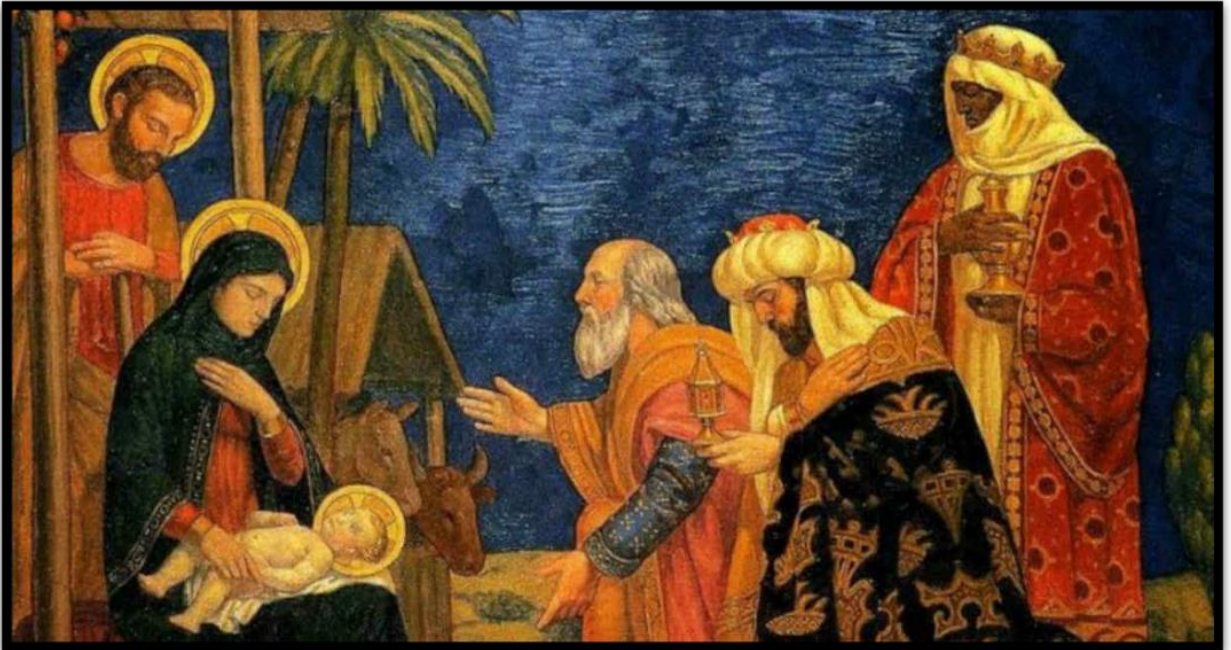


SOLA SCRIPTURA ✘ SOLA GRATIA ✘ SOLA FIDE

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 8, 2023

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 & Preacher	Rev. Peter Gregory
Liturgist	Tom Connell
Organist	Anne Bennet
Acolytes	Landon Vega, Andrew Gull

Epiphany

Epiphany means to "reveal" or "make manifest." The season of Epiphany focuses on the revelation of who Jesus really is: true God as well as true man. He is that for all people, not just for the children of Israel, as we see in the visit of the magi from the East (Matthew 2:1-12). "For God, who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ" (2 Corinthians 4:6).

Prayers for Worship

Before communing: Dear Savior, at Your gracious invitation I come to Your table to eat and drink Your holy body and blood. Grant me favor in Your eyes to receive this holy Sacrament in faith for the salvation of my soul and to the glory of Your holy name; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Thanksgiving after receiving the Sacrament: Almighty and everlasting God, I thank and praise You for feeding me the life-giving body and blood of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Send Your Holy Spirit that, having with my mouth received the holy Sacrament, I may by faith obtain and eternally enjoy Your divine grace, the forgiveness of sins, unity with Christ, and life eternal; through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.

Cover Image

The Magi (ca. 1915) by Henry Siddons Mowbray, the Smithsonian American Art Museum. Public Domain.

THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN – TUNE & TEXT: LSB 872



1 Come, Thou bright and Morn - ing Star, Light of Light with -
2 Let Thy grace, like morn - ing dew Fall - ing soft on
3 May Thy fer - vent love de - stroy Our cold works, in
4 Ah! Thou Day - spring from on high, Grant that at Thy
5 Light us to those heav'n - ly spheres, Sun of grace, in



out be - gin - ning; Shine up - on us from a - far
bar - ren plac - es, Com - fort, quick - en, and re - new
us a - wak - ing Ar - dent zeal and ho - ly joy
next ap - pear - ing We who in the graves do lie
glo - ry shroud - ed; Lead us through this vale of tears



That we may be kept from sin - ning.
Our dry souls and dy - ing grac - es;
At the pur - ple morn's first break - ing.
May a - rise, Thy sum - mons hear - ing,
To the land where days un - cloud - ed,



Drive a - way by Thy clear light Our dark night.
Bless Thy flock from Thy rich store Ev - er - more.
Let us tru - ly rise ere yet Life has set.
And re - joice in our new life, Far from strife.
Pur - est joy, and per - fect peace Nev - er cease.

