

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 26, 2023

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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. 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	Ray Arsenaault
Organist	Anne Bennet
Acolytes	Riley Albert, Landon Vega

## 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

*For the Annunciation (March 25):* O Lord, as we have known the incarnation of Your Son, Jesus Christ, by the message of the angel to the virgin Mary, so by the message of His cross and passion bring us to the glory of His resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

*For the light of the resurrection:* Lord Jesus Christ, You raised Lazarus from the dead, giving us a glimpse of Your glorious resurrection, where You showed us what we will someday be and what we already are now through the waters of Holy Baptism. Even in the darkest hours of our lives, let the light of Your resurrection shine with the brightness of Your glory; in Your holy name. Amen.

*To imitate Martha, Mary, and Lazarus:* Heavenly Father, Your beloved Son befriended frail humans like us to make us Your own. Teach us to be like His dear friends from Bethany, that we might serve Him faithfully like Martha, learn from Him earnestly like Mary, and ultimately be raised by Him like Lazarus, through Jesus Christ, their Lord and ours. Amen.

## Cover Image

*The Raising of Lazarus* from the *Maestà*  
by Duccio di Buoninsegna (ca. 1255–1319).

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

Psalm 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.**

*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 116:1–4, 8; antiphon v. 15

*Precious in the sight of the LORD*  
**is the death of His saints.**

*I love the LORD, because He has heard*  
**my voice and my pleas for mercy.**

*Because He inclined His ear to me,*  
**therefore I will call on Him as long as I live.**

*The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me;*  
**I suffered distress and anguish.**

*Then I called on the name of the LORD:*  
**“O LORD, I pray, deliver my soul!”**

*For You have delivered my soul from death,*  
**my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling.**

**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.**

*Precious in the sight of the LORD*  
**is the death of His saints.**



1 What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What  
 2 When I was sink-ing down, sink-ing down, sink-ing down, When  
 3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing; To  
 4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on; And



won-drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is this That  
 I was sink-ing down, sink-ing down, When I was sink-ing down Be -  
 God and to the Lamb I will sing; To God and to the Lamb, Who  
 when from death I'm free, I'll sing on. And when from death I'm free, I'll



caused the Lord of bliss To bear the dread-ful curse for my  
 neath God's righ-teous frown, Christ laid a-side His crown for my  
 is the great I AM, While mil-lions join the theme, I will  
 sing His love for me, And through e-ter-ni-ty I'll sing



soul, for my soul, To bear the dread-ful curse for my soul!  
 soul, for my soul, Christ laid a-side His crown for my soul.  
 sing, I will sing, While mil-lions join the theme, I will sing.  
 on, I'll sing on, And through e-ter-ni-ty I'll sing on.

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THE SALUTATION

2 Timothy 4:22

*The Lord be with you.*  
**And with your spirit.**

THE COLLECT

*Let us pray. Almighty God, by Your great goodness mercifully look upon Your people that we may be governed and preserved evermore in body and 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: Ezekiel 37:1–14*

*After the reading:*

*This is the word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

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

*Out of the depths*

**I cry to you, O LORD!**

*O Lord, hear my voice!*

**Let Your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleas for mercy!**

*If You, O LORD, should mark iniquities,*

**O Lord, who could stand?**

*But with You there is forgiveness,*

**that You may be feared.**

*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.*

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

*from the Letters: Romans 8:1–11*

*After the reading:*

*This is the word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

THE VERSE

John 11:25–26 NIV

*I AM the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies;  
and whoever lives and believes in Me will never die.*

