

SOLA SCRIPTURA ✠ SOLA GRATIA ✠ SOLA FIDE

Service of the Word



Our Savior Lutheran Church

Westminster, Massachusetts

SCRIPTURE ALONE ✠ GRACE ALONE ✠ FAITH ALONE

1 Hager Park Road
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Our Savior Lutheran Church

January 29, 2023

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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

Sermon delivered by	Dave Farabaugh, elder
Liturgist	Jeremy Henrikson
Organist	Anne Bennet
Acolytes	Mason Suprenant, Landon Vega

Prayers for Worship

For eyes fixed on Christ crucified: Merciful God, You did not spare Your only Son but delivered Him up for us all that He might bear our sins on the cross. Grant that our eyes may ever behold our Savior and His cross, that we may not fear the power of any adversaries but rather rejoice in His victory for us; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Of general thanksgiving: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we, Your unworthy servants, give You humble and hearty thanks for all the goodness and loving-kindness that You bestow on us. We praise You for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life. But above all, we bless You for Your boundless love in the redemption of the world by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. We implore You to give us a right understanding of all Your mercies that our hearts may ever be deeply thankful and that we may show forth Your praise with both our lips and our lives. Direct our lives in ways of holiness and righteousness all our days that we may enjoy the testimony of a good conscience and the hope of Your favor, be sustained and comforted in every time of trouble, and finally be received into Your everlasting kingdom; through Christ Jesus, our Lord. Amen.

Cover Image

The altar cross at Gethsemane Lutheran Church, St. Louis, Missouri. Photo courtesy of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

OPENING HYMN – TUNE: TLH 16 – TEXT: LSB 904

1 Blessed Jesus, at Your Word
We are gathered all to hear You.
Let our hearts and souls be stirred
Now to seek and love and fear You,
By Your teachings, sweet and holy,
Drawn from earth to love You solely.

2 All our knowledge, sense, and sight
Lie in deepest darkness shrouded
Till Your Spirit breaks our night
With the beams of truth unclouded.
You alone to God can win us;
You must work all good within us.

3 Gracious Savior, good and kind,
Light of Light, from God proceeding,
Open now our heart and mind;
Help us by Your Spirit's pleading.
Hear the cry Your Church now raises;
Hear and bless our prayers and praises.

△ **4 Father, Son, and Spirit, Lord,**
Praise to You and adoration!
Grant that we may trust Your Word,
Confident of our salvation,
While we here below must wander,
Till we sing Your praises yonder.

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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

Almighty God, our maker and 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, to the end that by Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

By the mercy of God we are redeemed by Jesus Christ, and in Him we are forgiven.

Amen.

The LORD knoweth the way of the righteous:

but the way of the ungodly shall perish.

Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly,

nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.

But his delight is in the law of the LORD;

and in His law doth he meditate day and night.

And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water,

that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither;

and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

The ungodly are not so:

but are like the chaff which the wind driveth away.

Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment,

nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.

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 COLLECT

Let us pray. Almighty God, You know we live in the midst of so many dangers that in our frailty we cannot stand upright. Grant strength and protection to support us in all dangers and carry us through all temptations; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, 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: Micah 6:1–8

After the reading:

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE PSALM

Psalm 15; antiphon Psalm 16:1

Preserve me, O God,
for in You I take refuge.

O LORD, who shall sojourn in Your tent?
Who shall dwell on Your holy hill?

He who walks blamelessly and does what is right
and speaks truth in his heart;

who does not slander with his tongue and does no evil to his neighbor,
nor takes up any reproach against his friend;

in whose eyes a vile person is despised, but who honors those who fear the LORD;
who swears to his own hurt and does not change;

who does not put out his money at interest and does not take a bribe against the innocent.
He who does these things shall never be moved.

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.

Preserve me, O God,
for in You I take refuge.

from the Letters: 1 Corinthians 1:18–31

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 5:1–12

Glory be to You, O Lord!

After the reading:

Praise be to You, O Christ!

THE NICENE CREED

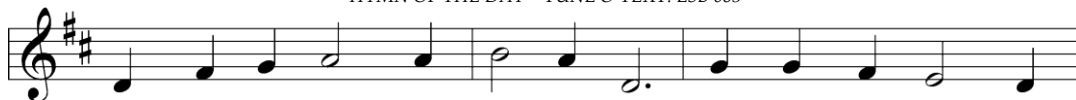
Having heard the Word, what do you believe?

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 † of the world to come. Amen.

