

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

December 3, 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, there is a nursery available in the basement during service and Bible class.

Out of courtesy to your brothers and sisters, please silence your cell phone 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

Preacher & Celebrant	The Rev. Peter Gregory
Liturgist	Paul Diggins
Organist	Mary Gregory
Acolytes	Simeon Gregory
	Jack Gould

## Advent Note

During Advent, the Divine Service changes. We use a different confession of sin. The Gloria in Excelsis (first sung by the angels to the shepherds when Jesus was born) waits for Christmas. Hymn stanzas replace the Sanctus and Nunc Dimittis. The liturgy for Holy Communion is shorter. These changes mark this as a season of repentant joy in preparation for the glorious celebration of our Lord's birth beginning on Christmas Eve.

## Prayers for Worship

*For right reception of the Lord's Supper:* O Lord, our God, in Holy Baptism You have called us to be Christians and granted us the remission of sins. Make us ready to receive the most holy body and blood of Christ for the forgiveness of all our sins, and grant us grateful hearts that we may give thanks to You, O Father, to Your Son, and to the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

*Thanksgiving after receiving the Sacrament:* Blessed Savior, Jesus Christ, You have given Yourself to us in this holy Sacrament. Keep us in Your faith and favor that we may live in You even as You live in us. May Your body and blood preserve us in the true faith to life everlasting. Hear us for the sake of Your name. Amen.

## Cover Illustration

Fresco of Christ's Entry into Jerusalem  
by Jean-Hippolyte Flandrin (1809–1864).

THE OPENING HYMN – TUNE & TEXT: LSB 331

1 The advent of our King  
Our prayers must now employ,  
And we must hymns of welcome sing  
In strains of holy joy.

4 As judge, on clouds of light,  
He soon will come again  
And His true members all unite  
With Him in heav'n to reign.

2 The everlasting Son  
Incarnate deigns to be,  
Himself a servant's form puts on  
To set His servants free.

5 Before the dawning day  
Let sin's dark deeds be gone,  
The sinful self be put away,  
The new self now put on.

3 O Zion's daughter, rise  
To meet your lowly King,  
Nor let your faithless heart despise  
The peace He comes to bring.

△ 6 All glory to the Son,  
Who comes to set us free,  
With Father, Spirit, ever one  
Through all eternity.

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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.**

Liturgy for the  
confession of sin  
is spoken.

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

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and self-examination.*

*Almighty God, our Maker and our 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, so that by Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

*The Declaration of Grace*

Mark 16:16; John 1:12

**Amen.**

*Behold, your King is coming to you;*  
**righteous and having salvation.**

*To You, O LORD,*  
**I lift up my soul.**

*O my God, in You I trust; let me not be put to shame;*  
**let not my enemies exult over me.**

*Indeed, none who wait for You shall be put to shame;*  
**they shall be ashamed who are treacherous without cause.**

*Sung liturgy*

## 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 SALUTATION

2 Timothy 4:22

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

## THE COLLECT

*Let us pray. Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

## *The Reading of God's Word*

*from the Old Testament: Isaiah 64:1–9*

*After the reading:*

*This is the word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

## THE PSALM

Psalm 80:1–7; antiphon: v. 7

*Restore us, O God of hosts;*  
**let Your face shine, that we may be saved!**

*Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, You who lead Joseph like a flock!*  
**You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth.**

*Before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh,*  
**stir up Your might and come to save us!**

*Restore us, O God;*

**let Your face shine, that we may be saved!**

*O LORD God of hosts,*

**how long will You be angry with Your people's prayers?**

*You have fed them with the bread of tears*

**and given them tears to drink in full measure.**

*You make us an object of contention for our neighbors,*

**and our enemies laugh among themselves.**

*Restore us, O God of hosts;*

**let Your face shine, that we may be saved!**

**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.**

*Restore us, O God of hosts;*

**let Your face shine, that we may be saved!**

*from the Letters: 1 Corinthians 1:3–9*

*After the reading:*

*This is the word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

*HALLELUJAH AND VERSE*

*Psalms 24:7*

*Hallelujah! Lift up your heads, O gates!*

**And be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. Hallelujah!**

*from the Holy Gospels: Mark 11:1–10*

**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.**

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|--|--|
| <p>1 Savior of the nations, come,<br/>Virgin’s Son, make here Your home!<br/>Marvel now, O heav’n and earth,<br/>That the Lord chose such a birth.</p> <p>2 Not by human flesh and blood,<br/>By the Spirit of our God,<br/>Was the Word of God made flesh—<br/>Woman’s offspring, pure and fresh.</p> <p>3 Here a maid was found with child,<br/>Yet remained a virgin mild.<br/>In her womb this truth was shown:<br/>God was there upon His throne.</p> | <p>4 Then stepped forth the Lord of all<br/>From His pure and kingly hall;<br/>God of God, yet fully man,<br/>His heroic course began.</p> <p>5 God the Father was His source,<br/>Back to God He ran His course.<br/>Into hell His road went down,<br/>Back then to His throne and crown.</p> <p>6 For You are the Father’s Son<br/>Who in flesh the vict’ry won.<br/>By Your mighty pow’r make whole<br/>All our ills of flesh and soul.</p> |
|--|--|

