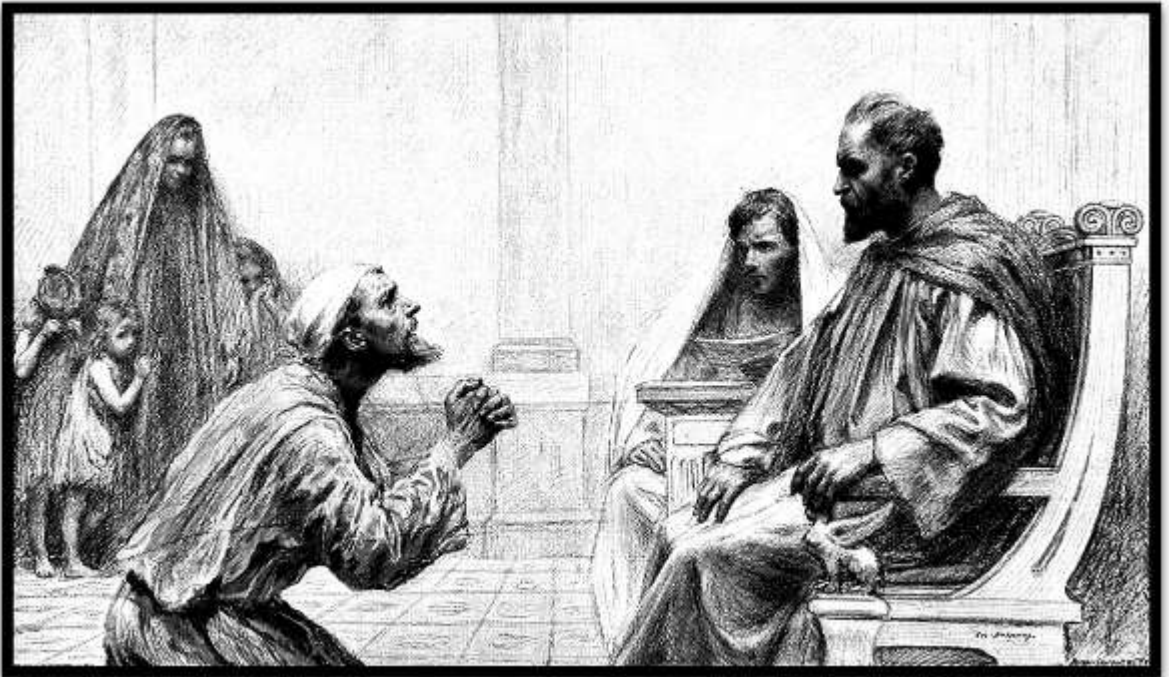


SOLA SCRIPTURA ✘ SOLA GRATIA ✘ SOLA FIDE

# *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

September 17, 2023

office@oursaviorlcms.com  
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

Preacher & Celebrant	The Rev. Peter Gregory
Liturgist	Jeremy Henrikson
Organist	Anne Bennet
Acolytes	Landon Vega
	Nate Newman

## Prayers for Worship

*Collect for Holy Cross Day (September 14):* Merciful God, Your Son, Jesus Christ, was lifted high upon the cross that He might bear the sins of the world and draw all people to Himself. Grant that we who glory in His death for our redemption may faithfully heed His call to bear the cross and follow Him, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

*For grace and forgiveness:* Spare us, O Lord, and mercifully forgive us our sins. Though by our continual transgressions we have merited Your chastisements, be gracious to us. Grant that all these punishments which we have deserved may not come upon us, but that all things may work to our everlasting good; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now forever. Amen.

*Against anger and bitterness:* Lord Jesus Christ, in Your love for us and for our salvation You suffered the Father's wrath upon the cross. Deliver us from anger and resentment, hatred and revenge. Grant that we may forgive as we have been forgiven and stand reconciled before You in Your righteousness and purity; in Your holy name. Amen.

## Cover Illustration

*The Unmerciful Servant*  
by Eugène Burnand (1850–1921),  
a Swiss painter and illustrator,  
from his collection titled *The Parables*.

OPENING HYMN – TUNE: TLH 3 – TEXT: LSB 902

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <p>1 Lord Jesus Christ, be present now;<br/>Our hearts in true devotion bow.<br/>Your Spirit send with light divine,<br/>And let Your truth within us shine.</p> <p>2 Unseal our lips to sing Your praise<br/>In endless hymns through all our days.<br/>Increase our faith and light our minds;<br/>And set us free from doubt that blinds.</p> | <p>3 Then shall we join the hosts that cry,<br/>"O holy, holy Lord Most High!"<br/>And in the light of that blest place<br/>We then shall see You face to face.</p> <p>△ 4 All glory to the Father, Son,<br/>And Holy Spirit, Three in One!<br/>To You, O blessed Trinity,<br/>Be praise throughout eternity!</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 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 unto the Lord,  
and You forgave the guilt of my sin.*

