

SOLA SCRIPTURA ✦ SOLA GRATIA ✦ SOLA FIDE

Divine Service



Our Savior Lutheran Church

Westminster, Massachusetts

SCRIPTURE ALONE ✦ GRACE ALONE ✦ FAITH ALONE

1 Hager Park Road
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Westminster, MA 01473

Our Savior Lutheran Church

December 26, 2021

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church: 978-874-2479
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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	Sem. Patrick Jackson
Crucifer	Ray Arsenault
Organist	Anne Bennet
Acolytes	Landon Vega, Josiah Paradis

Prayers for Worship

Collect for the incarnation: 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.

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.

The Prayer of St. Stephen: Lord Jesus, receive my spirit. Amen. (Acts 7:59)

Psalms 90:12, 14: O God, teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom. Satisfy us in the morning with Your steadfast love, that we may

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 Image

Stained glass depicting the stoning of St. Stephen at Luther Memorial Chapel, Shorewood, Wisconsin.

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> 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 370

All stand and
face the crucifix

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 while angels sing;

Haste! Haste to bring Him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary.

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.

3 Then bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh; come peasant, king, to own Him.

The King of kings salvation brings;

Let loving hearts enthrone Him.

Raise, raise the song on high,

The Virgin sings her lullaby:

Joy! Joy, for Christ is born, the Babe, the Son of Mary.

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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, 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

Revelation 7:14b; Psalm 31:1, 3, 5

These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation.

They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

In You, O LORD, do I take refuge; let me never be put to shame;

in Your righteousness deliver me.

For You are my rock and my fortress;

and for Your name's sake You lead me and guide me.

Into Your hand I commit my spirit;

You have redeemed me, O LORD, faithful God.

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 SALUTATION

2 Timothy 4:22

*The Lord be with you.
And with your spirit.*

THE COLLECT

Let us pray. Heavenly Father, in the midst of our sufferings for the sake of Christ grant us grace to follow the example of the first martyr, Stephen, that we also may look to the One who suffered and was crucified on our behalf and pray for those who do us wrong; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The Reading of God's Word

the First Reading: 2 Chronicles 24:17–22

After the reading:

*This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.*

THE PSALM

Psalm 119:137–144; antiphon v. 142

*Your righteousness is righteous forever,
and Your law is true.*

*Righteous are You, O LORD,
and right are Your just decrees.*

*You have appointed Your testimonies in righteousness
and in all faithfulness.*

*My zeal consumes me,
because my foes forget Your words.*

*Your promise is well tried,
and Your servant loves it.*

*I am small and despised,
yet I do not forget Your precepts.*

*Your righteousness is righteous forever,
and Your law is true.*

*Trouble and anguish have found me out,
but Your commandments are my delight.*

Your testimonies are righteous forever;
give me understanding that I may live.

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.

Your righteousness is righteous forever,
and Your law is true.

the Second Reading: Acts 6:8–7:2a, 51–60

After the reading:

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE TRIPLE HALLELUJAH

> *Stand and face the crucifix as it enters the nave. The reading of the Gospel in the midst of the congregation is a visual reminder that “the Word became flesh and dwelt among us” (John 1:14). >*

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

the Holy Gospel: Matthew 23:34–39

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. 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 worshiped 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.

- 1** By all Your saints in warfare,
For all Your saints at rest,
Your holy name, O Jesus,
Forevermore be blest!
For You have won the battle
That they might wear the crown;
And now they shine in glory
Reflected from Your throne.
- 2** Praise for the first of martyrs
Who saw You ready stand
To help in time of torment,
To plead at God's right hand.
Like You, our suff'ring Savior,
His enemies he blessed,
With "Lord, receive my spirit,"
His faith, by death, confessed.

△ **3** Then let us praise the Father and worship God the Son
And sing to God the Spirit, eternal Three in One,
Till all the ransomed number fall down before the throne,
Ascribing pow'r and glory and praise to God alone.