Text and tune: 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

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 45:17, 6–8a

*I will cause Your name to be remembered in all generations;
therefore nations will praise You forever and ever.*

*Your throne, O God, is forever and ever. The scepter of Your kingdom is a scepter of uprightness;
You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness.*

*Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You with the oil of gladness beyond Your companions;
Your robes are all fragrant with myrrh and aloes and cassia.*

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. O God, by the leading of a star You made known Your only-begotten Son to the Gentiles.
Lead us, who know You by faith, to enjoy in heaven the fullness of Your divine presence; through the same
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: Isaiah 60:1–6

After the reading:

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

THE PSALM

Psalm 72:1–11; antiphon v. 18

*Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel,
who alone does wondrous things.*

*Give the king Your justice, O God,
and Your righteousness to the royal Son!*

*May He judge Your people with righteousness,
and Your poor with justice!*

*Let the mountains bear prosperity for the people,
and the hills, in righteousness!*

*May He defend the cause of the poor of the people, give deliverance to the children of the needy,
and crush the oppressor!*

*May they fear You while the sun endures,
and as long as the moon, throughout all generations!*

*May He be like rain that falls on the mown grass,
like showers that water the earth!*

*In His days may the righteous flourish,
and peace abound, till the moon be no more!*

May He have dominion from sea to sea,
and from the River to the ends of the earth!

May desert tribes bow down before Him
and His enemies lick the dust!

May the kings of Tarshish and of the coastlands render Him tribute;
may the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts!

May all kings fall down before Him,
all nations serve Him!

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.

Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel,
who alone does wondrous things.

from the Letters: Ephesians 3:1–12

After the reading:

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE TRIPLE HALLELUJAH

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

from the Holy Gospel: Matthew 2:1–12

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 \dagger of the world to come. Amen.

HYMN OF THE DAY – TUNE: TLH 343 – TEXT: LSB 395, STANZAS 1–4

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1 O Morning Star, how fair and bright!
You shine with God's own truth and light,
Aglow with grace and mercy!
Of Jacob's race, King David's son,
Our Lord and master, You have won
Our hearts to serve You only!
Lowly, holy! Great and glorious,
All victorious, rich in blessing!
Rule and might o'er all possessing!</p> <p>2 Come, heav'nly Bridegroom, Light divine,
And deep within our hearts now shine;
There light a flame undying!
In Your one body let us be
As living branches of a tree,
Your life our lives supplying.
Now, though daily earth's deep sadness
May perplex us and distress us,
Yet with heav'nly joy You bless us.</p> | <p>3 Lord, when You look on us in love,
At once there falls from God above
A ray of purest pleasure.
Your Word and Spirit, flesh and blood
Refresh our souls with heav'nly food.
You are our dearest treasure!
Let Your mercy warm and cheer us!
O draw near us! For You teach us
God's own love through You has reached us.</p> <p>4 Almighty Father, in Your Son
You loved us when not yet begun
Was this old earth's foundation!
Your Son has ransomed us in love
To live in Him here and above:
This is Your great salvation.
Alleluia! Christ the living,
To us giving life forever,
Keeps us Yours and fails us never!</p> |
|---|--|

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The Sermon

Matthew 2:1–12

OFFERTORY HYMN – TUNE: TLH 343 – TEXT: LSB 395, STANZAS 5–6

- 5 O let the harps break forth in sound!**
Our joy be all with music crowned, our voices gladly blending!
For Christ goes with us all the way—today, tomorrow, ev'ry day!
His love is never ending! Sing out! Ring out!
Jubilation! Exultation! Tell the story!
Great is He, the King of Glory!

(Continued on the next page.)

6 What joy to know, when life is past,
The Lord we love is first and last, the end and the beginning!
He will one day, oh, glorious grace, transport us to that happy place
Beyond all tears and sinning! Amen! Amen!
Come, Lord Jesus! Crown of gladness!
We are yearning for the day of Your returning!

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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.
And with your spirit.

2 Timothy 4:22

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 what had been hidden from before the foundation of the world You have made known to the nations in Your Son. In Him, being found in the substance of our mortal nature, You have manifested the fullness of Your glory. 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.