Psalm 32:5

**All-Powerful God, merciful Father, I, a poor, pitiful sinner, confess to You all my sins and unrighteousness. By them I have continually offended You and fairly deserved Your punishment, both now and eternally. But from my heart I am sorry for them, and I sincerely repent of them, and I pray You, in Your limitless mercy for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

***The Absolution***

[John 20:19–23]

**Amen**

*Deliver me from my enemies, O LORD!*

**I have fled to You for refuge!**

*Hear my prayer, O LORD; give ear to my pleas for mercy!*

**In Your faithfulness answer me, in Your righteousness!**

*Enter not into judgment with Your servant,*

**for no one living is righteous before You.**

## 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, our refuge and strength, the author of all godliness, hear the devout prayers of Your Church, especially in times of persecution, and grant that what we ask in faith we may obtain; through 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: Genesis 50:15–21*

*After the reading:*

*This is the word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

THE PSALM

Psalm 103:1–12; antiphon v. 13

*As a father shows compassion to his children,*

**so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear Him.**

*Bless the LORD, O my soul,*

**and all that is within me, bless His holy name!**

*Bless the LORD, O my soul,*

**and forget not all His benefits,**

*who forgives all your iniquity,*

**who heals all your diseases,**

*who redeems your life from the pit,*

**who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,**

*who satisfies you with good*

**so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.**

*The LORD works righteousness*

**and justice for all who are oppressed.**

*He made known His ways to Moses,*

**His acts to the people of Israel.**

*The LORD is merciful and gracious,*

**slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

*He will not always chide,*

**nor will He keep His anger forever.**

*He does not deal with us according to our sins,*

**nor repay us according to our iniquities.**

*For as high as the heavens are above the earth,*

**so great is His steadfast love toward those who fear Him;**

*as far as the east is from the west,*

**so far does He remove our transgressions from us.**

**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.**

*As a father shows compassion to his children,*

**so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear Him.**

*from the Letters: Romans 14:1–12*

*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 18:21–35*

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

*After the reading:*

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

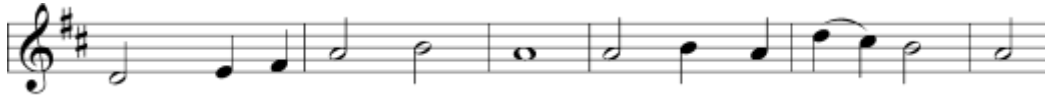
*THE NICENE CREED*

*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.**

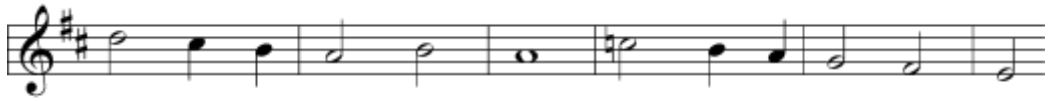
**And I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord and giver of life, who proceedeth from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spake by the prophets. And I believe in one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen.**



1 Come down, O Love di - vine; Seek Thou this soul of mine,  
 2 O let it free - ly burn, Till world - ly pas - sions turn  
 3 Let ho - ly char - i - ty Mine out - ward ves - ture be  
 4 And so the yearn - ing strong, With which the soul will long,



And vis - it it with Thine own ar - dor glow - ing;  
 To dust and ash - es in its heat con - sum - ing;  
 And low - li - ness be - come mine in - ner cloth - ing—  
 Shall far out - pass the pow'r of hu - man tell - ing;



O Com - fort - er, draw near; With - in my heart ap - pear,  
 And let Thy glo - rious light Shine ev - er on my sight,  
 True low - li - ness of heart, Which takes the hum - bler part,  
 No soul can guess His grace Till it be - come the place



And kin - dle it, Thy ho - ly flame be - stow - ing.  
 And clothe me round, the while my path il - lum - ing.  
 And o'er its own short - com - ings weeps with loath - ing.  
 Where - in the Ho - ly Spir - it makes His dwell - ing.

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## *The Sermon*

*Matthew 18:21–35*

THE OFFERTORY

*Psalm 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***

*each petition concludes:*

*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.**

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, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who, out of love for His fallen creation, humbled Himself by taking on the form of a servant, becoming obedient unto death, even death upon a cross. Risen from the dead, He has freed us from eternal death and given us life everlasting. Therefore 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 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 32:1–7 (antiphon: v. 1)*

