

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 31, 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	Dave Farabaugh, elder
Liturgist	Tim Terhune
Organist	Anne Bennet
Children's Choir Director	Kelley Newman
Acolytes	Simeon Gregory Andrew Gull

## Prayers for Worship

*For the Presentation in the Temple:* Almighty and ever-living God, as Your only-begotten Son was this day presented in the temple in the substance of our flesh, grant that we may be presented to You with pure and clean hearts; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

*For the Circumcision and Name of Jesus (Jan 1):* Lord God, You made Your beloved Son, our Savior, subject to the Law and caused Him to shed His blood on our behalf. Grant us the true circumcision of the Spirit that our hearts may be made pure from all sins; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

## Preparation for Confession

The Fourth Commandment: Honor your father and your mother. *What does this mean?* We should fear and love God so that we do not despise or anger our parents and other authorities, but honor them, serve and obey them, love and cherish them.

*Questions for self-examination*

- What is my attitude toward authority?
- Has the fear and love of God shaped my honor and obedience to parents and others in authority over me? Do I pray for parents, leaders of the nations, schools, and church? Do I grumble about work given me to do?

## Cover Illustration

*Presentation of Christ in the Temple by Fra Bartolomeo.*

> *If able, please stand and face the processional crucifix.* <

THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN — TUNE: TLH 98 & TEXT: LSB 384

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <p><b>1 Of the Father's love begotten</b><br/>Ere the worlds began to be,<br/><b>He is Alpha and Omega,</b><br/>He the source, the ending He,<br/><b>Of the things that are, that have been,</b><br/>And that future years shall see<br/>Evermore and evermore.</p> <p><b>2 Oh, that birth forever blessed,</b><br/>When the virgin, full of grace,<br/>By the Holy Ghost conceiving,<br/>Bore the Savior of our race,<br/>And the babe, the world's Redeemer,<br/>First revealed His sacred face<br/>Evermore and evermore.</p> <p>△ <b>5 Christ, to Thee, with God the Father, and, O Holy Ghost, to Thee</b><br/>Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving and unending praises be,<br/>Honor, glory, and dominion, and eternal victory<br/>Evermore and evermore. Amen.</p> | <p><b>3 This is He whom seers in old time</b><br/>Chanted of with one accord,<br/>Whom the voices of the prophets<br/>Promised in their faithful word.<br/>Now He shines, the long-expected;<br/>Let creation praise its Lord<br/>Evermore and evermore.</p> <p><b>4 O ye heights of heav'n, adore Him;</b><br/>Angel hosts, His praises sing.<br/>Pow'rs, dominions, bow before Him<br/>And extol our God and King.<br/>Let no tongue on earth be silent,<br/>Ev'ry voice in concert ring<br/>Evermore and evermore.</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

*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

*Isaiah 52:10; Psalm 98:1-4*

*The LORD has bared His holy arm before the eyes of all the nations,  
and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.*

*Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for He has done marvelous things!  
His right hand and His holy arm have worked salvation for Him.*

*The LORD has made known His salvation;  
He has revealed His righteousness in the sight of the nations.*

*He has remembered His steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel.  
All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.*

*Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth;  
break forth into joyous song and sing praises!*

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 Maker and Redeemer, You wonderfully created us and in the incarnation of Your Son yet more wondrously restored our human nature. Grant that we may ever be alive in Him who made Himself to be like us; 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: Isaiah 61:10–62:3*

*After the reading:*

*This is the Word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

THE PSALM

Psalm 111; antiphon v. 9a, b

*He sent redemption to His people;*

**He has commanded His covenant forever.**

*Praise the LORD! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart,  
in the company of the upright, in the congregation.*

*Great are the works of the LORD,  
studied by all who delight in them.*

*Full of splendor and majesty is His work,  
and His righteousness endures forever.*

*He has caused His wondrous works to be remembered;  
the LORD is gracious and merciful.*

*He provides food for those who fear Him;  
He remembers His covenant forever.*

*He has shown His people the power of His works,  
in giving them the inheritance of the nations.*

*The works of His hands are faithful and just;*  
**all His precepts are trustworthy;**  
*they are established forever and ever,*  
**to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.**

*He sent redemption to His people; He has commanded His covenant forever.*  
**Holy and awesome is His name!**

*The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding.*  
**His praise endures forever!**

**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.**

*He sent redemption to His people;*  
**He has commanded His covenant forever.**

*from the Letters: Galatians 4:4–7*

*After the reading:*

*This is the Word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

*THE TRIPLE HALLELUJAH*

**Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!**

*The Holy Gospel: Luke 2:22–40*

**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 worshipped 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.

HYMN OF THE DAY – TUNE: TLH 105 & TEXT: LSB 389

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|--|---|
| <p>1 Let all together praise our God<br/>Before His glorious throne;<br/>Today He opens heav'n again<br/>To give us His own Son,<br/>To give us His own Son.</p> <p>2 He leaves His heav'nly Father's throne,<br/>Is born an infant small,<br/>And in a manger, poor and lone,<br/>Lies in a humble stall,<br/>Lies in a humble stall.</p> <p>3 Within an earthborn form He hides<br/>His all-creating light;<br/>To serve us all He humbly cloaks<br/>The splendor of His might,<br/>The splendor of His might.</p> | <p>4 He undertakes a great exchange,<br/>Puts on our human frame,<br/>And in return gives us His realm,<br/>His glory, and His name,<br/>His glory, and His name.</p> <p>5 He is a servant, I a lord:<br/>How great a mystery!<br/>How strong the tender Christ Child's love!<br/>No truer friend than He,<br/>No truer friend than He.</p> <p>6 He is the key and He the door<br/>To blessèd paradise;<br/>The angel bars the way no more.<br/>To God our praises rise,<br/>To God our praises rise.</p> |
|--|---|
- △ 7 Your grace in lowliness revealed, Lord Jesus, we adore  
And praise to God the Father yield and Spirit evermore;  
We praise You evermore.

