

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

February 25, AD 2024

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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 at the parsonage, and adults in the sanctuary.

## Serving in Worship Today

Preacher & Celebrant	Pastor Peter Gregory
Liturgist	Paul Dwiggins
Organist	Anne Bennet
Acolytes	Nate Newman, Liam McGuire

## The Divine Service in Lent

During Lent, our practice is to use a simplified order of service. The "high points" remain the same—absolution, the readings, and Holy Communion—and draw us to Christ Jesus in repentance and faith.

## Prayers for Worship

*Before receiving the Sacrament:* Most merciful Father, by the Lord's Supper strengthen us to believe that no one can make satisfaction for sin but Christ alone.

Enable us to find joy and comfort only in Him, learning from this Sacrament to love You and our neighbor and to bear the cross with patience and joy until the day of the resurrection of our bodies to life immortal; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. 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. Amen.

*For faithfulness unto death:* Lord God, heavenly Father, Your Son fought the good fight of faith and was obedient unto death, even death on the cross, pouring out His blood as a peace offering between You and us. Keep us faithful unto death so we may receive the crown of righteousness that He will reward us with on the Last Day, having waited in hope and love for His appearing. Amen.

## Cover Illustration

*Christ Helps Us Carry Our Cross*  
from the Stations of the Cross series  
by Audrey Frank Anastasi.

HYMN – TUNE & TEXT: LSB 430

- 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.
- 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!

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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.**

OPENING VERSES

Psalm 130:3–4; 139:23–24; Ex. 15:26; Is. 53:5

*If You, O LORD, should count our sins,  
O LORD, who could stand?*

*But with You there is forgiveness,  
that You may be feared.*

**Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my ways.  
See where there is sin in me; lead me in the everlasting way, O Lord Jesus.**

**Thou art the LORD that healeth me; by Thy wounds I am healed.  
Thou art my Redeemer; rescue me and draw me after Thee, O Lord Jesus.**

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS: EXODUS 20

*Thus says the LORD: I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of bondage.*

**You shall have no other gods.**

**You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God.**

**Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.**

**Honor your father and your mother.**

**You shall not murder.**

**You shall not commit adultery.**

**You shall not steal.**

**You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.**

**You shall not covet your neighbor's house.**

**You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

1 John 1:8–9

*If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.*

**But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

*> Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination through the Ten Commandments. <*

*Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.*

**Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

***The Absolution***

[John 20:19–23]

**Amen.**

THE INTROIT

Psalm 25:6; 115:11–13, 18

***Remember Your mercy, O LORD, and Your steadfast love,  
for they have been from of old.***

*You who fear the LORD, trust in the LORD!*

**He is their help and their shield.**

*The LORD has remembered us; He will bless us;*

**He will bless the house of Israel; He will bless the house of Aaron;**

*He will bless those who fear the LORD,*

**both the small and the great.**

*We will bless the LORD*

**from this time forth and forevermore. Praise 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.**

*Remember Your mercy, O LORD, and Your steadfast love,*

**for they have been from of old.**

THE SALUTATION

2 Timothy 4:22

*The Lord be with you.*

**And with your spirit.**

THE COLLECT

*Let us pray. O God, You see that of ourselves we have no strength. By Your mighty power defend us from all adversities that may happen to the body and from all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul; 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***

*from the Old Testament: Genesis 17:1–7, 15–16*

*After the reading:*

*This is the Word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

THE PSALM

Psalm 22:23–31; antiphon v. 22

*I will tell of Your name to my brothers;*

**in the midst of the congregation I will praise You:**

*You who fear the LORD, praise Him! All you offspring of Jacob, glorify Him,*

**and stand in awe of Him, all you offspring of Israel!**

*For He has not despised or abhorred the affliction of the afflicted,*

*and He has not hidden His face from him,*

**but has heard, when he cried to Him.**

*From You comes my praise in the great congregation;*  
**my vows I will perform before those who fear Him.**

*The afflicted shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek Him shall praise the LORD!*

**May your hearts live forever!**

*All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD,*  
**and all the families of the nations shall worship before You.**

*For kingship belongs to the LORD,*  
**and He rules over the nations.**

*All the prosperous of the earth eat and worship;*  
**before Him shall bow all who go down to the dust,**  
**even the one who could not keep himself alive.**

*Posterity shall serve Him;*  
**it shall be told of the LORD to the coming generation;**  
*they shall come and proclaim His righteousness to a people yet unborn,*  
**that He has done it.**