*from the Holy Gospel: John 11:1–45*

**Glory be to You, O Lord!**

*After the reading:*

**Praise be to You, O Christ!**

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 & TEXT: LSB 430

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|--|--|
| <p>1 My song is love unknown,<br/>My Savior's love to me,<br/>Love to the loveless shown<br/>That they might lovely be.<br/>Oh, who am I that for my sake<br/>My Lord should take<br/>Frail flesh and die?</p> <p>2 He came from His blest throne<br/>Salvation to bestow;<br/>But men made strange, and none<br/>The longed-for Christ would know.<br/>But, oh, my friend, my friend indeed,<br/>Who at my need His life did spend!</p> <p>3 Sometimes they strew His way<br/>And His sweet praises sing;<br/>Resounding all the day<br/>Hosannas to their King.<br/>Then "Crucify!" Is all their breath,<br/>And for His death they thirst and cry.</p> <p>7 Here might I stay and sing, no story so divine!<br/>Never was love, dear King, never was grief like Thine.<br/>This is my friend, in whose sweet praise<br/>I all my days could gladly spend!</p> | <p>4 Why, what hath my Lord done?<br/>What makes this rage and spite?<br/>He made the lame to run,<br/>He gave the blind their sight.<br/>Sweet injuries! Yet they at these<br/>Themselves displease<br/>And 'gainst Him rise.</p> <p>5 They rise and needs will have<br/>My dear Lord made away;<br/>A murderer they save,<br/>The Prince of Life they slay.<br/>Yet cheerful He to suff'ring goes<br/>That He His foes from thence might free.</p> <p>6 In life no house, no home<br/>My Lord on earth might have;<br/>In death no friendly tomb<br/>But what a stranger gave.<br/>What may I say? Heav'n was His home<br/>But mine the tomb wherein He lay.</p> |
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## *The Sermon*

*John 11:1–45*

**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.  
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.**

*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***

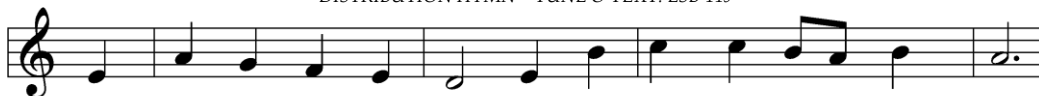
*> Note about Holy Communion: All who receive Holy Communion here must first be instructed. Our pastor will be very glad to instruct you. Please contact the office for an appointment. Those who have not been instructed may come forward with their arms crossed to receive a blessing. <*

*Psalm 88:1–7, 9–13 (antiphon v. 13)*

DISTRIBUTION HYMN – TUNE & TEXT: LSB 548

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|--|--|
| <p><b>1 Thanks to Thee, O Christ, victorious!<br/>Thanks to Thee, O Lord of Life!<br/>Death hath now no power o'er us,<br/>Thou hast conquered in the strife.<br/>Thanks because Thou didst arise<br/>And hast opened paradise!<br/>None can fully sing the glory<br/>Of the resurrection story.</b></p> | <p><b>2 Thou hast died for my transgression,<br/>All my sins on Thee were laid;<br/>Thou hast won for me salvation,<br/>On the cross my debt was paid.<br/>From the grave I shall arise<br/>And shall meet Thee in the skies.<br/>Death itself is transitory;<br/>I shall lift my head in glory.</b></p> |
| <p><b>3 For the joy Thine advent gave me, for Thy holy, precious Word;<br/>For Thy Baptism, which doth save me, for Thy blest Communion board;<br/>For Thy death, the bitter scorn, for Thy resurrection morn,<br/>Lord, I thank Thee and extol Thee, and in heav'n I shall behold Thee.</b></p>         |  |

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1 O sa - cred Head, now wound - ed, With grief and shame weighed down,  
 2 What Thou, my Lord, hast suf - fered Was all for sin - ners' gain;  
 3 What lan - guage shall I bor - row To thank Thee, dear - est Friend,  
 4 Be Thou my con - so - la - tion, My shield, when I must die;



Now scorn - ful - ly sur - round - ed With thorns, Thine on - ly crown.  
 Mine, mine was the trans - gres - sion, But Thine the dead - ly pain.  
 For this Thy dy - ing sor - row, Thy pit - y with - out end?  
 Re - mind me of Thy pas - sion When my last hour draws nigh.



O sa - cred Head, what glo - ry, What bliss, till now was Thine!  
 Lo, here I fall, my Sav - ior! 'Tis I de - serve Thy place;  
 O make me Thine for - ev - er! And should I faint - ing be,  
 Mine eyes shall then be - hold Thee, Up - on Thy cross shall dwell,



Yet, though de - spised and gor - y, I joy to call Thee mine.  
 Look on me with Thy fa - vor, And grant to me Thy grace.  
 Lord, let me nev - er, nev - er, Out - live my love for Thee.  
 My heart by faith en - fold Thee. Who di - eth thus dies well.

