

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

May 14, 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. 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

Preacher & Celebrant
Liturgist
Crucifer
Organist
Acolytes

Rev. Peter Gregory
Tim Terhune
Eli Roach
Anne Bennet
George Newman
Simeon Gregory

Prayer for Worship

For the Holy Spirit: Almighty and ever-living God, You fulfilled Your promise by sending the gift of the Holy Spirit to unite disciples of all nations in the cross and resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ. By the preaching of the Gospel spread this gift to the ends of the earth; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Grace to receive the Word: 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 inwardly digest them that, by patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Thanksgiving to God: Heavenly Father, God of all grace, govern our hearts that we may never forget Your blessings but steadfastly thank and praise You for all Your goodness in this life until, with all Your saints, we praise You eternally in Your heavenly kingdom; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Cover Image

St. Paul Preaching in Athens (Acts 17:16–34)
by Raphael, 1515–1516,
design for a tapestry originally intended
to hang in the Sistine Chapel in Rome.

> Please stand and face the processional crucifix at the entrance to the nave. <

THE EASTER ACCLAMATION
Alleluia! Christ is risen!
He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

OPENING HYMN – TUNE & TEXT: TLH 188, STANZAS 1, 3–5

This hymn can also be sung from The Lutheran Hymnal #188.

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|---|--|
| <p>1 Hallelujah! Jesus lives! He is now the Living One; From the gloomy house of death Forth the Conqueror has come, Bright Forerunner to the skies Of His people, yet to rise.</p> <p>2 Jesus lives! Why weepst thou? Why that sad and frequent sigh? He who died our Brother here Lives our Brother still on high, Lives forever to bestow Blessings on His Church below.</p> | <p>3 Jesus lives! And thus, my soul, Life eternal waits for thee; Joined to Him, thy living Head, Where He is, thou, too, shalt be, With Himself at His right hand, Victor over death shalt stand.</p> <p>4 Jesus lives! To Him my heart Draws with ever new delight. Earthly vanities, depart, Hinder not my heavenward flight! Let this spirit ever rise To its Magnet in the skies.</p> |
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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 Sacrament of Holy Baptism

As you witness this baptism, take hold of your own baptism and your daily return to the font by again renouncing the devil and confessing faith in the Triune God.

The Baptism of Atticus Alexander Labier

During the baptism, the congregation may join in the responses:

- Do you renounce the devil? **Yes, I renounce him.***
- Do you renounce all his works? **Yes, I renounce them.***
- Do you renounce all his ways? **Yes, I renounce them.***



*Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth? **Yes, I believe.***

*Do you believe 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? **Yes, I believe.***

*Do you 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? **Yes, I believe.***

THE INTROIT

Psalm 119:105, 89–93

*Your word is a lamp to my feet
and a light to my path.*

*Forever, O LORD, Your word
is firmly fixed in the heavens.*

*Your faithfulness endures to all generations;
You have established the earth, and it stands fast.*

*By Your appointment they stand this day,
for all things are Your servants.*

*If Your law had not been my delight,
I would have perished in my affliction.*

*I will never forget Your precepts,
for by them You have given me life.*

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, the giver of all that is good, by Your holy inspiration grant that we may think those things that are right and by Your merciful guiding accomplish them; 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

the First Reading: Acts 17:16–31

After the reading:

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE PSALM

Psalm 66:8–20; antiphon v. 8

Bless our God, O peoples;
let the sound of His praise be heard,
who has kept our soul among the living
and has not let our feet slip.

For You, O God, have tested us;
You have tried us as silver is tried.

You brought us into the net;
You laid a crushing burden on our backs;

You let men ride over our heads;
we went through fire and through water;
yet You have brought us out to a place of abundance.

I will come into Your house with burnt offerings;
I will perform my vows to You,
that which my lips uttered
and my mouth promised when I was in trouble.

I will offer to You burnt offerings of fattened animals, with the smoke of the sacrifice of rams;
I will make an offering of bulls and goats.

Come and hear, all you who fear God,
and I will tell what He has done for my soul.

I cried to Him with my mouth,
and high praise was on my tongue.

If I had cherished iniquity in my heart,
the LORD would not have listened.

But truly God has listened;
He has attended to the voice of my prayer.

Blessèd be God,
because He has not rejected my prayer or removed His steadfast love from me!
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.

Bless our God, O peoples;
let the sound of His praise be heard,

the Second Reading: 1 Peter 3:13–22

After the reading:

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE EASTER ALLELUIA

Christ has been raised from the dead! Al - le -
lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

the Reading of the Holy Gospel: John 14:15–21

Glory be to You, O Lord!

