

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 1, 2023

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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 & Preacher	Sem. Patrick Jackson
Crucifer	Ben Paradis
Organist	Anne Bennet
Trumpet	Doug Newman
Children's Choir Director	Kelley Newman
Acolytes	William Jackson, Landon Vega

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.

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 Image

"The Circumcision of Christ" ("*Die Beschneidung Christi*")
by Peter Paul Rubens, 1605,
Chiesa del Gesù e dei Santi Ambrogio e Andrea, Genoa.

THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN—TUNE & TEXT: LSB 376

> *If able, stand and face the crucifix for the procession.* <

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1 Of the Father's love begotten
Ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega,
He the source, the ending He,
Of the things that are, that have been,
And that future years shall see
Evermore and evermore.</p> <p>2 Oh, that birth forever blessed,
When the virgin, full of grace,
By the Holy Ghost conceiving,
Bore the Savior of our race,
And the babe, the world's Redeemer,
First revealed His sacred face
Evermore and evermore.</p> | <p>3 This is He whom seers in old time
Chanted of with one accord,
Whom the voices of the prophets
Promised in their faithful word.
Now He shines, the long-expected;
Let creation praise its Lord
Evermore and evermore.</p> <p>4 O ye heights of heav'n, adore Him;
Angel hosts, His praises sing.
Pow'rs, dominions, bow before Him
And extol our God and King.
Let no tongue on earth be silent,
Ev'ry voice in concert ring
Evermore and evermore.</p> |
|--|---|

△ 5 **Christ, to Thee, with God the Father,**
And, O Holy Ghost, to Thee
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving
And unending praises be,
Honor, glory, and dominion,
And eternal victory
Evermore and evermore. Amen.

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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

Psalm 40:16, 6–8

May all who seek You rejoice and be glad in You;

may those who love Your salvation say continually, “Great is the LORD!”

Sacrifice and offering You have not desired, but You have given me an open ear.

Burnt offering and sin offering You have not required.

Then I said, “Behold, I have come;

in the scroll of the book it is written of Me:

I desire to do Your will, O My God;

Your law is within My heart.”

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. 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, 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: Numbers 6:22–27

After the reading:

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

THE PSALM

Psalm 8; antiphon v. 9

*O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is Your name in all the earth!
You have set Your glory above the heavens.*

*Out of the mouth of babes and infants, You have established strength because of Your foes,
to still the enemy and the avenger.*

*When I look at Your heavens, the work of Your fingers,
the moon and the stars, which You have set in place,*

*what is man that You are mindful of him,
and the son of man that You care for him?*

*Yet You have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings
and crowned him with glory and honor.*

*You have given him dominion over the works of Your hands;
You have put all things under his feet,*

*all sheep and oxen,
and also the beasts of the field,*

*the birds of the heavens, and the fish of the sea,
whatever passes along the paths of the seas.*

O LORD, our Lord,

how majestic is Your name in all the earth!

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.

O LORD, our Lord,

how majestic is Your name in all the earth!

from the Letters: Galatians 3:23–29

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!

from the Holy Gospel: Luke 2:21

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

Text and tune: Public domain

The Sermon

THE OFFERTORY HYMN – TUNE & TEXT: LSB 370, STANZAS 1-2

- 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.

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 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; for in the mystery of the Word made flesh You have given us a new revelation of Your glory that, seeing You in the person of Your Son, we may know and love those things which are not seen. 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.

Holy Communion

The coming of Christ in the flesh at Bethlehem was a concrete outward act of God in humble means that was despised by the world. The flesh and blood coming of Christ in the sacrament is also a concrete outward act of God in humble means that can be despised. Rather than despise it, however, God would have us delight in it!

With deep thankfulness for His gifts to us here we also express our deep desire to celebrate it according to God's will. Since this includes oneness in the faith we confess (doctrine), guests who desire to commune are asked to speak with pastor first. Anyone is welcome to come forward with arms crossed to receive a blessing.