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The Sermon

Acts 6:8–7:2a, 51–60

THE OFFERTORY

Psalm 51:10–12

**Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Do not cast me out of Your presence, nor take Your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and sustain me with a free spirit. Amen.**

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 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. In the communion of all Your saints gathered into the one body of Your Son, You have surrounded us with so great a cloud of witnesses that we, encouraged by their faith and strengthened by their fellowship, may run with perseverance the race that is set before us, and, together with them, receive the crown of glory that does not fade away. Therefore with angels and arch-angels and 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.**

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.* <

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| <p>1 Glory be to Jesus,
Who in bitter pains
Poured for me the lifeblood
From His sacred veins!</p> <p>2 Grace and life eternal
In that blood I find;
Blest be His compassion,
Infinitely kind!</p> <p>3 Blest through endless ages
Be the precious stream
Which from endless torment
Did the world redeem!</p> | <p>4 Abel's blood for vengeance
Pleaded to the skies;
But the blood of Jesus
For our pardon cries.</p> <p>5 Oft as earth exulting
Wafts its praise on high,
Angel hosts rejoicing
Make their glad reply.</p> <p>6 Lift we, then, our voices,
Swell the mighty flood;
Louder still and louder
Praise the precious blood!</p> |
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| <p>1 Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
With th' angelic host proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"</p> | <p>2 Christ, by highest heav'n adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold Him come,
Offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,
Hail th' incarnate Deity!
Pleased as Man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Immanuel!
Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"</p> |
|--|--|
- 3 Hail, the heav'nly Prince of Peace!
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings,
Ris'n with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by,
Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"**

Text: Public Domain

DISTRIBUTION HYMN – TUNE & TEXT: TLH 81, 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 He whom the sea and wind obey
Comes here to serve us sinners in such meekness!
You, God's own Son, with us are one.
You join us and our children in our weakness.**
- 3 Your light and grace our guilt erase,
Your heav'nly riches all we lost retrieving.
Immanuel, Your birth will quell
The pow'r of Hell and Satan's gross deceiving.**
- 4 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!**
- 5 What, then, is pain, since Him I gain?
The world can keep its comfort, praise, and pleasure.
Not pow'r or gold, but Christ I hold,
My first, my last, my everlasting Treasure.**

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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 & TEXT: TLH 76

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| <p>1 A great and mighty wonder,
A full and holy cure:
The virgin bears the Infant
With virgin honor pure!
Repeat the hymn again:
"To God on high be glory
And peace on earth to men!"</p> <p>2 The Word becomes incarnate
And yet remains on high,
And cherubim sing anthems
To shepherds from the sky.
Repeat the hymn again:
"To God on high be glory
And peace on earth to men!"</p> <p>5 All idols forms shall perish and error shall decay
And Christ shall wield His scepter, our Lord and God for aye.
Repeat the hymn again:
"To God on high be glory and peace on earth to men!"</p> | <p>3 While thus they sing your Monarch,
Those bright angelic bands,
Rejoice, O vales and mountains,
Ye oceans, clap your hands. .
Repeat the hymn again:
"To God on high be glory
And peace on earth to men!"</p> <p>4 Since all He comes to ransom,
By all be He adored,
The Infant born in Bethl'em,
The Savior and the Lord. .
Repeat the hymn again:
"To God on high be glory
And peace on earth to men!"</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	Isa. 49:22–51:16	Matthew 1:18–25
M	Isaiah 51:17–52:12	Matthew 2:1–12
Tu	Isaiah 52:13–54:10	Matthew 2:13–23
W	Isaiah 55:1–13	Luke 1:1–25
Th	Isaiah 58:1–59:3, 14–21	Luke 1:26–38
F	Isaiah 60:1–22	Luke 1:39–56
Sa	Isaiah 61:1–11	Luke 1:57–80

Daily Prayers

*How the head of the family should teach his household
to ask a blessing and return thanks.*

Asking a Blessing

*The children and members of the household shall go to
the table reverently, fold their hands, and say:* The eyes
of all look to You, [O LORD,] and You give them
their food at the proper time. You open Your hand
and satisfy the desires of every living thing. (Ps.
145: 15–16)

Then shall be said the Lord's Prayer and the following:

Lord God, heavenly Father, bless us and these Your
gifts which we receive from Your bountiful
goodness, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Luther's Small Catechism © 1986 Concordia Publishing House, cph.org.

Hymn

The hymn stanza may be sung or spoken.

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.

LSB 370:2b

Verse for Meditation

To us a child is born, to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder.
And his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:6

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, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy
Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Readings for the Second Sun. aft. Christmas, Jan. 2

1 Kings 3:4–15; Psalm 119:97–104;
Ephesians 1:3–14; Luke 2:40–52