

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

March 5, 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. 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

Celebrant	Rev. Peter Gregory
Liturgist	Jeremey Henrickson
Organist	Anne Bennet
Acolytes	Nate Newman Andrew Gull

The Divine Service in Lent

During Lent, our practice is to use a simplified order of service. The "high points" remain the same—absolution, the readings, and Holy Communion—and draw us to Christ Jesus in repentance and faith.

Prayers for Worship

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.

Thanksgiving after receiving the Sacrament: 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

John La Farge, *Visit of Nicodemus to Christ*, 1880, oil on canvas, Smithsonian American Art Museum, Gift of William T. Evans, 1909.7.37. 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.

OPENING VERSES

Psalms 130:3–4; 139:23–24; Ex. 15:26; Is. 53:5

*If You, O LORD, should count our sins,
O LORD, who could stand?*

*But with You there is forgiveness,
that You may be feared.*

**Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my ways.
See where there is sin in me; lead me in the everlasting way, O Lord Jesus.**

**Thou art the LORD that healeth me; by Thy wounds I am healed.
Thou art my Redeemer; rescue me and draw me after Thee, O Lord Jesus.**

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS: EXODUS 20

Thus says the LORD: I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of bondage.

You shall have no other gods.

You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God.

Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.

Honor your father and your mother.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

You shall not covet your neighbor's house.

You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

1 John 1:8–9

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

> Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination through the Ten Commandments. <

Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

The Absolution

[John 20:19–23]

Amen.

THE INTROIT

Psalm 105:8, 4–7; antiphon v. 8

He remembers His covenant forever,
the word that He commanded, for a thousand generations.

Seek the LORD and His strength;
seek His presence continually!

Remember the wondrous works that He has done,
His miracles, and the judgments He uttered,

O offspring of Abraham, His servant,
children of Jacob, His chosen ones!

He is the LORD our God;
His judgments are 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.

He remembers His covenant forever,
the word that He commanded, for a thousand generations.

HYMN – TUNE & TEXT: TLH 394

These hymn stanzas can also be sung from The Lutheran Hymnal #394.

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1 My faith looks up to Thee, | 2 May Thy rich grace impart |
| Thou Lamb of Calvary, | Strength to my fainting heart, |
| Savior divine. | My zeal inspire! |
| Now hear me while I pray; | As Thou hast died for me, |
| Take all my guilt away; | Oh, may my love to Thee |
| Oh, let me from this day | Pure, warm, and changeless be, |
| Be wholly Thine! | A living fire! |

3 While life's dark maze I tread
And griefs around me spread,
Be Thou my guide.
Bid darkness turn to day,
Wipe sorrow's tears away,
Nor let me ever stray
From Thee aside.

4 When ends life's transient dream,
When death's cold, sullen stream
Shall o'er me roll,
Blest Savior, then, in love,
Fear and distrust remove;
Oh, bear me safe above,
A ransomed soul!

Text: Public domain

THE SALUTATION

2 Timothy 4:22

The Lord be with you.
And with your spirit.

THE COLLECT

Let us pray. O God, You see that of ourselves we have no strength. By Your mighty power defend us from all adversities that may happen to the body and from all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul; 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: Genesis 12:1–9

After the reading:

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE PSALM

Psalm 121; antiphon v. 8

The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in
from this time forth and forevermore.

I lift up my eyes to the hills.

From where does my help come?

My help comes from the LORD,
who made heaven and earth.

He will not let your foot be moved;
He who keeps you will not slumber.

Behold, He who keeps Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.

The LORD is your keeper;
the Lord is your shade on your right hand.

The sun shall not strike you by day,
nor the moon by night.

The LORD will keep you from all evil;
He will keep your life.

The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in
from this time forth and forevermore.

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 LORD will keep your going out and your coming in
from this time forth and forevermore.

from the Letters: Romans 4:1–8, 13–17

After the reading:

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE VERSE

John 3:16

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son,
that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

from the Holy Gospel: John 3:1–17

Glory be to You, O Lord!

After the reading:

Praise be to You, O Christ!

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 Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life ✠ everlasting. Amen.