Personent Hodie 14th c. Latin Carol

*Personent hodie, voces puerulae,
Laudantes jucunde, qui nobis est natus
Summo Deo datus, et de vir- vir- vir-,
Et de vir- vir- vir-, et de virgineo
Ventre procreates.*

*In mundo nascitur, pannis involvitur
Praesepe ponitur stabulo brutorum
Rector supernorum perdidit -dit -dit,
perdidit spolia princeps infernorum.*

*Magi tres venerunt; munera offerunt;
Parvulum inquirunt, stellulam sequendo,
Ipsam adorando, aurum, thus, thus, thus,
Aurum, thus, et myrrham ei offerendo.*

*Today must resound children's voices,
Joyfully praising Him who is born to us,
Given by most high God,
And of a virgin-womb begotten.*

*He was born into the world,
Wrapped in swaddling clothes,
And laid in a manger, in a stable for animals,
The Master of the heavens rescued the spoils
Of the Prince of Hell.*

*Three Magi came to offer gifts
And sought the Little One.
Following after a star, they adored Him.
Gold, frankincense and myrrh, they offered to Him.*

*All must join Him to praise: Men and boys, voices raise
On this day of all days; angel voices ringing, Christmas tidings bringing,
Join we all, all, all, join we all, "Gloria in excelsis" singing.*

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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DISTRIBUTION HYMN – TUNE & TEXT: TLH 94, STANZAS 1–3

- 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!"
- 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!"
- 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

**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

Psalm 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: TLH 85 – TEXT: LSB 358, STANZAS 8, 13–15

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1 Welcome to earth, O noble Guest,
Through whom the sinful world is blest!
You came to share my misery
That You might share Your joy with me.</p> | <p>3 My heart for very joy must leap;
My lips no more can silence keep.
I, too, must sing with joyful tongue
That sweetest ancient cradlesong:</p> |
| <p>2 Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child,
Prepare a bed, soft, undefiled,
A quiet chamber set apart
For You to dwell within my heart.</p> | <p>4 Glory to God in highest heav'n,
Who unto us His Son has giv'n!
While angels sing with pious mirth
A glad new year to all the earth.</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	Isaiah 61:1–11	Luke 1:57–80
M	Isaiah 62:1–12	Luke 2:1–20
Tu	Isaiah 63:1–14	Luke 2:21–40
W	Isaiah 63:15–65:2	Luke 2:41–52
Th	Isaiah 65:8–25	Luke 3:1–20
F	Isaiah 66:1–20	Luke 3:21–38
Sa	Ezekiel 1:1–14, 22–28	Romans 1:1–17

The Lord's Prayer

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

Our Father who art in heaven Amen.

[See p. 6 of the bulletin for the full text.]

From the Large Catechism: We have heard what we are to do [the Ten Commandments] and believe [the Apostles' Creed]. The best and most blessed life consists of these things. Now follows the third part, how we are to pray. Mankind is in such a situation that no one can keep the Ten Commandments perfectly, even though he has begun to believe. Besides, the devil, along with the world and our flesh, resists our efforts with all his power. Therefore nothing is so necessary as to call upon God continually and drum into His ears our prayer that He may give, preserve, and increase in us faith and obedience to the Ten Commandments and remove all that stands in our way and hinders us from fulfilling them. That we may know what and how to pray, our Lord Christ Himself has taught us both the way and the words.

Luther's Small Catechism © 1986 Concordia Publishing House, cph.org; LC III.1–3

Hymn

The hymn stanza may be sung or spoken.

Glory to God in highest heav'n,
Who unto us His Son has giv'n!
While angels sing with pious mirth
A glad new year to all the earth. LSB 358:15

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

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.

Readings for the Epiphany of Our Lord, observed on Sunday, January 8

Isaiah 60:1–6; Psalms 72:1–11 (v. 18) & 24 (v. 7);
Ephesians 3:1–12; Matthew 2:1–12