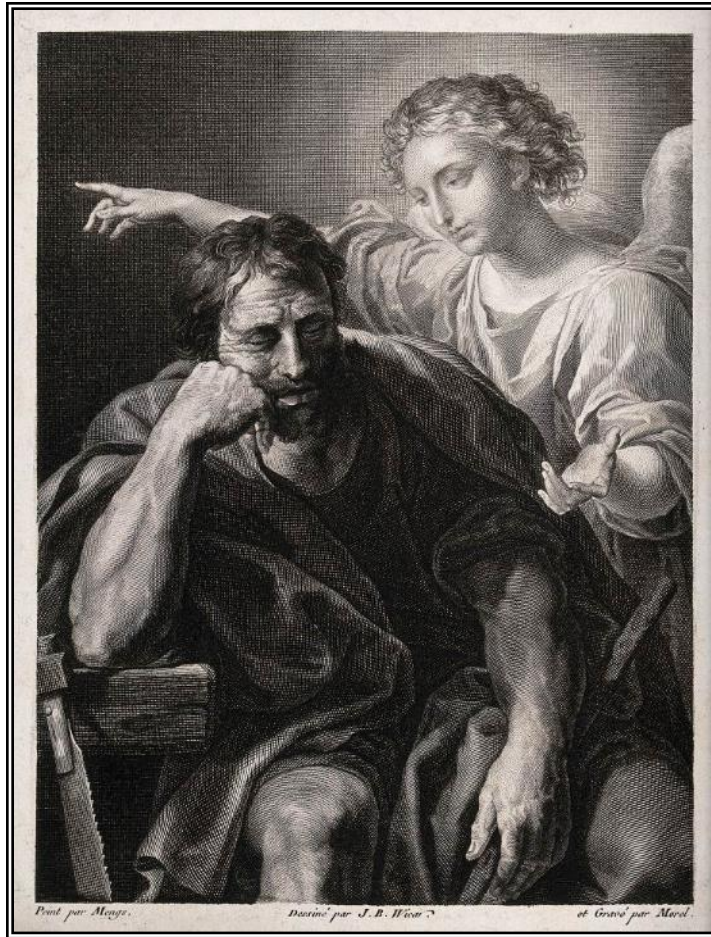


SOLA SCRIPTURA ✘ SOLA GRATIA ✘ SOLA FIDE

# *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 18, 2022

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 silence your cell phone 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. Children meet in the basement, high school students in pastors' study, and adults in the sanctuary. Coffee and refreshments are served in the basement directly after service.

## Serving in Worship Today

Preacher & Celebrant	Pastor Peter Gregory
Liturgist	Doug Newman
Organist	Anne Bennet
Acolytes	Luis Albert, Mason Suprenant

## 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

*For blessing on the Word:* Lord Jesus Christ, giver and perfecter of our faith, we thank and praise You for continuing among us the preaching of Your Gospel for our instruction and edification. Send Your blessing upon the Word, and by Your Holy Spirit increase our saving knowledge of You, that day by day we may be strengthened in the divine truth and remain steadfast in Your grace. Give us strength to fight the good fight and by faith to overcome all the temptations of Satan, the flesh, and the world so that we may finally receive the salvation of our souls; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

*From the Litany:* By the mystery of Your holy incarnation and by Your holy nativity: Help us, good Lord. Amen.

## Cover Illustration

The angel speaking to Joseph in a dream.  
Engraving by A.A. Morel after J.B. Wicar after A.R. Mengs. Credit: Wellcome Collection. CC BY.

THE OPENING HYMN – TUNE: TLH 68 – TEXT: RMH

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

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. Wherefore 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 Declaration of Grace*

Mark 16:16; John 1:12

**Amen.**

*Oh that You would rend the heavens and come down,*  
**that the mountains might quake at Your presence.**

*I wait for the LORD, my soul waits,*  
**and in His word I hope;**

*my soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen for the morning,*  
**more than watchmen for the morning.**

*O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love,*  
**and with Him is plentiful redemption.**

*And He will redeem Israel*  
**from all his iniquities.**

## 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

2 Timothy 4:22

*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: Isaiah 7:10-17*

*After the reading:*

*This is the word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

## THE PSALM

Psalm 24; antiphon v. 7

*Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient doors,*  
**that the King of glory may come in.**