HYMN OF THE DAY – TUNE & TEXT: LSB 683



1 Je - sus, Thy bound - less love to me No thought can reach, no
2 O grant that noth - ing in my soul May dwell, but Thy pure
3 This love un - wea - ried I pur - sue And daunt - less - ly to
4 In suf - f'ring be Thy love my peace, In weak - ness be Thy



tongue de - clare; U - nite my thank - ful heart to Thee,
love a - lone; Oh, may Thy love pos - sess me whole,
Thee as - pire. Oh, may Thy love my hope re - new,
love my pow'r; And when the storms of life shall cease,

Each stanza continues on to the next page.



And reign with-out a ri - val there! Thine whol - ly, Thine a -
 My joy, my trea - sure, and my crown! All cold - ness from my
 Burn in my soul like heav' n - ly fire! And day and night, be
 O Je - sus, in that fi - nal hour, Be Thou my rod and



lone I am; Be Thou a - lone my con - stant flame.
 heart re - move; My ev - 'ry act, word, thought be love.
 all my care To guard this sa - cred trea - sure there.
 staff and guide, And draw me safe - ly to Thy side!

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The Sermon

1 Corinthians 1:18–31

THE OFFERTORY HYMN – TUNE & TEXT: LSB 425

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1 When I survey the wondrous cross
 On which the Prince of Glory died,
 My richest gain I count but loss
 And pour contempt on all my pride.</p> | <p>3 See, from His head, His hands, His feet
 Sorrow and love flow mingled down!
 Did e'er such love and sorrow meet
 Or thorns compose so rich a crown?</p> |
| <p>2 Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast
 Save in the death of Christ, my God;
 All the vain things that charm me most,
 I sacrifice them to His blood.</p> | <p>4 Were the whole realm of nature mine,
 That were a tribute far too small;
 Love so amazing, so divine,
 Demands my soul, my life, my all!</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.*

**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.**

HYMN OF PRAISE – TUNE: LSB 373 – TEXT: RMH

- | | |
|--|---|
| <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!</p> | <p>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!</p> |
| <p>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!</p> | <p>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!</p> |
| <p>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!</p> | <p>6 Sun and moon will darkened be.
 Stars will fall; the skies will flee.
 All will then the trumpet hear.
 All will see their God appear.
 All will kneel and all confess,
 "Christ is Lord!" in dread or bliss;
 Like the lightning You will shine,
 God Incarnate! Man Divine!</p> |

THE COLLECT FOR THE WORD

Let us pray. Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and take them to heart that, by the patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

THE BENEDICTION

2 Corinthians 13:14

*The grace of our Lord † Jesus Christ and the love of God
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with us all.
Amen. Amen. Amen.*

HYMN TO DEPART—TUNE: TLH 343—TEXT: LSB 395, STANZAS 4–5

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|--|---|
| <p>1 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> | <p>2 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!</p> |
|--|---|

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Note from Pastor: We have some "bonus pages" in this week's bulletin, so I offer you the following two-page excerpt from a recent article by the Rev. Dr. John Bombaro on the sign of the cross. As a congregation we support him and his family on the mission field in Eurasia. May this reflection be a blessing to you!

A History of the Sign of the Cross

Rev. Dr. John Bombaro

The sign of the cross, according to the earliest centuries of Christians, is “the sign of the Lord,” and every baptized Christian was “marked” with it.

A friend once told me, “I don’t make the sign of the cross because it’s Catholic.” That answer surprised me because it isn’t simply Roman Catholic, but fully *catholic*—belonging to the whole Christian Church. So I responded by asking, “What makes it wrong?” The reply was even more surprising: “It’s superstitious,” he stated matter-of-factly.

I couldn’t help but wonder if actually the superstitious person was my friend who balked at signing the cross, as opposed to those who exercise their faith in doing so. From a different angle I also thought that those who sign the cross have embraced the liberty of worshipping Christ with biblically-informed freedom, through a biblical-informed sign (cf. 2 Corinthians 1:22; Revelation 7:2-4). Put in the form of a question: Was my friend’s remark the product of an unwritten law of pietism (or superstition!), or was it because anything perceived as “Catholic” is inherently wrong?

This brief conversation had me turning over in my mind Stevie Wonder’s hit song “Very Superstitious.” A resolution not to make the sign of the cross because “it’s superstition” seems, well, very superstitious.

But there is nothing to fear about the sign of the cross because Jesus emptied the actual cross of its shame and terror when he was crucified for us upon the tree of Golgotha (Hebrews 12:2). Thereby, Jesus transformed the cross into an image most treasured — an icon of the Holy Gospel itself: “Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangs on a tree” (Gal. 3:13), and “Who his own self bore our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes you were healed” (1 Peter 2:24). To sign the cross is to recall or announce the gospel of Jesus’ victory for us over sin, death and the devil. That’s why the custom is so ancient and universal.

