

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

March 10, 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	Tom Connell
Organist	Mary Gregory
Acolytes	George Newman
	Landon Vega

## 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 body and blood of Jesus:* Hear us, O merciful Father, and grant that all communicants of your Church this day, who partake of this bread and wine, and receive His most blessed Body and Blood according to Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ's holy institution, remember of His death and passion in true repentance and living faith; to Him, with You and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever. Amen.

*Thanksgiving after Holy Communion:* We thank You, almighty God, that through this precious meal of grace You have refreshed and satisfied us. Use it to increase our faith and advance us in godliness and all Christlike virtues; through Your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*For eyes fixed on Jesus:* Heavenly Father, fix our eyes on Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, that we, with Him, may endure the crosses given to us here until You exalt us there. In His name, amen.

## Cover Illustration

*Moses and the Brazen Serpent*, 18th century  
by a follower of Francesco Fontebasso.  
Courtesy National Gallery of Art, Washington

HYMN – TUNE & TEXT: LSB 571

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <p>1 God loved the world so that He gave<br/>His only Son the lost to save,<br/>That all who would in Him believe<br/>Should everlasting life receive.</p> <p>2 Christ Jesus is the ground of faith,<br/>Who was made flesh and suffered death;<br/>All then who trust in Him alone<br/>Are built on this chief cornerstone.</p> <p>3 God would not have the sinner die;<br/>His Son with saving grace is nigh;<br/>His Spirit in the Word declares<br/>How we in Christ are heaven's heirs.</p> | <p>4 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son<br/>Forgives all sins which you have done;<br/>And, justified by Jesus' blood,<br/>Your Baptism grants the highest good.</p> <p>5 If you are sick, if death is near,<br/>This truth your troubled heart can cheer:<br/>Christ Jesus saves your soul from death;<br/>That is the firmest ground of faith.</p> <p>△ 6 Glory to God the Father, Son,<br/>And Holy Spirit, Three in One!<br/>To You, O blessed Trinity,<br/>Be praise now and eternally!</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.**

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 27:3–5 (antiphon v. 1)

*The LORD is my Light and my Salvation; whom shall I fear?*

**The LORD is the Stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?**

*Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear;*

**though war arise against me, yet I will be confident.**

*One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after:*

**that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life,**

**to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in His temple.**

*For He will hide me in His shelter in the day of trouble;*

**He will conceal me under the cover of His tent; He will lift me high upon a rock.**

**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 LORD is my Light and my Salvation; whom shall I fear?*

**The LORD is the Stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?**

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

## THE COLLECT

*Let us pray. Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; 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: Numbers 21:4–9*

*After the reading:*

*This is the Word of the Lord.*  
**Thanks be to God.**

## THE PSALM

*Psalm 107:1–9; antiphon v. 8*

*They cried to the LORD in their trouble,*  
**and He delivered them from their distress.**

*Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good,*  
**for His steadfast love endures forever!**

*Let the redeemed of the LORD say so,*  
**whom He has redeemed from trouble**  
*and gathered in from the lands,*  
**from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.**

*Some wandered in desert wastes,*  
**finding no way to a city to dwell in;**  
*hungry and thirsty,*  
**their soul fainted within them.**

*Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble,*  
**and He delivered them from their distress.**

*He led them by a straight way*  
**till they reached a city to dwell in.**

*Let them thank the LORD for His steadfast love,*  
**for His wondrous works to the children of men!**

*For He satisfies the longing soul,*

**and the hungry soul He fills with good things.**

**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.**

*They cried to the LORD in their trouble,*

**and He delivered them from their distress.**

*from the Letters: Ephesians 2:1–10*

*After the reading:*

*This is the Word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

THE VERSE

*John 3:16*

*For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son,*

**that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.**

*from the Holy Gospels: John 3:14–21*

**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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|---|---|
| 1 The Gospel shows the Father's grace,<br>Who sent His Son to save our race,<br>Proclaims how Jesus lived and died<br>That we might thus be justified.          | 4 It is the pow'r of God to save<br>From sin and Satan and the grave;<br>It works the faith which firmly clings<br>To all the treasures which it brings.    |
| 2 It sets the Lamb before our eyes,<br>Who made th' atoning sacrifice,<br>And calls the souls with guilt oppressed<br>To come and find eternal rest.            | 5 It bears to all the tidings glad<br>And bids their hearts no more be sad;<br>The weary, burdened souls it cheers<br>And banishes their guilty fears.      |
| 3 It brings the Savior's righteousness<br>To robe our souls in royal dress;<br>From all our guilt it brings release<br>And gives the troubled conscience peace. | 6 May we in faith its message learn<br>Nor thanklessly its blessings spurn;<br>May we in faith its truth confess<br>And praise the Lord, our righteousness. |

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## *The Sermon*

*John 3:14–21*

THE OFFERTORY HYMN – TUNE & TEXT: LSB 422

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*

*after each petition:*

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

[1 Timothy 2:1–4]

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. <

Jonah 2:1–9 (antiphon: v. 9b)

