

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
(Junction 140, 2, and 2A)
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Our Savior Lutheran Church

September 3, 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 for children under three years old, 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	Tom Connell, lay leader
Liturgist	Ray Arsenaault
Organist	Mary Gregory
Acolytes	Luis Albert Riley Albert

Prayers for Worship

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 Illustration

Stained glass at St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church in Columbus, Indiana, depicts the crucifixion of Jesus Christ.

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The Fourth Sunday in Martyrs' Tide/Vocation SundaySeptember 3, 2023

THE OPENING HYMN – TUNE & TEXT: LSB 594



1 God's own child, I glad-ly say it: I am bap-tized
 2 Sin, dis-turb my soul no long-er: I am bap-tized
 3 Sa-tan, hear this proc-la-ma-tion: I am bap-tized
 4 Death, you can-not end my glad-ness: I am bap-tized
 5 There is noth-ing worth com-par-ing To this life-long



in-to Christ! He, be-cause I could not pay it,
 in-to Christ! I have com-fort e-ven strong-er:
 in-to Christ! Drop your ug-ly ac-cu-sa-tion,
 in-to Christ! When I die, I leave all sad-ness
 com-fort sure! O-pen-eyed my grave is star-ing:



Gave my full re-demp-tion price. Do I need earth's
 Je-sus' cleans-ing sac-ri-fice. Should a guilt-y
 I am not so soon en-ticed. Now that to the
 To in-her-it par-a-dise! Though I lie in
 E-ven there I'll sleep se-cure. Though my flesh a-



treas-ures man-y? I have one worth
 con-science seize me Since my Bap-tism
 font I've trav-eled, All your might has
 dust and ash-es Faith's as-sur-ance
 waits its rais-ing, Still my soul con-



more than an-y That brought me sal-
 did re-lease me In a dear for-
 come un-rav-eled, And, a-gainst your
 bright-ly flash-es: Bap-tism has the
 tin-ues prais-ing: I am bap-tized



va-tion free Last-ing to e-ter-ni-ty!
 giv-ing flood, Sprin-king me with Je-sus' blood?
 tyr-an-ny, God, my Lord, u-nites with me!
 strength di-vine To make life im-mor-tal mine.
 in-to Christ; I'm a child of par-a-dise!

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 INTROIT

Psalms 37:4-7

*Delight yourself in the LORD,
and He will give you the desires of your heart.*

*Commit your way to the LORD;
trust in Him, and He will act.*

*He will bring forth your righteousness as the light,
and your justice as the noonday.*

*Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for Him;
fret not yourself over the one who prospers in his way,
over the man who carries out evil devices!*

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.

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, Your Son willingly endured the agony and shame of the cross for our redemption. Grant us courage to take up our cross daily and follow Him wherever He leads; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

The Reading of God's Word

from the Old Testament: Jeremiah 15:15–21

After the reading:

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE PSALM

Psalm 26:1–3, 6, 8–9, 11–12 ; antiphon v. 8

O LORD, I love the habitation of Your house
and the place where Your glory dwells.

Vindicate me, O LORD, for I have walked in my integrity,
and I have trusted in the LORD without wavering.

Prove me, O LORD, and try me;
test my heart and my mind.

For Your steadfast love is before my eyes,
and I walk in Your faithfulness.

I wash my hands in innocence
and go around Your altar, O LORD.

O LORD, I love the habitation of Your house
and the place where Your glory dwells.

Do not sweep my soul away with sinners,
nor my life with bloodthirsty men.

But as for me, I shall walk in my integrity;
redeem me, and be gracious to me.

My foot stands on level ground;
in the great assembly I will bless the LORD.

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 LORD, I love the habitation of Your house
and the place where Your glory dwells.

from the Letters: Romans 12:9–21

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 16:21–28

Glory be to You, O Lord!

After the reading:

Praise be to You, O Christ!

THE APOSTLES' CREED

Having heard the Word, what do you believe?