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.* <

Psalm 24 (antiphon: v. 7)

DISTRIBUTION HYMN – TUNE: TLH 90 – TEXT: LSB 375

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1 Come, your hearts and voices raising,
Christ the Lord with gladness praising;
Loudly sing His love amazing,
Worthy folk of Christendom.</p> | <p>4 From the bondage that oppressed us,
From sin's fetters that possessed us,
From the grief that sore distressed us,
We, the captives, now are free.</p> |
| <p>2 Christ, from heav'n to us descending
And in love our race befriending;
In our need His help extending,
Saved us from the wily foe.</p> | <p>5 Oh, the joy beyond expressing
When by faith we grasp this blessing,
And to You we come confessing
That Your love has set us free.</p> |
| <p>3 Jacob's star in all its splendor
Beams with comfort sweet and tender,
Forcing Satan to surrender,
Breaking all the pow'rs of hell.</p> | <p>6 Gracious Child, we pray, O hear us,
From Your lowly manger cheer us,
Gently lead us and be near us
Till we join Your choir above.</p> |

- 1 Joyful fear and trembling praise,
O Lord Christ, to You we raise,
Like the Gentiles from afar
Summoned by the calling star.
Righteous Branch of Jesse's Stem,
Shepherd-King of Bethlehem,
Pow'r and love around You shine,
God Incarnate! Man Divine!
- 2 Baptized here for us below
In earth's water and earth's woe,
Filled with might and full of grace
In the Holy Ghost's embrace,
Underneath the tearing sky,
God's Beloved from on high!
Pow'r and love around You shine,
God Incarnate! Man Divine!
- 5 Grant us grace to see You, Lord, mirrored in Your Holy Word.
May we imitate You here and be pure when You appear
That we all like You may be at Your Great Epiphany,
And like stars around You shine, God Incarnate! Man Divine!
- 3 Son of Man and sinners' King,
All our sorrows carrying,
In Your mercy making whole
Crippled limb and crippled soul,
God of God and Light of Light,
Granting eyes and spirits sight,
Pow'r and love around You shine,
God Incarnate! Man Divine!
- 4 Christ, who hearts and bodies fed
Sudden wine and wondrous bread,
Christ, who walked upon the sea,
Stilling storms in majesty,
Christ, who spoke and demons fled,
Christ, who spoke and waked the dead,
Pow'r and love around You shine,
God Incarnate! Man Divine!

- 1 As with gladness men of old
Did the guiding star behold;
As with joy they hailed its light,
Leading onward, beaming bright;
So, most gracious Lord, may we
Evermore be led by Thee.
- 2 As with joyful steps they sped,
Savior, to Thy lowly bed,
There to bend the knee before
Thee, whom heav'n and earth adore;
So may we with willing feet
Ever seek Thy mercy seat.
- 5 In the heav'nly country bright need they no created light;
Thou its light, its joy, its crown, Thou its sun which goes not down;
There forever may we sing alleluias to our King.
- 3 As they offered gifts most rare
At Thy cradle, rude and bare,
So may we with holy joy,
Pure and free from sin's alloy,
All our costliest treasures bring,
Christ, to Thee, our heav'nly King.
- 4 Holy Jesus, ev'ry day
Keep us in the narrow way;
And when earthly things are past,
Bring our ransomed souls at last
Where they need no star to guide,
Where no clouds Thy glory hide.

**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 106 – TEXT: LSB 412, STANZAS 1–3, 6

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1 The people that in darkness sat
A glorious light have seen;
The light has shined on them who long
In shades of death have been,
In shades of death have been.</p> | <p>2 To us a Child of hope is born,
To us a Son is giv'n,
And on His shoulder ever rests
All pow'r in earth and heav'n,
All pow'r in earth and heav'n.</p> |
| <p>△ 3 Lord Jesus, reign in us, we pray, and make us Thine alone,
Who with the Father ever art and Holy Spirit, one,
And Holy Spirit, one.</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	Ezekiel 2:1–3:11	Romans 1:18–32
M	Ezekiel 3:12–27	Romans 2:1–16
Tu	Ezekiel 18:1–4, 19–32	Romans 2:17–29
W	Ezekiel 33:1–20	Romans 3:1–18
Th	Ezekiel 34:1–24	Romans 3:19–31
F	Ezekiel 36:13–28	Romans 4:1–25
Sa	Ezekiel 36:33–37:14	Romans 5:1–21

The Lord's Prayer

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

The Introduction

Our Father who art in heaven.

What does this mean? With these words God tenderly invites us to believe that He is our true Father and that we are His true children, so that with all boldness and confidence we may ask Him as dear children ask their dear father.

From the Large Catechism: Before we explain the Lord's Prayer part by part, it is very necessary first to encourage and stir people to prayer. . . . The first thing to know is this: It is our duty to pray because God has commanded it. For that is what we heard in the Second Commandment. . . . In the second place, we should be all the more urged and encouraged to pray because God has promised that our prayer will surely be answered, as He says in Psalm 50:15, "Call upon Me in the day of trouble, and I will deliver you."

Luther's Small Catechism © 1986 Concordia Publishing House, cph.org;
LC III.4–5, 19

Hymn

The hymn stanza may be sung or spoken.

Oh, the joy beyond expressing
When by faith we grasp this blessing,
And to You we come confessing
That Your love has set us free. *LSB 375:5*

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, by the leading of a star You made known Your only-begotten Son to the Gentiles. Lead us, who know You by faith, to enjoy in heaven the fullness of Your divine presence; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Readings for the Feast of the Holy Innocents observed on Sunday, January 15

Jeremiah 31:15–17; Psalms 54 (v. 4) & 80 (v. 19);
Revelation 14:1–5; Matthew 2:13–23