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## The Sermon

Luke 2:22-40

OFFERTORY HYMN – TUNE: TLH 139 & TEXT: LSB 519

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <p>1 In His temple now behold Him,<br/>See the long-expected Lord;<br/>Ancient prophets had foretold Him,<br/>God has now fulfilled His word.<br/>Now to praise Him, His redeemèd<br/>Shall break forth with one accord.</p> | <p>2 In the arms of her who bore Him,<br/>Virgin pure, behold Him lie<br/>While His aged saints adore Him<br/>Ere in perfect faith they die.<br/>Alleluia, alleluia!<br/>Lo, th'incarnate God Most High!</p> |
|--|--|

**3 Jesus, by Your presentation, when they blessed You, weak and poor,  
Make us see Your great salvation, seal us with Your promise sure;  
And present us in Your glory to Your Father, cleansed and pure.**

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***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***

[1 Timothy 2:1-4]

*after each petition:*

**Lord, in Your mercy,  
hear our prayer.**

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.**

*From Heav'n Above to Earth I Come ..... M. Luther*

*Welcome to earth, O noble Guest, through whom the sinful world is blest!*

*You came to share my misery that You might share Your joy with me.*

*Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child, prepare a bed, soft, undefiled,*

*A quiet chamber set apart for You to dwell within my heart.*

*My heart for very joy must leap; my lips no more can silence keep.*

*I, too, must sing with joyful tongue that sweetest ancient cradlesong:*

*Glory to God in highest heav'n, who unto us His Son has giv'n!*

*While angels sing with pious mirth a glad new year to all the earth.*

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HYMN – TUNE & TEXT: TLH 81, ALT.

**1 O Jesus Christ, Your manger is  
My Paradise of peace beyond all knowing.  
For there, O Lord, there lies the Word  
Made flesh for us, with love and mercy  
glowing.**

**2 He whom the sea and wind obey  
Comes here to serve us sinners in such  
meekness!  
You, God's own Son, with us are one.  
You join us and our children in our weakness.**



3 Your light and grace our guilt erase,  
Your heav'nly riches all we lost retrieving.  
Immanuel, Your birth will quell  
The pow'r of Hell and Satan's gross  
deceiving.

4 O Christian true, no matter who,  
Come, rest in gladness; let no sorrow move you.  
For God's own Child in mercy mild  
Joins you to Him. How greatly God must  
love you!

5 What, then, is pain, since Him I gain?  
The world can keep its comfort, praise, and pleasure.  
Not pow'r or gold, but Christ I hold,  
My first, my last, my everlasting Treasure.

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*THE NUNC DIMITTIS*

*Luke 2:29–32*

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 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 BENEDICAMUS*

*[Psalm 103:1]*

*Bless we the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

*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 TO DEPART – TUNE & TEXT: LSB 387*

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her King;  
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room  
And heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing!

2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!  
Let men their songs employ,  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

**3 No more let sins and sorrows grow  
Nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make His blessings flow  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as, far as the curse is found.**

**4 He rules the world with truth and grace  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness  
And wonders of His love,  
And wonders of His love,  
And wonders, wonders of His love.**

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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 60:1–22	Luke 1:39–56
M	Isaiah 61:1–11	Luke 1:57–80
Tu	Isaiah 62:1–12	Luke 2:1–20
W	Isaiah 63:1–14	Luke 2:21–40
Th	Isaiah 63:15–65:2	Luke 2:41–52
F	Isaiah 65:8–25	Luke 3:1–20
Sa	Isaiah 66:1–20	Luke 3:21–38

### The Sacrament of the Altar

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

*How can bodily eating and drinking do such great things?* Certainly not just eating and drinking do these things, but the words written here: "Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins." These words, along with the bodily eating and drinking, are the main thing in the Sacrament. Whoever believes these words has exactly what they say: "forgiveness of sins."

*Who receives this sacrament worthily?* Fasting and bodily preparation are certainly fine outward training. But that person is truly worthy and well prepared who has faith in these words: "Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins." But anyone who does not believe these words or doubts them is unworthy and unprepared, for the words "for you" require all hearts to believe.

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

### Verse for Meditation

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us,  
and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son  
from the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1:14

### Hymn

*The hymn stanza may be sung or spoken.*

He is a servant, I a lord: How great a mystery!  
How strong the tender Christ Child's love!  
No truer friend than He,  
No truer friend than He. LSB 389:5

### 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 Maker and Redeemer, You wonderfully  
created us and in the incarnation of Your Son yet  
more wondrously restored our human nature.  
Grant that we may ever be alive in Him who made  
Himself to be like us; through Jesus Christ, our  
Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy  
Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

### Readings for the Baptism of Our Lord

Genesis 1:1–5; Psalms 29 (v. 3) & 85 (v. 9);  
Romans 6:1–11; Mark 1:4–11