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 My song is love unknown,
My Savior's love to me,
Love to the loveless shown
That they might lovely be.
Oh, who am I that for my sake
My Lord should take
Frail flesh and die?
- 2 He came from His blest throne
Salvation to bestow;
But men made strange, and none
The longed-for Christ would know.
But, oh, my friend, my friend indeed,
Who at my need
His life did spend!
- 3 Sometimes they strew His way
And His sweet praises sing;
Resounding all the day
Hosannas to their King.
Then "Crucify!" Is all their breath,
And for His death they thirst and cry.
- 4 Why, what hath my Lord done?
What makes this rage and spite?
He made the lame to run,
He gave the blind their sight.
Sweet injuries! Yet they at these
Themselves displease
And 'gainst Him rise.
- 5 They rise and needs will have
My dear Lord made away;
A murderer they save,
The Prince of Life they slay.
Yet cheerful He to suff'ring goes
That He His foes from thence might free.
- 6 In life no house, no home
My Lord on earth might have;
In death no friendly tomb
But what a stranger gave.
What may I say? Heav'n was His home
But mine the tomb
Wherein He lay.

The Sermon

Matthew 16:21–28

THE OFFERTORY HYMN – TUNE & TEXT: LSB 430

- 7 Here might I stay and sing, no story so divine!
Never was love, dear King, never was grief like Thine.
This is my friend, in whose sweet praise
I all my days could gladly spend!

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

each petition concludes:

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

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.**

HYMN of PRAISE – TUNE & TEXT: LSB 818

- 1 In Thee is gladness amid all sadness,
Jesus, sunshine of my heart.
By Thee are given the gifts of heaven,
Thou the true Redeemer art.
Our souls Thou wakest,
Our bonds Thou breakest;
Who trusts Thee surely has built securely;
He stands forever: Alleluia!
Our hearts are pining
To see Thy shining,
Dying or living to Thee are cleaving;
Naught can us sever: Alleluia!**
- 2 Since He is ours, we fear no powers,
Not of earth nor sin nor death.
He sees and blesses in worst distresses;
He can change them with a breath.
Wherefore the story tell of His glory
With hearts and voices; all heav'n rejoices
In Him forever: Alleluia!
We shout for gladness,
Triumph o'er sadness,
Love Him and praise Him
And still shall raise Him
Glad hymns forever: Alleluia!**

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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 – TUNE & TEXT: LSB 849

> During Vacation Bible School, we sang this hymn of praise to Christ. <



1 Praise the One who breaks the dark - ness With a lib - er -
2 Praise the One who blessed the chil - dren With a strong, yet
3 Let us praise the Word In - car - nate, Christ, who suf - fered



at - ing light; Praise the One who frees the pris - 'ners,
gen - tle, word; Praise the One who drove out de - mons
in our place. Je - sus died and rose vic - to - rious



Turn - ing blind - ness in - to sight. Praise the One who preached the
With the pierc - ing, two - edged sword. Praise the One who brings cool
That we may know God by grace. Let us sing for joy and

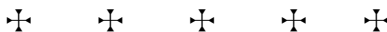


Gos - pel, Heal - ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease, Calm - ing
wa - ter To the des - ert's burn - ing sand; From this
glad - ness, See - ing what our God has done; Let us



storms, and feed - ing thou - sands With the ver - y Bread of peace.
Well comes liv - ing wa - ter, Quench - ing thirst in ev - 'ry land.
praise the true Re - deem - er, Praise the One who makes us one.

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Note from Pastor: We have some "bonus pages" in this week's bulletin, so I offer you the following article by the Rev. Joshua Hayes on the substitutionary atonement.

Substitutionary Atonement: We only live because He died

The Rev. Joshua Hayes, published April 4, 2023

About a year ago my family decided to raise a few sheep for fun and to teach our kids more about God's creation. Since we live in rural Kansas, this was an easy undertaking, and we figured that it would help our kids gain a practical knowledge of where food comes from.

I was caught off-guard, however, after our first harvest last fall. As we were enjoying a tasty lamb stew, my then three-year-old son looked up from the table and asked, "Why did we have to kill the lamb?" In a rare moment of clarity, I somehow managed to answer: "Because we only live if something else dies for us. All food that we eat died for us so that we can live. That's why we thank God for it." My older children jumped on the obvious connection: "Just like Jesus, the Lamb of God." "Yes," I said, "just like Jesus."