## *The Sermon*

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| <p>7 From the manger newborn light<br/>Shines in glory through the night.<br/>Darkness there no more resides;<br/>In this light faith now abides.</p> | <p>△ 8 Glory to the Father sing,<br/>Glory to the Son, our king,<br/>Glory to the Spirit be<br/>Now and through eternity.</p> |
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### *The Presentation of the Offering*

*Psalms 116:17; 18:1*

*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 PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

*Blessed are 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. In Your boundless mercy You sent Your servant, John the Baptist, to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of heaven draws near. With thankful hearts we pray, “Come, Lord Jesus,” confident that in His body and blood, given us to eat and drink, we receive the forgiveness of sins and so proclaim His death until He comes again in glory.*

*Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:*

**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.**

CONSECRATION HYMN—TUNE & TEXT: LSB 357, STANZAS 1 & 7

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| <p><b>1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,<br/>         And ransom captive Israel,<br/>         That mourns in lonely exile here<br/>         Until the Son of God appear.<br/>         Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel<br/>         Shall come to thee, O Israel!</b></p> | <p><b>2 O come, Desire of nations, bind<br/>         In one the hearts of all mankind;<br/>         Bid Thou our sad divisions cease,<br/>         And be Thyself our King of Peace.<br/>         Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel<br/>         Shall come to thee, O Israel!</b></p> |
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## *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 24 (v. 7)*

*This hymn can also be sung from* The Lutheran Hymnal #70.

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| <p><b>1</b> Hosanna to the Living Lord!<br/>Hosanna to th'incarnate Word!<br/>To Christ, Creator, Savior, King,<br/>Let earth, let heav'n, hosanna sing.</p> <p><b>2</b> O Savior, with protecting care,<br/>Abide in this Thy house of prayer,<br/>Where we Thy parting promise claim,<br/>Assembled in Thy sacred name.</p> | <p><b>3</b> But, chiefest, in our cleansed breast,<br/>Eternal, have Thy Spirit rest<br/>And make our secret soul to be<br/>A temple pure and worthy Thee.</p> <p><b>4</b> So in the last and dreadful Day,<br/>When earth and heav'n shall melt away,<br/>Thy flock, redeemed from sinful stain,<br/>Shall swell the sound of praise again.</p> |
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DISTRIBUTION HYMN – TUNE & TEXT: LSB 350

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|---|---|
| <p><b>1</b> Come, Thou precious Ransom, come,<br/>Only hope for sinful mortals!<br/>Come, O Savior of the world!<br/>Open are to Thee all portals.<br/>Come, Thy beauty let us see;<br/>Anxiously we wait for Thee.</p> <p><b>2</b> Enter now my waiting heart,<br/>Glorious King and Lord most holy.<br/>Dwell in me and ne'er depart,<br/>Though I am but poor and lowly.<br/>Ah, what riches will be mine<br/>When Thou art my guest divine!</p> | <p><b>3</b> My hosannas and my palms<br/>Graciously receive, I pray Thee;<br/>Evermore, as best I can,<br/>Savior, I will homage pay Thee,<br/>And in faith I will embrace,<br/>Lord, Thy merit through Thy grace.</p> <p><b>4</b> Hail! Hosanna, David's Son!<br/>Jesus, hear our supplication!<br/>Let Thy kingdom, scepter, crown,<br/>Bring us blessing and salvation,<br/>That forever we may sing:<br/>Hail! Hosanna to our King.</p> |
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DISTRIBUTION HYMN – TUNE & TEXT: LSB 341

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|---|--|
| <p><b>1</b> Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates!<br/>Behold, the King of glory waits.<br/>The King of kings is drawing near;<br/>The Savior of the world is here.<br/>Life and salvation He doth bring;<br/>Therefore rejoice and gladly sing.<br/>To God the Father raise<br/>Your joyful songs of praise.</p> | <p><b>2</b> A righteous Helper comes to thee;<br/>His chariot is humility,<br/>His kingly crown is holiness,<br/>His scepter, pity in distress.<br/>The end of all our woe He brings;<br/>Therefore the earth is glad and sings.<br/>To Christ the Savior raise<br/>Your grateful hymns of praise.</p> |
|---|--|



3 How blest the land, the city blest,  
 Where Christ the ruler is confessed!  
 O peaceful hearts and happy homes  
 To whom this King in triumph comes!  
 The cloudless sun of joy is He  
 Who comes to set His people free.  
 To God the Spirit raise  
 Your happy shouts of praise.

