waits for Christmas. Hymn stanzas replace the Sanctus and Nunc Dimittis. The liturgy for Holy Communion is shorter. These changes mark this as a season of repentant joy in preparation for the glorious celebration of our Lord's birth beginning on Christmas Eve.

Prayers for Worship

To Jesus: 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.

Cover Image

"Benedicta tu inter mulieres et benedictus fructus ventris" after Raphael (c. 1500–1600).

> Note: The offering of tithes and gifts will be received in the offering box as you enter the nave for the service.
They will be presented before the Lord's altar prior to the Prayer of the Church. <

OPENING HYMN—TUNE & TEXT: LSB 356



1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came,
2 "For know a bless - ed moth - er thou shalt be,
3 Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head;
4 Of her, Em - man - u - el, the Christ, was born



With wings as drift - ed snow, with eyes as flame:
All gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee;
"To me be as it pleas - eth God," she said.
In Beth - le - hem all on a Christ - mas morn,



"All hail to thee, O low - ly maid - en Mar - y,
Thy son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,
"My soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy God's ho - ly name."
And Chris - tian folk through-out the world will ev - er say:



Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy." Glo - ri - a!
Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy." Glo - ri - a!
Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy, Glo - ri - a!
"Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy." Glo - ri - a!

Tune and 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

Luke 1:46b–47; 1 Samuel 2:1b, 2, 5b–7

My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

My mouth derides my enemies,
because I rejoice in Your salvation.

There is none holy like the LORD;
there is none besides You; there is no rock like our God.

The barren has borne seven,
but she who has many children is forlorn.

The LORD kills and brings to life;
He brings down to Sheol and raises up.

The LORD makes poor and makes rich;
He brings low and he exalts.

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

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: Micah 5:2–5a

After the reading:

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE PSALM

Psalms 80:1–7; antiphon v. 7

Restore us, O God of hosts;

let Your face shine, that we may be saved!

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, You who lead Joseph like a flock!

You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth.

Before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh,

stir up Your might and come to save us!

Restore us, O God;

let Your face shine, that we may be saved!

O LORD God of hosts,

how long will You be angry with Your people's prayers?

You have fed them with the bread of tears

and given them tears to drink in full measure.

You make us an object of contention for our neighbors,

and our enemies laugh among themselves.

Restore us, O God of hosts;

let Your face shine, that we may be saved!

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.

Restore us, O God of hosts;

let Your face shine, that we may be saved!

from the Letters: Hebrews 10:5–10

After the reading:

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

HALLELUJAH AND VERSE

Matthew 1:23a

*Hallelujah! Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son,
and they shall call his name Immanuel. Hallelujah!*

from the Holy Gospel: Luke 1:39–56

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 357:1–5

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear</p> <p><i>Refrain</i> Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!</p> <p>2 O come, Thou Wisdom from on high,
Who ord'rst all things mightily;
To us the path of knowledge show,
And teach us in her ways to go. <i>Refrain</i></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> |
|---|---|

The Sermon

Luke 1:39–45

THE OFFERTORY HYMN – TUNE: TLH 62 – TEXT: LSB 357:6–7

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>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!</p> | <p>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!</p> |
|--|--|

Text: Public domain

The Presentation of the Offering

I will offer the thanksgiving sacrifice and call on the name of the LORD.

O LORD, my strength, I love You.

The Prayer of the Church

after each petition:

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

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.

**1 Savior of the nations, come,
Virgin’s Son, make here Your home!
Marvel now, O heav’n and earth,
That the Lord chose such a birth.**

**2 Not by human flesh and blood,
By the Spirit of our God,
Was the Word of God made flesh—
Woman’s offspring, pure and fresh.**

Text (sts. 1–2): Public domain

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

> Note about 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. <

DISTRIBUTION HYMN – TUNE: TLH 95 – TEXT: LSB 332:3–8

**3 Here a maid was found with child,
Yet remained a virgin mild.
In her womb this truth was shown:
God was there upon His throne.**

**6 For You are the Father’s Son
Who in flesh the vict’ry won.
By Your mighty pow’r make whole
All our ills of flesh and soul.**

**4 Then stepped forth the Lord of all
From His pure and kingly hall;
God of God, yet fully man,
His heroic course began.**

**7 From the manger newborn light
Shines in glory through the night.
Darkness there no more resides;
In this light faith now abides.**

**5 God the Father was His source,
Back to God He ran His course.
Into hell His road went down,
Back then to His throne and crown.**