*DISTRIBUTION HYMN – TUNE & TEXT: LSB 621*

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <p><b>1 Let all mortal flesh keep silence<br/>And with fear and trembling stand;<br/>Ponder nothing earthly-minded,<br/>For with blessing in His hand<br/>Christ our God to earth descending<br/>Comes our homage to demand.</b></p> | <p><b>3 Rank on rank the host of heaven<br/>Spreads its vanguard on the way<br/>As the Light of Light, descending<br/>From the realms of endless day,<br/>Comes the pow'rs of hell to vanquish<br/>As the darkness clears away.</b></p> |
| <p><b>2 King of kings yet born of Mary,<br/>As of old on earth He stood,<br/>Lord of lords in human vesture,<br/>In the body and the blood,<br/>He will give to all the faithful<br/>His own self for heav'nly food.</b></p>         | <p><b>4 At His feet the six-winged seraph,<br/>Cherubim with sleepless eye,<br/>Veil their faces to the presence<br/>As with ceaseless voice they cry:<br/>"Alleluia, alleluia!<br/>Alleluia, Lord Most High!"</b></p>                  |

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*DISTRIBUTION HYMN – TUNE: TLH 342 – TEXT: LSB 611*

- 1 Chief of sinners though I be, Jesus shed His blood for me,  
Died that I might live on high, lives that I might never die.  
As the branch is to the vine, I am His, and He is mine.**
- 2 Oh, the height of Jesus' love, higher than the heav'ns above,  
Deeper than the depths of sea, lasting as eternity!  
Love that found me—wondrous thought! Found me when I sought Him not.**
- 3 Only Jesus can impart balm to heal the wounded heart,  
Peace that flows from sin forgiv'n, joy that lifts the soul to heav'n,  
Faith and hope to walk with God in the way that Enoch trod.**

- 4 Chief of sinners though I be, Christ is all in all to me;  
 All my wants to Him are known, all my sorrows are His own.  
 He sustains the hidden life safe with Him from earthly strife.
- 5 O my Savior, help afford by Your Spirit and Your Word!  
 When my wayward heart would stray, keep me in the narrow way;  
 Grace in time of need supply while I live and when I die.

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DISTRIBUTION HYMN – TUNE & TEXT: LSB 596



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.

- 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.
- 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!

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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. Almighty God, heavenly Father, we give thanks that You have refreshed us with the body and blood of Your dear Son, Jesus Christ. Grant that this heavenly food which we have received will strengthen our faith that we may bear all crosses, sickness, and trials with patience and trust until You grant us deliverance, peace, and health; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You 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 upon you and be gracious unto you.  
The LORD lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.  
Amen. Amen. Amen.*

## HYMN TO DEPART – TUNE: TLH 15/LSB 816 – TEXT: LSB 816

Text: Public domain

- 1 **From all that dwell below the skies let the Creator's praise arise; alleluia, alleluia!  
Let the Redeemer's name be sung through ev'ry land by ev'ry tongue.  
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**
- 2 **Eternal are Thy mercies, Lord; eternal truth attends Thy Word. Alleluia, alleluia!  
Thy praise shall sound from shore to shore till suns shall rise and set no more.  
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**
- △ 3 **All praise to God the Father be, all praise, eternal Son, to Thee. Alleluia, alleluia!  
Whom with the Spirit we adore forever and forevermore:  
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

# 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	2 Chron. 36:1–23	Colossians 4:1–18
M	Nehemiah 1:1–2:10	1 Timothy 1:1–20
Tu	Neh. 2:11–20; 4:1–6	1 Timothy 2:1–15
W	Nehemiah 4:7–23	1 Timothy 3:1–16
Th	Neh. 5:1–16; 6:1–16	1 Timothy 4:1–16
F	Neh. 7:1–4; 8:1–18	1 Timothy 5:1–16
Sa	Neh. 9:1–21	1 Timothy 5:17–6:2

### The Lord's Prayer

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

*What is the Introduction?* Our Father who art in heaven.

*What does this mean?* With these words God tenderly invites us to believe that He is our true Father and that we are His true children, so that with all boldness and confidence we may ask Him as dear children ask their dear father.

*What is the First Petition?* Hallowed be Thy name.

*What does this mean?* God's name is certainly holy in itself, but we pray in this petition that it may be kept holy among us also.

*How is God's name kept holy?* God's name is kept holy when the Word of God is taught in its truth and purity, and we, as the children of God, also lead holy lives according to it. Help us to do this, dear Father in heaven! But anyone who teaches or lives contrary to God's Word profanes the name of God among us. Protect us from this, heavenly Father!

### Hymn

*The hymn stanza may be sung or spoken.*

Praise Him for His grace and favor  
To His people in distress;  
Praise Him still the same as ever,  
Slow to chide and swift to bless:  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Glorious in His faithfulness. LSB 793:2

### 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, our refuge and strength, the author of all godliness, hear the devout prayers of Your Church, especially in times of persecution, and grant that what we ask in faith we may obtain; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

### Readings for next Sunday, September 24

Isaiah 55:6–9; Psalm 27 (v. 4a);  
Philippians 1:12–14, 19–30; Matthew 20:1–16