After the reading:

Praise be to You, O Christ!

- 1 Dear Christians, one and all, rejoice,
With exultation springing,
And with united heart and voice
And holy rapture singing,
Proclaim the wonders God has done,
How His right arm the vict'ry won.
What price our ransom cost Him!
- 2 Fast bound in Satan's chains I lay;
Death brooded darkly o'er me.
Sin was my torment night and day;
In sin my mother bore me.
But daily deeper still I fell;
My life became a living hell,
So firmly sin possessed me.
- 3 My own good works all came to naught,
No grace or merit gaining;
Free will against God's judgment fought,
Dead to all good remaining.
My fears increased till sheer despair
Left only death to be my share;
The pangs of hell I suffered.
- 4 But God had seen my wretched state
Before the world's foundation,
And mindful of His mercies great,
He planned for my salvation.
He turned to me a father's heart;
He did not choose the easy part
But gave His dearest treasure.
- 5 God said to His beloved Son:
"It's time to have compassion.
Then go, bright jewel of My crown,
And bring to all salvation.
From sin and sorrow set them free;
Slay bitter death for them that they
May live with You forever."
- 6 The Son obeyed His Father's will,
Was born of virgin mother;
And God's good pleasure to fulfill,
He came to be my brother.
His royal pow'r disguised He bore;
A servant's form, like mine, He wore
To lead the devil captive.

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The Sermon

Acts 17:16–31

THE OFFERTORY

Psalms 51:10–12

Create in me a pure heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
Do not cast me out of Your presence,
nor take Your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of Your salvation,
and sustain me with a free spirit. Amen.

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:

**Let us pray to the Lord:
Lord, have mercy.**

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. And most especially are we bound to praise You on this day for the glorious resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, the very Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us and bore the sins of the world. By His dying He has destroyed death, and by His rising again He has restored to us everlasting life. Therefore with Mary Magdalene, Peter and John, and with all the witnesses of the resurrection, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

THE SANCTUS

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9

**Holy, holy, holy LORD God of Sabaoth; heav'n and earth are full of Your glory.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-13

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

The Words of Institution

Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25

THE PAX DOMINI

John 20:19

***The peace of the Lord be with you always.
Amen.***

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 on Holy Communion: In the Lord's Supper, the Risen Christ is at once the Giver and the Gift! By His promise His very body and blood are really present, so that we come into direct communion with the exalted Christ and His forgiveness. As we do so, we also bear witness to the oneness in doctrine of those who receive the Sacrament together. For this reason, we kindly ask guests to speak with pastor before communing so that all who receive Holy Communion with us might first be properly instructed. Those who have not been instructed may come forward with their arms crossed to receive a blessing.

Psalm 66:1–8 (antiphon: verse 5)

DISTRIBUTION HYMN – TUNE: TLH 387 – TEXT: LSB 556, STANZAS 7–10

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|--|--|
| <p>7 To me He said: “Stay close to Me, I am your rock and castle. Your ransom I Myself will be; For you I strive and wrestle. For I am yours, and you are Mine, And where I am you may remain; The foe shall not divide us.</p> | <p>9 “Now to My Father I depart, From earth to heav’n ascending, And, heav’nly wisdom to impart, The Holy Spirit sending; In trouble He will comfort you And teach you always to be true And into truth shall guide you.</p> |
| <p>8 “Though he will shed My precious blood, Me of My life bereaving, All this I suffer for your good; Be steadfast and believing. Life will from death the vict’ry win; My innocence shall bear your sin, And you are blest forever.</p> | <p>10 “What I on earth have done and taught Guide all your life and teaching; So shall the kingdom’s work be wrought And honored in your preaching. But watch lest foes with base alloy The heav’nly treasure should destroy; This final word I leave you.”</p> |

Text: Public domain

DISTRIBUTION HYMN – TUNE: TLH 201 – TEXT: LSB 490

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|---|--|
| <p>1 Jesus lives! The vict’ry’s won! Death no longer can appall me; Jesus lives! Death’s reign is done! From the grave will Christ recall me. Brighter scenes will then commence; This shall be my confidence.</p> | <p>2 Jesus lives! To Him the throne High above all things is given. I shall go where He is gone, Live and reign with Him in heaven. God is faithful; doubtings, hence! This shall be my confidence.</p> |
|---|--|

3 Jesus lives! For me He died,
Hence will I, to Jesus living,
Pure in heart and act abide,
Praise to Him and glory giving.
All I need God will dispense;
This shall be my confidence.