4 Fling wide the portals of your heart;  
 Make it a temple set apart  
 From earthly use for heav'n's employ,  
 Adorned with prayer and love and joy.  
 So shall your Sov'reign enter in  
 And new and nobler life begin.  
 To God alone be praise  
 For word and deed and grace!

5 Redeemer, come and open wide my heart to Thee; here, Lord, abide!  
 O enter with Thy grace divine; Thy face of mercy on me shine.  
 Thy Holy Spirit guide us on until our glorious goal is won.  
 Eternal praise and fame we offer to Thy name.

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THE POST-COMMUNION HYMN — TUNE & TEXT: LSB 355, STANZAS 1-4

1 O Sav - ior, rend the heav - ens wide;  
 2 O Fa - ther, light from heav - en send;  
 3 O earth, in flow'r - ing bud be seen;  
 4 O Fount of hope, how long, how long?

Come down, come down with might - y stride;  
 As morn - ing dew, O Son, de - scend.  
 Clothe hill and dale in garb of green.  
 When will You come with com - fort strong?

Un - lock the gates, the doors break down;  
 Drop down, you clouds, the life of spring;  
 Bring forth, O earth, a blos - som rare,  
 O come, O come, Your throne fore - go;

Un - bar the way to heav - en's crown.  
 To Ja - cob's line rain down the King.  
 Our Sav - ior, sprung from mead - ow fair.  
 Con - sole us in our vale of woe.

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*Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good,  
and His mercy endures forever.*

THE THANKSGIVING COLLECT

*Let us pray. We thank You, all-powerful God, for refreshing us with this healing gift, and we pray: Father of mercy, by this holy food make us strong in faith toward You, and in deep love for each other, that through us other beloved sinners may kneel to You and receive with us grace and life in Jesus Christ, Your Son, 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 on you and be gracious to you.  
The LORD lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.  
Amen. Amen. Amen.*

HYMN TO DEPART – TUNE & TEXT: LSB 355, STANZAS 5–7

5 O Morn - ing Star, O ra - diant Sun,  
6 Sin's dread - ful doom up - on us lies;

When will our hearts be - hold Your dawn?  
Grim death looms fierce be - fore our eyes.

O Sun, a - rise; with - out might Your light  
O come, lead us with might - y hand

We grope in gloom and dark of night.  
From ex - ile to our prom - ised land.

**7 There shall we all our praises bring  
And sing to You, our Savior King;  
There shall we laud You and adore  
Forever and forevermore.**

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# 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	Isaiah 9:8–10:11	1 Peter 5:1–14
M	Isaiah 10:12–34	2 Peter 1:1–21
Tu	Isaiah 11:1–12:6	2 Peter 2:1–22
W	Isaiah 14:1–23	2 Peter 3:1–18
Th	Isaiah 24:1–13	1 John 1:1–2:14
F	Isaiah 24:14–25:12	1 John 2:15–29
Sa	Isaiah 26:1–19	1 John 3:1–24

### Confession

*How Christians should be taught to confess*

*What is Confession?* Confession has two parts. First, that we confess our sins, and second, that we receive absolution, that is, forgiveness, from the pastor as from God Himself, not doubting, but firmly believing that by it our sins are forgiven before God in heaven.

*What sins should we confess?* Before God we should plead guilty of all sins, even those we are not aware of, as we do in the Lord's Prayer; but before the pastor we should confess only those sins which we know and feel in our hearts.

*Which are these?* Consider your place in life according to the Ten Commandments: Are you a father, mother, son, daughter, husband, wife, or worker? Have you been disobedient, unfaithful, or lazy? Have you been hot-tempered, rude, or quarrelsome? Have you hurt someone by your words or deeds? Have you stolen, been negligent, wasted anything, or done any harm?

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

### Hymn

*The hymn stanza may be sung or spoken.*

For You are the Father's Son  
Who in flesh the vict'ry won.  
By Your mighty pow'r make whole  
All our ills of flesh and soul.

LSB 332:6

### 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 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

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

### Readings for the Second Sun. in Advent, Dec. 10

Isaiah 40:1–11; Psalms 85 (v. 9) & 50:1–15 (v. 15);  
2 Peter 3:8–14; Mark 1:1–8