**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.**

*I will tell of Your name to my brothers;*  
**in the midst of the congregation I will praise You.**

*from the Letters: Romans 5:1–11*

*After the reading:*

*This is the Word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

THE VERSE

Mark 8:34b

*If anyone would come after Me,*  
**let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me.**

*from the Holy Gospels: Mark 8:27–38*

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

*After the reading:*

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

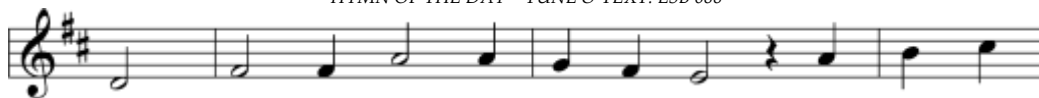
THE APOSTLES' CREED

**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.

HYMN OF THE DAY – TUNE & TEXT: LSB 688



1 "Come, fol - low Me," the Sav - ior spake, "All in My  
 2 "I am the light, I light the way, A god - ly  
 3 "My heart a - bounds in low - li - ness, My soul with  
 4 "I teach you how to shun and flee What harms your  
 5 Then let us fol - low Christ, our Lord, And take the



way a - bid - ing; De - ny your - selves, the world for - sake,  
 life dis - play - ing; I bid you walk as in the day;  
 love is glow - ing; And gra - cious words My lips ex - press,  
 soul's sal - va - tion, Your heart from ev - 'ry guile to free,  
 cross ap - point - ed And, firm - ly cling - ing to His Word,



O - bey My call and guid - ing. O bear the cross, what -  
 I keep your feet from stray - ing. I am the way, and  
 With meek - ness o - ver - flow - ing. My heart, My mind, My  
 From sin and its temp - ta - tion. I am the ref - uge  
 In suf - f'ring be un - daunt - ed. For those who bear the



e'er be - tide, Take My ex - am - ple for your guide.  
 well I show How you must so - journ here be - low.  
 strength, My all, To God I yield, on Him I call.  
 of the soul And lead you to your heav'n - ly goal."  
 bat - tle's strain The crown of heav'n - ly life ob - tain.

Text and tune: Public domain

## The Sermon

Mark 8:27–38

**On my heart imprint Your image, blessed Jesus, King of grace,  
That life's riches, cares, and pleasures never may Your work erase;  
Let the clear inscription be: Jesus, crucified for me,  
Is my life, my hope's foundation, and my glory and salvation!**

*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 PREFACE

*The Lord be with you.*

2 Timothy 4:22

**And with your spirit.**

*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.**

*It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to 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. Grant us Your Spirit, gracious Father, that we may give heed to the testament of Your Son in true faith and, above all, firmly take to heart the words with which Christ gives to us His body and blood for our forgiveness. By Your grace, lead us to remember and give thanks for the boundless love which He manifested to us when, by pouring out His precious blood, He saved us from Your righteous wrath and from sin, death, and hell. Grant that we may receive the bread and wine, that is, His body and blood, as a gift, guarantee, and pledge of His salvation. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

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.**



*In the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, at His command, and with His own words, we receive His testament:*

## ***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 121 (antiphon: vv. 1–2)*

DISTRIBUTION HYMN – TUNE & TEXT: LSB 562

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>1 All mankind fell in Adam's fall;<br/>One common sin infects us all.<br/>From one to all the curse descends,<br/>And over all God's wrath impends.</b>                 | <b>4 But Christ, the second Adam, came<br/>To bear our sin and woe and shame,<br/>To be our life, our light, our way,<br/>Our only hope, our only stay.</b>                   |
| <b>2 Through all our pow'rs corruption creeps<br/>And us in dreadful bondage keeps;<br/>In guilt we draw our infant breath<br/>And reap its fruits of woe and death.</b>   | <b>5 As by one man all mankind fell<br/>And, born in sin, was doomed to hell,<br/>So by one Man, who took our place,<br/>We all were justified by grace.</b>                  |
| <b>3 From hearts depraved, to evil prone,<br/>Flow thoughts and deeds of sin alone;<br/>God's image lost, the darkened soul<br/>Seeks not nor finds its heav'nly goal.</b> | <b>6 We thank You, Christ; new life is ours,<br/>New light, new hope, new strength, new pow'rs.<br/>This grace our ev'ry way attend<br/>Until we reach our journey's end.</b> |