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|--|---|
| <p><b>1 Jesus Christ, my sure defense</b><br/>                 And my Savior, now is living!<br/>                 Knowing this, my confidence<br/>                 Rests upon the hope here given,<br/>                 Though the night of death be fraught<br/>                 Still with many'n anxious thought.</p> | <p><b>3 No, too closely I am bound</b><br/>                 By my hope to Christ forever;<br/>                 Faith's strong hand the Rock has found,<br/>                 Grasped it, and will leave it never;<br/>                 Even death now cannot part<br/>                 From its Lord the trusting heart.</p> |
| <p><b>2 Jesus, my Redeemer, lives;</b><br/>                 Likewise I to life shall waken.<br/>                 He will bring me where He is;<br/>                 Shall my courage then be shaken?<br/>                 Shall I fear, or could the Head<br/>                 Rise and leave His members dead?</p>      | <p><b>4 I am flesh and must return</b><br/>                 To the dust, whence I am taken;<br/>                 But by faith I now discern<br/>                 That from death I shall awaken<br/>                 With my Savior to abide<br/>                 In His glory, at His side.</p>                            |

5 Glorified, I shall anew  
With this flesh then be enshrouded;  
In this body I shall view  
God, my Lord, with eyes unclouded;  
In this flesh I then shall see  
Jesus Christ eternally.

6 Then take comfort and rejoice,  
For His members Christ will cherish.  
Fear not, they will hear His voice;  
Dying, they will never perish;  
For the very grave is stirred  
When the trumpet's blast is heard.

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THE POST-COMMUNION HYMN – TEXT & TUNE: LSB 744

1 Amazing grace—how sweet the sound—  
That saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost but now am found,  
Was blind but now I see!

3 Through many dangers, toils, and snares  
I have already come;  
His grace has brought me safe thus far,  
His grace will lead me home.

2 The Lord has promised good to me,  
His Word my hope secures;  
He will my shield and portion be  
As long as life endures.

4 Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail  
And mortal life shall cease,  
Amazing grace shall then prevail  
In heaven's joy and peace.

5 When we've been there ten thousand years,  
Bright shining as the sun,  
We've no less days to sing God's praise  
Than when we'd first begun.

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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	Exodus 1:1–22	Mark 14:12–31
M	Exodus 2:1–22	Mark 14:32–52
Tu	Exodus 2:23–3:22	Mark 14:53–72
W	Exodus 4:1–18	Mark 15:1–15
Th	Exodus 4:19–31	Mark 15:16–32
F	Exodus 5:1–6:1	Mark 15:33–47
Sa	Exodus 7:1–25	Mark 16:1–20

### The Sacrament of Holy Baptism

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

*How can water do such great things?* Certainly not just water, but the word of God in and with the water does these things, along with the faith which trusts this word of God in the water. For without God's word the water is plain water and no Baptism. But with the word of God it is a Baptism, that is, a life-giving water, rich in grace, and a washing of the new birth in the Holy Spirit, as St. Paul says in Titus, chapter three: "He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by His grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. This is a trustworthy saying." (Titus 3:5–8)

*From the Large Catechism:* Baptism is quite a different thing from all other water. This is not because of its natural quality but because something more noble is added here. God Himself stakes His honor, His power, and His might on it. Therefore, Baptism is not only natural water, but a divine, heavenly, holy, and blessed water, and whatever other terms we

can find to praise it. This is all because of the Word, which is a heavenly, holy Word, which no one can praise enough. For it has, and is able to do, all that God is and can do.

Luther's Small Catechism © 1986 Concordia Publishing House, cph.org; LC IV.17

### Hymn

*The hymn stanza may be sung or spoken.*

*See hymn LSB 430, stanzas 5–7, on bulletin p. 5.*

### 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

Almighty God, by Your great goodness mercifully look upon Your people that we may be governed and preserved evermore in body and 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 Palm/Passion Sunday, April 2

John 12:12–19; Isaiah 50:4–9a; Psalm 118:19–29 (v. 26);  
Philippians 2:5–11; Matthew 27:11–26