*The earth is the LORD's and the fullness thereof,*  
**the world and those who dwell therein,**

*for He has founded it upon the seas*

**and established it upon the rivers.**

*Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD?*

**And who shall stand in His holy place?**

*He who has clean hands and a pure heart,*

**who does not lift up his soul to what is false and does not swear deceitfully.**

*He will receive blessing from the LORD*

**and righteousness from the God of his salvation.**

*Such is the generation of those who seek Him,*

**who seek the face of the God of | Jacob.**

*Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient doors,*

**that the King of glory may come in.**

*Who is this King of glory?*

**The LORD, strong and mighty, the LORD, mighty in battle!**

*Lift up your heads, O gates! And lift them up, O ancient doors,*

**that the King of glory may come in.**

*Who is this King of glory?*

**The LORD of hosts, He is the King of | glory!**

**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.**

*Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient doors,*

**that the King of glory may come in.**

*from the Letters: Romans 1:1–7*

*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 Gospels: Matthew 1:18–25*

**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, STANZAS 1–5

**1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear**

*Refrain*      **Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel!**

**2 O come, Thou Wisdom from on high,  
Who ord' rest all things mightily;  
To us the path of knowledge show,  
And teach us in her ways to go. *Refrain***

Text: Public domain

**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. *Refrain***

**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.  
*Refrain***

**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. *Refrain***

## *The Sermon*

*Matthew 1:18–25*

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

**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!**

**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!**

Text: Public domain

## *The Presentation of the Offering*

*Psalms 116:17; 18:1*

*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 PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

*Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. In Your boundless mercy You sent Your servant, John the Baptist, to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of heaven draws near. With thankful hearts we pray, "Come, Lord Jesus," confident that in His body and blood, given us to eat and drink, we receive the forgiveness of sins and so proclaim His death until He comes again in glory.*

*Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:*

### 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.**

### CONSECRATION HYMN — TUNE TLH 58 — TEXT: LSB 334, STANZAS 1 & 5

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <p><b>1 O Lord, how shall I meet You,<br/>How welcome You aright?<br/>Your people long to greet You,<br/>My hope, my heart's delight!<br/>O kindle, Lord most holy,<br/>Your lamp within my breast<br/>To do in spirit lowly<br/>All that may please You best.</b></p> | <p><b>2 Sin's debt, that fearful burden,<br/>Cannot His love erase;<br/>Your guilt the Lord will pardon<br/>And cover by His grace.<br/>He comes, for you procuring<br/>The peace of sin forgiv'n,<br/>His children thus securing<br/>Eternal life in heav'n.</b></p> |
|--|---|

# *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.* <

*Psalm 111 (v. 9)*

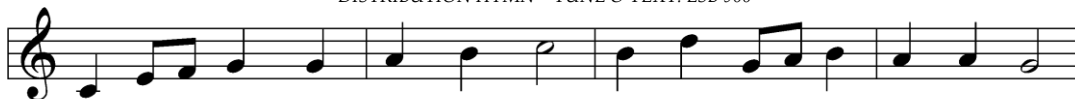
DISTRIBUTION HYMN – TUNE & TEXT: LSB 332

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>1 Savior of the nations, come,<br/>Virgin's Son, make here Your home!<br/>Marvel now, O heav'n and earth,<br/>That the Lord chose such a birth.</b> | <b>5 God the Father was His source,<br/>Back to God He ran His course.<br/>Into hell His road went down,<br/>Back then to His throne and crown.</b>   |
| <b>2 Not by human flesh and blood,<br/>By the Spirit of our God,<br/>Was the Word of God made flesh—<br/>Woman's offspring, pure and fresh.</b>        | <b>6 For You are the Father's Son<br/>Who in flesh the vict'ry won.<br/>By Your mighty pow'r make whole<br/>All our ills of flesh and soul.</b>       |
| <b>3 Here a maid was found with child,<br/>Yet remained a virgin mild.<br/>In her womb this truth was shown:<br/>God was there upon His throne.</b>    | <b>7 From the manger newborn light<br/>Shines in glory through the night.<br/>Darkness there no more resides;<br/>In this light faith now abides.</b> |
| <b>4 Then stepped forth the Lord of all<br/>From His pure and kingly hall;<br/>God of God, yet fully man,<br/>His heroic course began.</b>             | <b>△ 8 Glory to the Father sing,<br/>Glory to the Son, our king,<br/>Glory to the Spirit be<br/>Now and through eternity.</b>                         |