Text: Public Domain

- 1 I come, O Savior, to Thy table,  
For weak and weary is my soul;  
Thou, Bread of Life, alone art able  
To satisfy and make me whole: *Refrain*  
*refrain* Lord, may Thy body and Thy blood  
Be for my soul the highest good!
- 2 Thy heart is filled with fervent yearning  
That sinners may salvation see  
Who, Lord, to Thee in faith are turning;  
So I, a sinner, come to Thee. *Refrain*
- 3 Unworthy though I am, O Savior,  
Because I have a sinful heart,  
Yet Thou Thy lamb wilt banish never,  
For Thou my faithful shepherd art: *Refrain*
- 4 Weary am I and heavy laden;  
With sin my soul is sore oppressed;  
Receive me graciously and gladden  
My heart, for I am now Thy guest. *Refrain*
- 5 What higher gift can we inherit?  
It is faith's bond and solid base;  
It is the strength of heart and spirit,  
The covenant of hope and grace. *Refrain*

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- 1 O dearest Jesus, what law hast Thou broken  
That such sharp sentence should on Thee be spoken?  
Of what great crime hast Thou to make confession,  
What dark transgression?
- 2 They crown Thy head with thorns, they smite, they scourge Thee;  
With cruel mockings to the cross they urge Thee;  
They give Thee gall to drink, they still decry Thee;  
They crucify Thee.
- 3 Whence come these sorrows, whence this mortal anguish?  
It is my sins for which Thou, Lord, must languish;  
Yea, all the wrath, the woe, Thou dost inherit,  
This I do merit.
- 4 What punishment so strange is suffered yonder!  
The Shepherd dies for sheep that loved to wander;  
The Master pays the debt His servants owe Him,  
Who would not know Him.
- 5 The sinless Son of God must die in sadness;  
The sinful child of man may live in gladness;  
Man forfeited his life and is acquitted;  
God is committed.

- 6 O mighty King, no time can dim Thy glory!  
How shall I spread abroad Thy wondrous story?  
How shall I find some worthy gifts to proffer?  
What dare I offer?
- 7 But since my strength will nevermore suffice me  
To crucify desires that still entice me,  
To all good deeds O let Thy Spirit win me  
And reign within me!
- 8 I'll think upon Thy mercy without ceasing,  
That earth's vain joys to me no more be pleasing;  
To do Thy will shall be my sole endeavor  
Henceforth forever.

Text: Public domain

THE POST-COMMUNION HYMN – TUNE & TEXT: TLH 385, STANZA 4

O depths of love, to me revealing  
The sea where my sins disappear!  
In Christ, my wounds find perfect healing,  
There is no condemnation here.  
For Jesus' blood through earth and skies  
Forever, "Mercy! Mercy!" cries.

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 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 you all.  
Amen.*

# 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	Gen. 16:1–9, 15–17:22	Mark 6:1–13
M	Genesis 18:1–15	Mark 6:14–34
Tu	Genesis 21:1–21	Mark 6:35–56
W	Genesis 22:1–19	Mark 7:1–23
Th	Genesis 24:1–31	Mark 7:24–37
F	Gen. 24:32–52, 61–67	Mark 8:1–21
Sa	Genesis 27:1–29	Mark 8:22–38

### The Table of Duties

*Certain passages of Scripture for various holy orders and positions, admonishing them about their duties and responsibilities.*

#### To Husbands

Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers. 1 Peter 3:7

Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them. Col. 3:19

#### To Wives

Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. Eph. 5:22

They were submissive to their own husbands, like Sarah, who obeyed Abraham and called him her master. You are her daughters if you do what is right and do not give way to fear. 1 Peter 3:5–6

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

### Verse for Meditation

If anyone would come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me. Mark 8:34

### Hymn

*The hymn stanza may be sung or spoken.*

But since my strength will nevermore suffice me  
To crucify desires that still entice me,  
To all good deeds O let Thy Spirit win me  
And reign within me! LSB 439:11

### Daily Prayer

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

### Prayers for Others and Ourselves

*As children of the heavenly Father, we are bold to pray.*

- 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

O God, You see that of ourselves we have no strength. By Your mighty power defend us from all adversities that may happen to the body and from all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

### Readings for the Third Sun. in Lent, March 3

Exodus 20:1–17; Psalms 19 (v. 8) & 136:1–16 (v. 26);  
1 Corinthians 1:18–31; John 2:13–25