The sign of the cross is a ritual hand motion made by the vast majority of the world’s Christians (contributing to its catholicity), usually accompanied by the trinitarian formula from Matthew 28:19: “In/into the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.” For Anglican, Lutheran, Orthodox, and Roman Catholic Christians (or about 80 percent of the world’s Christians), the motion symbolizes the Cross of Calvary by tracing the shape of

the cross in the air or on one's own body. It brings to mind the fact that the name of the Triune God had been placed upon us when we were adopted into the Lord's family through Holy Baptism (in which, as St. Paul says in Romans 6.3-6, we are united to Christ's cross and resurrection). In these established traditions of the Christian faith, the sign of the cross affirms the grace and mercy of God on account of "Christ and him crucified" (1 Cor. 2:2). . . . [The full article continues with the sign of the cross in Church history, the Scriptures, and the Reformation.]

"Okay," you might say, "but how do I do it, and how do I do so without feeling, well, awkward?" Good questions. First, learn how to do it. The open right hand is used in the churches of the West, with the palm facing toward you. Now the motion: touch the hand to forehead, sternum, and then both shoulders (it doesn't matter if you go right to left [which is the original custom still practiced in the Eastern Orthodox churches and throughout Lutheranism]) or left to right [as in the Roman Catholic Church]). As one moves through the sign, the Trinitarian formula is prayed and confessed.

- Touch the forehead as you say or pray, "In the name of the Father"
- Touch the breastbone as you say, "and of the Son"
- Touch the right shoulder, then the left shoulder (or vice versa), as you say, "and of the Holy Spirit."
- All the while recalling Christ's victory on the cross of Golgotha and that you have been baptized into his life-giving blood and the name he bears.

As for getting past your inhibitions, practice signing the cross in private; check it out in the mirror (that's how they have us practice in seminary). In no time at all, it will become a devotional act that will be second nature.

But remember, the rite is not an end in itself. As St. Chrysostom says, faith in Christ our Savior is, and the sign only has value and meaning inasmuch as it brings your heart and mind to Jesus our Lord. Perhaps, then, the essential element of the sign is that it is a physical act that indicates the relevance of the cross — of the sacrifice of Jesus — in the life of Christians who use their bodies to affirm what is believed *in faith*. When this is the case, crossing one's self is good public witness and good food for the soul that longs to worship God in body and spirit.

For more from Pastor Bombaro on this topic, read the entire article:

- <https://www.1517.org/articles/very-superstitious-a-history-of-the-sign-of-the-cross>

or listen to him discuss the topic on a recent podcast:

- <https://issuesetc.org/2023/01/19/0193-the-sign-of-the-cross-dr-john-bombaro-1-19-23/>

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	Zechariah 8:1–23	2 Timothy 1:1–18
M	Zechariah 9:1–17	2 Timothy 2:1–26
Tu	Zechariah 10:1–11:3	2 Timothy 3:1–17
W	Zechariah 11:4–17	2 Timothy 4:1–18
Th	Zechariah 12:1–13:9	Titus 1:1–2:6
F	Zechariah 14:1–21	Titus 2:7–3:15
Sa	Job 1:1–22	John 1:1–18

The Lord's Prayer

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

The Third Petition

Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

What does this mean? The good and gracious will of God is done even without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may be done among us also. God's will is done when He breaks and hinders every evil plan and purpose of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature, which do not want us to hallow God's name or let His kingdom come; and when He strengthens and keeps us firm in His Word and faith until we die. This is His good and gracious will.

From the Large Catechism: If we would be Christians, therefore, we must surely count on having the devil with all his angels and the world as our enemies and on their inflicting every possible misfortune and grief upon us. For where God's Word is preached, accepted, or believed, and bears fruit, there the blessed holy cross will not be far away. . . . We must remain steadfast, suffer patiently whatever befalls us, and let go whatever is taken from us.

Luther's Small Catechism © 1986 Concordia Publishing House, cph.org; LC III.65–66

Hymn

The hymn stanza may be sung or spoken.

Father, Son, and Spirit, Lord,
Praise to You and adoration!
Grant that we may trust Your Word,
Confident of our salvation,
While we here below must wander,
Till we sing Your praises yonder. *LSB 904:4*

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

Almighty God, You know we live in the midst of so many dangers that in our frailty we cannot stand upright. Grant strength and protection to support us in all dangers and carry us through all temptations; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Readings for next Sunday, February 5

Isaiah 58:3–9a; Psalms 112:1–9 (v. 4) & 80:1–7 (v. 7);
1 Corinthians 2:1–12; Matthew 5:13–20