1 All Chris-tians who have been bap-tized, Who know the God of
 2 You were be-fore your day of birth, In-deed, from your con-
 3 But all of that was washed a-way— Im-merged and drowned for-
 4 In Bap-tism we now put on Christ— Our shame is ful-ly



heav-en, And in whose dai-ly life is prized The name of
 cep-tion, Con-demned and lost with all the earth, None good, with-
 ev-er. The wa-ter of your Bap-tism day Re-stored a-
 cov-ered With all that He once sac-ri-ficed And free-ly



Christ once giv-en: Con-sid-er now what God has done, The
 out-ex-cep-tion. For like your par-ents' flesh and blood, Turned
 gain what-ev-er Old Ad-am and his sin de-destroyed And
 for us suf-fered. For here the flood of His own blood Now



gifts He gives to ev-'ry-one Bap-tized in-to Christ Je-sus!
 in-ward from the high-est good, You con-stant-ly de-nied Him.
 all our sin-ful selves em-ployed Ac-cord-ing to our na-ture.
 makes us ho-ly, right, and good Be-fore our heav'n-ly Fa-ther.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>5 O Christian, firmly hold this gift
 And give God thanks forever!
 It gives the power to uplift
 In all that you endeavor.
 When nothing else revives your soul,
 Your Baptism stands and makes you whole
 And then in death completes you.</p> | <p>6 So use it well! You are made new—
 In Christ a new creation!
 As faithful Christians, live and do
 Within your own vocation,
 Until that day when you possess
 His glorious robe of righteousness
 Bestowed on you forever!</p> |
|--|---|

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The Sermon
John 3:1–17

**On my heart imprint Your image, blessed Jesus, King of grace,
That life's riches, cares, and pleasures never may Your work erase;
Let the clear inscription be: Jesus, crucified for me,
Is my life, my hope's foundation, and my glory and salvation!**

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.

It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to 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. Grant us Your Spirit, gracious Father, that we may give heed to the testament of Your Son in true faith and, above all, firmly take to heart the words with which Christ gives to us His body and blood for our forgiveness. By Your grace, lead us to remember and give thanks for the boundless love which He manifested to us when, by pouring out His precious blood, He saved us from Your righteous wrath and from sin, death, and hell. Grant that we may receive the bread and wine, that is, His body and blood, as a gift, guarantee, and pledge of His salvation. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

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.

In the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, at His command, and with His own words, we receive His testament:

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. <

Organ Voluntary: What Wondrous Love Is This

DISTRIBUTION HYMN – TUNE: TLH 315 – TEXT: LSB 618

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1 I come, O Savior, to Thy table,
For weak and weary is my soul;
Thou, Bread of Life, alone art able
To satisfy and make me whole: <i>Refrain</i></p> <p><i>refrain</i> Lord, may Thy body and Thy blood
Be for my soul the highest good!</p> <p>2 Thy heart is filled with fervent yearning
That sinners may salvation see
Who, Lord, to Thee in faith are turning;
So I, a sinner, come to Thee. <i>Refrain</i></p> | <p>3 Unworthy though I am, O Savior,
Because I have a sinful heart,
Yet Thou Thy lamb wilt banish never,
For Thou my faithful shepherd art: <i>Refrain</i></p> <p>4 Weary am I and heavy laden;
With sin my soul is sore oppressed;
Receive me graciously and gladden
My heart, for I am now Thy guest. <i>Refrain</i></p> <p>5 What higher gift can we inherit?
It is faith's bond and solid base;
It is the strength of heart and spirit,
The covenant of hope and grace. <i>Refrain</i></p> |
|---|---|

- 1 Jesus, grant that balm and healing
In Your holy wounds I find,
Ev'ry hour that I am feeling
Pains of body and of mind.
Should some evil thought within
Tempt my treach'rous heart to sin,
Show the peril, and from sinning
Keep me from its first beginning.
- 2 Should some lust or sharp temptation
Fascinate my sinful mind,
Draw me to Your cross and passion,
And new courage I shall find.
Or should Satan press me hard,
Let me then be on my guard,
Saying, "Christ for me was wounded,"
That the tempter flee confounded.
- 3 If the world my heart entices
With the broad and easy road,
With seductive, sinful vices,
Let me weigh the awful load
You were willing to endure.
Help me flee all thoughts impure
And to master each temptation,
Calm in prayer and meditation.
- 4 Ev'ry wound that pains or grieves me
By Your wounds, Lord, is made whole;
When I'm faint, Your cross revives me,
Granting new life to my soul.
Yes, Your comfort renders sweet
Ev'ry bitter cup I meet;
For Your all-atoning passion
Has procured my soul's salvation.
- 5 O my God, my rock and tower,
Grant that in Your death I trust,
Knowing death has lost its power
Since You crushed it in the dust.
Savior, let Your agony
Ever help and comfort me;
When I die be my protection,
Light and life and resurrection.