- 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?
- 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.
- 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.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN – TUNE & TEXT: LSB 900



1 Je - sus! Name of won-drous love, Name all oth - er names a - bove,  
2 Je - sus! Name de - creed of old, To the maid-en moth - er told,  
3 Je - sus! Name of price - less worth To the fall - en of the earth  
4 Je - sus! Name of mer - cy mild, Giv - en to the ho - ly Child



Un - to which must ev - 'ry knee Bow in deep hu - mil - i - ty.  
Kneel - ing in her low - ly cell, By the an - gel Ga - bri - el.  
For the prom - ise that it gave, "Je - sus shall His peo - ple save."  
When the cup of hu - man woe First He tast - ed here be - low.

- 5 Jesus! Only name that's giv'n  
Under all the mighty heav'n  
Whereby those to sin enslaved  
Burst their fetters and are saved.
- 6 Jesus! Name of wondrous love,  
Human name of God above;  
Pleading only this, we flee  
Helpless, O our God, to Thee.

Text and tune: 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. 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 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 on you and be gracious to you.*  
*The LORD lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.*  
**Amen. Amen. Amen.**

HYMN TO DEPART—TUNE TLH 647—TEXT: LSB 361

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <p><b>1</b> O little town of Bethlehem,<br/>How still we see thee lie!<br/>Above thy deep and dreamless sleep<br/>The silent stars go by;<br/>Yet in thy darkness shineth<br/>The everlasting Light;<br/>The hopes and fears of all the years<br/>Are met in thee tonight.</p> <p><b>2</b> For Christ is born of Mary,<br/>And gathered all above,<br/>While mortals sleep, the angels keep<br/>Their watch of wondering love.<br/>O morning stars, together<br/>Proclaim the holy birth<br/>And praises sing to God, the King,<br/>And peace to men on earth.</p> | <p><b>3</b> How silently, how silently,<br/>The wondrous Gift is given!<br/>So God imparts to human hearts<br/>The blessings of His heaven.<br/>No ear may hear His coming,<br/>But in this world of sin,<br/>Where meek souls will receive Him still,<br/>The dear Christ enters in.</p> <p><b>4</b> O holy Child of Bethlehem,<br/>Descend to us, we pray;<br/>Cast out our sin and enter in,<br/>Be born in us today.<br/>We hear the Christmas angels<br/>The great glad tidings tell:<br/>Oh, come to us, abide with us,<br/>Our Lord Immanuel!</p> |
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Text: Public domain



# 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. 34:1–2; 34:8–35:10	Revelation 6:1–17
M	Isaiah 40:1–17	Revelation 7:1–17
Tu	Isaiah 40:18–41:10	Revelation 8:1–13
W	Isaiah 42:1–25	Revelation 9:1–12
Th	Isaiah 43:1–24	Rev. 9:13–10:11
F	Isaiah 43:25–44:20	Revelation 11:1–19
Sa	Isa. 44:21–45:13, 20–25	Revelation 12:1–17

### The Apostles' Creed

*What is the Apostles' Creed?* 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 catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

*From the Large Catechism:* Although the whole world has sought painstakingly to learn what God is and what he thinks and does, yet it has never succeeded in the least. But here you have everything in richest measure. In these three articles God himself has revealed and opened to us the most profound depths of his fatherly heart, his sheer, unutterable love. He created us for this very purpose, to redeem and sanctify us. Moreover, having bestowed upon us everything in heaven and on earth, he has given

us his Son and his Holy Spirit, through whom he brings us to himself. . . . [In short,] the Creed tells what God does for us and gives to us.

Luther's Small Catechism © 1986 Concordia Publishing House, cph.org; LC II.63–64, 67

### Hymn

*The hymn stanza may be sung or spoken.*

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

LSB 332:7

### 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 Christmas Day

Isa. 52:7–10; Ps. 2 (v. 7); Heb. 1:1–6; John 1:1–18