Food from God

You see, food doesn't come from the store. It comes from life in the fields and forests. It doesn't come from us. It comes from God, the author of life: "Know that the Lord, He is God; It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; We are His people and the sheep of His pasture" (Psalm 100:3, NKJV). The more disconnected we are from the source of the food we eat, the more prone we are to forget to thank God for the plant and animal life He creates so that we may eat it and live.

Not everyone can or needs to raise their own food. For Christians, even more important than remembering the source of our daily bread is remembering the source of our eternal life. After all, we only live because Jesus, the Lamb of God, died for us (John 6:53:54): "So Jesus said to them, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day'" (John 6:53-54).

Substitutionary atonement

Again, you don't have to raise your own food to know what Christ has done for you on the cross. The Bible teaches that Jesus is our substitute and Savior. In fact, God has taught this from the beginning. When Adam and Eve sinned, God instituted the sacrifices by clothing our first parents

with skins (Gen. 3:21). Imagine the horror when Adam and Eve first saw the blood and death that their sin had brought into the world. God killed so that they could live and be clothed.

When Abraham went to sacrifice his son Isaac, God substituted a ram (Gen. 22:13). When the Lord later visited Egypt in judgment, He substituted the blood of the Passover lamb for the lives of His people.

Numbers 8 teaches that all the firstborn belong to God because of this Passover, but that God selected the Levites to substitute for them in serving at the tabernacle. The Levites and priests were responsible for placing the sins of Israel on the sacrificial animals that were brought to the temple. All of this substituting and sacrificing for sin pointed forward to Christ, who took our sins and died once for all so that we can live.

We call this the doctrine of substitutionary (or vicarious) atonement. It means that Jesus died in our place so that we can live. He took our sins, and we are clothed with His righteousness.

Not just a theory

Some people still struggle to understand why Jesus had to die for us. In fact, many liberal theologians reject the Bible's teaching of substitutionary atonement. They dismiss the truth that God had to die in our place for our sins, calling it a "theory." Don't fall for that trick. The cross of Christ is no theory.

It is one thing to have a theory about where food comes from. We all understand theoretically where food comes from. People eat chicken day even if they have never seen one before. It is another thing to raise an animal and take its life for yours. Then the connection of one life being substituted for another quickly becomes more than theoretical. We realize our great need for life. When Christians see the cross, we know where our salvation comes from. Without sacrifice, we cannot go on living, even as "without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins" (Heb. 9:22).

And so, when we ponder the mystery of the cross upon which the Lamb was slain on that Good Friday so long ago, we should ask that simple question. We should ask, "Why did God have to kill His Son? Why did the Lamb have to die?" Answer: To substitute for me. My sins put Him there. In order to live, I need a substitute. Indeed, to live eternally, I need an eternal substitute: "He entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption" (Heb. 9:12).

<https://witness.lcms.org/2023/substitutionary-atonement-we-only-live-because-he-died/>

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	1 Kings 19:1–21	Ephesians 3:1–21
M	2 Kings 2:1–18	Ephesians 4:1–24
Tu	2 Kings 2:19–25; 4:1–7	Eph. 4:25–5:14
W	2 Kings 4:8–22, 32–37	Ephesians 5:15–33
Th	2 Kings 4:38–5:8	Ephesians 6:1–24
F	2 Kings 5:9–27	Phil. 1:1–20
Sa	2 Kings 6:1–23	Phil. 1:21–2:11

The Apostles' Creed

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

What is the Second Article? 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.

What does this mean? I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.

Hymn

The hymn stanza may be sung or spoken.

With the Lord begin your task; Jesus will direct it.
For His aid and counsel ask; Jesus will perfect it.
Ev'ry morn with Jesus rise, and when day is ended,
In His name then close your eyes;
Be to Him commended. LSB 869:1

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, Your Son willingly endured the agony and shame of the cross for our redemption. Grant us courage to take up our cross daily and follow Him wherever He leads; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Readings for next Sunday, September 10

Ezek 33:7–9; Pss 32:1–7 (v. 1) & 119:105–112 (v. 105);
Romans 13:1–10; Matthew 18:1–20