4 Jesus lives! I know full well
Nothing me from Him shall sever.
Neither death nor pow'rs of hell
Part me now from Christ forever.
God will be my sure defense;
This shall be my confidence.

5 Jesus lives! And now is death
But the gate of life immortal;
This shall calm my trembling breath
When I pass its gloomy portal.
Faith shall cry, as fails each sense:
Jesus is my confidence!

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DISTRIBUTION HYMN – TUNE & TEXT: LSB 821

1 Alleluia! Sing to Jesus;
His the scepter, His the throne;
Alleluia! His the triumph,
His the victory alone.
Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion
Thunder like a mighty flood:
"Jesus out of ev'ry nation
Has redeemed us by His blood."
2 Alleluia! Not as orphans
Are we left in sorrow now;
Alleluia! He is near us;
Faith believes, nor questions how.
Though the cloud from sight received Him
When the forty days were o'er,
Shall our hearts forget His promise:
"I am with you evermore"?

3 Alleluia! Bread of heaven,
Here on earth our food, our stay;
Alleluia! Here the sinful
Flee to You from day to day.
Intercessor, Friend of sinners,
Earth's Redeemer, hear our plea
Where the songs of all the sinless
Sweep across the crystal sea.
4 Alleluia! King eternal,
Lord omnipotent we own;
Alleluia! Born of Mary,
Earth Your footstool, heav'n Your throne.
As within the veil You entered,
Robed in flesh, our great High Priest,
Here on earth both priest and victim
In the eucharistic feast.

5 Alleluia! Sing to Jesus; His the scepter, His the throne;
Alleluia! His the triumph, His the victory alone.
Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion thunder like a mighty flood:
"Jesus out of ev'ry nation has redeemed us by His blood."

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**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 Lord, in this wondrous Sacrament You have given us a remembrance of Your passion.
Grant that we may so receive the sacred mystery of Your body and blood that the fruits of Your redemption
may continually be manifest in us; for You live and reign with the Father 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 on you and be gracious to you.
The LORD lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.
Amen. Amen. Amen.*

THE CLOSING HYMN – TUNE & TEXT: LSB 725

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1 Children of the heav'nly Father Safely in His bosom gather; Nestling bird nor star in heaven Such a refuge e'er was given.</p> | <p>3 Neither life nor death shall ever From the Lord His children sever; Unto them His grace He showeth, And their sorrows all He knoweth.</p> |
| <p>2 God His own doth tend and nourish; In His holy courts they flourish. From all evil things He spares them; In His mighty arms He bears them.</p> | <p>4 Though He giveth or He taketh, God His children ne'er forsaketh; His the loving purpose solely To preserve them pure and holy.</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 | Num. 3:1–16, 39–48 | Luke 14:25–15:10 |
| M | Numbers 8:5–26 | Luke 15:11–32 |
| Tu | Numbers 9:1–23 | Luke 16:1–18 |
| W | Numbers 10:11–36 | Luke 16:19–31 |
| Th | Num. 11:1–23, 31–35 | Luke 17:1–19 |
| F | Num. 11:24–29; 12:1–16 | Luke 17:20–37 |
| Sa | Num. 13:1–3, 17–33 | Luke 18:1–17 |

The Sacrament of the Altar

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

Where is the benefit of this eating and drinking? These words, "Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins," show us that in the Sacrament forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation are given us through these words. For where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation.

From the Large Catechism: [The Sacrament] is called a food of souls, which nourishes and strengthens the new man. For by Baptism we are first born anew. But . . . there still remains the old vicious nature of flesh and blood in mankind. There are so many hindrances and temptations of the devil and of the world that we often become weary and faint, and sometimes we also stumble. Therefore, the Sacrament is given as a daily pasture and sustenance, that faith may refresh and strengthen itself so that it will not fall back in such a battle, but become ever stronger and stronger. The new life must be guided so that it continually increases and progresses.

Luther's Small Catechism © 1986 Concordia Publishing House, cph.org.
LC V, 23–25.

Hymn

The hymn stanza may be sung or spoken.

Jesus lives! I know full well
Nothing me from Him shall sever.
Neither death nor pow'rs of hell
Part me now from Christ forever.
God will be my sure defense;
This shall be my confidence.

LSB 490: 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

O God, the giver of all that is good, by Your holy inspiration grant that we may think those things that are right and by Your merciful guiding accomplish them; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Amen.

Readings for the Ascension of Our Lord, May 21

Acts 1:1–11; Psalms 47 (v. 5) & 110 (v. 1);
Ephesians 1:15–23; Luke 24:44–53