Text: Public domain

- 1 Your deeds, not mine, O Christ,
Bring gladness to my heart.
They tell me all is done;
They make my fears depart.
None can atone but You alone.
To whom but You, then, can I go?
- 2 Your wounds, not mine, O Christ,
Can heal my battered soul.
Your pain, not mine, contains
The cure that makes me whole.
None can atone but You alone.
To whom but You, then, can I go?

3 **Your cross, not mine, O Christ,
Has borne the awful load
Of sins that none could bear
But the incarnate God.
None can atone but You alone.
To whom but You, then, can I go?**

4 **Your death, not mine, O Christ,
Has paid the ransom due.
Ten thousand deaths like mine
Would have been all too few.
None can atone but You alone.
To whom but You, then, can I go?**

5 **Your righteousness, O Christ,
Alone can cover me.
Your goodness is enough
To win eternity!
None can atone but You alone.
To whom but You, then, can I go?**

Text: Public Domain

THE POST-COMMUNION HYMN – TUNE & TEXT: TLH 385, STANZA 4

**O depths of love, to me revealing
The sea where my sins disappear!
In Christ, my wounds find perfect healing,
There is no condemnation here.
For Jesus' blood through earth and skies
Forever, "Mercy! Mercy!" cries.**

COLLECT FOR THE CHURCH

Let us pray. Almighty God, grant to Your Church Your Holy Spirit and the wisdom that comes down from above, that Your Word may not be restrained, but have the free rein it deserves and be proclaimed for the salvation of souls and for the joy and the strength of Christ's holy people, so that we serve You with steadfast faith and confess Your name to the end, through Jesus Christ 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 you all.
Amen.*

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	Gen. 16:1–9, 15–17:22	Mark 6:1–13
M	Genesis 18:1–15	Mark 6:14–34
Tu	Genesis 21:1–21	Mark 6:35–56
W	Genesis 22:1–19	Mark 7:1–23
Th	Genesis 24:1–31	Mark 7:24–37
F	Gen. 24:32–52, 61–67	Mark 8:1–21
Sa	Genesis 27:1–29	Mark 8:22–38

The Lord's Prayer

As the head of the family should teach it to his household.

The Conclusion

For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the
glory forever and ever. Amen.

What does this mean? This means that I should be
certain that these petitions are pleasing to our
Father in heaven, and are heard by Him; for He
Himself has commanded us to pray in this way and
has promised to hear us. Amen, amen means "yes,
yes, it shall be so."

From the Large Catechism: All depends on this, that
we learn also to say "Amen." This means that we
do not doubt that our prayer is surely heard and
that what we pray shall be done. This is nothing
else than the word of undoubting faith, which does
not pray on a dare but knows that God does not lie
to him. For He has promised to grant it. Therefore,
where there is no such faith, there cannot be true
prayer either. . . . Behold, God attaches such
importance to this fact that we can be sure we do
not pray in vain, so that we do not despise our
prayer in any way.

Luther's Small Catechism © 1986 Concordia Publishing House, LC III.119–120, 124

Hymn

The hymn stanza may be sung or spoken.

In Baptism we now put on Christ—

Our shame is fully covered

With all that He once sacrificed

And freely for us suffered.

For here the flood of His own blood

Now makes us holy, right, and good

Before our heave'ny Father.

LSB 596:34

Daily Prayer

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Prayers for Others and Ourselves

As children of the heavenly Father, we are bold to pray.

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

O God, You see that of ourselves we have no
strength. By Your mighty power defend us from all
adversities that may happen to the body and from
all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul;
through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives
and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God,
now and forever. Amen.

Readings for the Third Sun. in Lent, March 12

Exodus 17:1–7; Psalms 95:1–9 (v. 6) & 4 (v. 8);

Romans 5:1–8; John 4:5–30, 39–42