**△ 8 Glory to the Father sing,
Glory to the Son, our king,
Glory to the Spirit be
Now and through eternity.**

DISTRIBUTION HYMN – TUNE: TLH 68 – TEXT: RMH

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1 O Adam’s children, sing!
Arise, O fallen earth!
The Second Adam comes, the King
By low yet royal birth.</p> <p>2 Isaiah gave the sign
For faithful souls to read:
“A virgin born of David’s line
Shall bear the promised Seed.”</p> <p>3 You ask how this could be?
Oh, worship and adore
Like her whom God’s own majesty
Came down to shadow o’er.</p> | <p>4 She meekly bowed her head
To hear the gracious word,
Blest Mary, the believing maid
And favored of the Lord.</p> <p>5 And blest shall be her name
In all the Church on earth
Through whom the wondrous mercy came
Of God our Savior’s birth.</p> <p>6 O Christ, the virgin’s Son,
With her we magnify
The grace that sees the lowly one
And lifts the humble high.</p> |
|---|--|

DISTRIBUTION HYMN – TUNE: TLH 645 – TEXT: LSB 359

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1 Lo, how a rose e’er blooming
From tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse’s lineage coming
As prophets long have sung,
It came, a flow’ret bright,
Amid the cold of winter,
When half-spent was the night.</p> <p>2 Isaiah ’twas foretold it,
The rose I have in mind;
With Mary we behold it,
The virgin mother kind.
To show God’s love aright,
She bore to us a Savior,
When half-spent was the night.</p> | <p>3 This flow’r, whose fragrance tender
With sweetness fills the air,
Dispels with glorious splendor
The darkness ev’rywhere.
True man, yet very God,
From sin and death He saves us
And lightens ev’ry load.</p> <p>4 O Savior, child of Mary,
Who felt our human woe;
O Savior, King of glory,
Who dost our weakness know:
Bring us at length we pray
To the bright courts of heaven,
And to the endless day.</p> |
|--|--|

Text: Public domain

The Post-Communion Hymn: TLH 275

Following the common dismissal for Holy Communion, we stand and sing this hymn paraphrase of the Magnificat (Luke 1:46–56), the Song of Mary.

Because it remains under copyright, we will sing it from The Lutheran Hymnal #275 in the red pew hymnals.

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 the same Jesus Christ, 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 85 – TEXT: RMH

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1 What hast Thou done, Eternal God,
Descending to this tainted sod
To make Thy palace in a maid,
When Thine own hand the maiden made?</p> | <p>2 Though highest heav'ns be all too small,
She holdeth Thee who holdeth all,
To carry Thee in weakness furled,
That Thou may'st carry all the world.</p> |
| <p>3 Thou tender, unborn flesh and blood,
Thou ancient and almighty God!
What hath Thy love for sinners done?
O Love, Thy love our love hath won.</p> | |

(Almost) Merry Christmas!

from

Our Savior Lutheran Church

Westminster, Massachusetts

Bringing you glad tidings of great joy:

For unto you is born a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

We invite you to join us for services and study of God's Word.

Wednesday, December 22

Noon Advent Service, 12:00 pm

Supper, 6:00 pm

Advent Service, 7:00 pm

Christmas Services

Christmas Eve—Vespers, 4:00 pm

Christmas Eve—Lessons & Carols, 10:00 pm

Christmas Day—Divine Service, 11:00 am

choir rehearsal at 10:00 am

The Feast of St. Stephen, Sunday, December 26

Divine Service, 10:00 am

after service, there will be a Christmas hymn sing and study of Luke 2 for all ages

The Second Sunday after Christmas, January 2

Divine Service, 10:00 am

Sunday School & Adult Bible Class after service

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 40:1–17	Revelation 7:1–17
M	Isaiah 40:18–41:10	Revelation 8:1–13
Tu	Isaiah 42:1–25	Revelation 9:1–12
W	Isaiah 43:1–24	Rev. 9:13–10:11
Th	Isaiah 43:25–44:20	Revelation 11:1–19
F	Isa. 44:21–45:13, 20–25	Revelation 12:1–17
Sa	Isaiah 49:1–18	Matthew 1:1–17

Daily Prayers

*How the head of the family should teach his household
to pray morning and evening.*

Morning Prayer

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Evening Prayer

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Hymn

The hymn stanza may be sung or spoken.

Thou tender, unborn flesh and blood,
Thou ancient and almighty God!
What hath Thy love for sinners done?
O Love, Thy love our love hath won.

Tune: Vom Himmel hoch

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 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 Feast of St. Stephen, Martyr December 26

2 Chronicles 24:17–22; Psalm 119:137–144;
Acts 6:8–7:2a, 51–60; Matthew 23:34–39