DISTRIBUTION HYMN – TUNE & TEXT: LSB 566

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|---|---|
| <p><b>1</b> By grace I'm saved, grace free and boundless;<br/>My soul, believe and doubt it not.<br/>Why stagger at this word of promise?<br/>Has Scripture ever falsehood taught?<br/>No! Then this word must true remain:<br/>By grace you too will life obtain.</p> <p><b>2</b> By grace! None dare lay claim to merit;<br/>Our works and conduct have no worth.<br/>God in His love sent our Redeemer,<br/>Christ Jesus, to this sinful earth;<br/>His death did for our sins atone,<br/>And we are saved by grace alone.</p> <p><b>3</b> By grace God's Son, our only Savior,<br/>Came down to earth to bear our sin.<br/>Was it because of your own merit<br/>That Jesus died your soul to win?<br/>No, it was grace, and grace alone,<br/>That brought Him from His heav'nly throne.</p> | <p><b>4</b> By grace! This ground of faith is certain;<br/>As long as God is true, it stands.<br/>What saints have penned by inspiration,<br/>What in His Word our God commands,<br/>Our faith in what our God has done<br/>Depends on grace—grace through His Son.</p> <p><b>5</b> By grace to timid hearts that tremble,<br/>In tribulation's furnace tried,<br/>By grace, in spite of fear and trouble,<br/>The Father's heart is open wide.<br/>Where could I help and strength secure<br/>If grace were not my anchor sure?</p> <p><b>6</b> By grace! On this I'll rest when dying;<br/>In Jesus' promise I rejoice;<br/>For though I know my heart's condition,<br/>I also know my Savior's voice.<br/>My heart is glad, all grief has flown<br/>Since I am saved by grace alone.</p> |
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DISTRIBUTION HYMN – TUNE & TEXT: LSB 556, STANZAS 1, 3, 5–6

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <p><b>1</b> Dear Christians, one and all, rejoice,<br/>With exultation springing,<br/>And with united heart and voice<br/>And holy rapture singing,<br/>Proclaim the wonders God has done,<br/>How His right arm the vict'ry won.<br/>What price our ransom cost Him!</p> | <p><b>2</b> My own good works all came to naught,<br/>No grace or merit gaining;<br/>Free will against God's judgment fought,<br/>Dead to all good remaining.<br/>My fears increased till sheer despair<br/>Left only death to be my share;<br/>The pangs of hell I suffered.</p> |
|---|---|

3 God said to His belovèd Son:  
    *"It's time to have compassion.*  
Then go, bright jewel of My crown,  
    And bring to all salvation.  
From sin and sorrow set them free;  
Slay bitter death for them that they  
    May live with You forever."

4 The Son obeyed His Father's will,  
    Was born of virgin mother;  
And God's good pleasure to fulfill,  
    He came to be my brother.  
His royal pow'r disguised He bore;  
A servant's form, like mine, He wore  
    To lead the devil captive.

Text and tune: Public domain

*DISTRIBUTION HYMN – TUNE & TEXT: LSB 420, STANZAS 1–3, 5–7*

1 Christ, the life of all the living,  
    Christ, the death of death, our foe,  
Who, Thyself for me once giving  
    To the darkest depths of woe:  
Through Thy suff'rings, death, and merit  
I eternal life inherit.  
    Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,  
    Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

2 Thou, ah! Thou, hast taken on Thee  
    Bonds and stripes, a cruel rod;  
Pain and scorn were heaped upon Thee,  
    O Thou sinless Son of God!  
Thus didst Thou my soul deliver  
From the bonds of sin forever.  
    Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,  
    Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

3 Thou hast borne the smiting only  
    That my wounds might all be whole;  
Thou hast suffered, sad and lonely,  
    Rest to give my weary soul;  
Yea, the curse of God enduring,  
Blessing unto me securing.  
    Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,  
    Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

4 Thou hast suffered men to bruise Thee,  
    That from pain I might be free;  
Falsely did Thy foes accuse Thee:  
    Thence I gain security;  
Comfortless Thy soul did languish  
Me to comfort in my anguish.  
    Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,  
    Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

5 Thou hast suffered great affliction  
    And hast borne it patiently,  
Even death by crucifixion,  
    Fully to atone for me;  
Thou didst choose to be tormented  
That my doom should be prevented.  
    Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,  
    Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

6 Then, for all that wrought my pardon,  
    For Thy sorrows deep and sore,  
For Thine anguish in the Garden,  
    I will thank Thee evermore,  
Thank Thee for Thy groaning, sighing,  
For Thy bleeding and Thy dying,  
    For that last triumphant cry,  
    And shall praise Thee, Lord, on high.

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	Genesis 41:28–57	Mark 11:20–33
M	Genesis 42:1–34, 38	Mark 12:1–12
Tu	Genesis 43:1–28	Mark 12:13–27
W	Gen. 44:1–18, 32–34	Mark 12:28–44
Th	Gen. 45:1–20, 24–28	Mark 13:1–23
F	Genesis 47:1–31	Mark 13:24–37
Sa	Gen. 49:29–50:7, 14–26	Mark 14:1–11

### The Table of Duties

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

#### To Youth

Young men, in the same way be submissive to those who are older. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that He may lift you up in due time. 1 Peter 5:5–6

#### To Widows

The widow who is really in need and left all alone puts her hope in God and continues night and day to pray and to ask God for help. But the widow who lives for pleasure is dead even while she lives. 1 Tim. 5:5–6

#### To Everyone

The commandments ... are summed up in this one rule: "Love your neighbor as yourself." Rom. 13:9 I urge ... that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone. 1 Tim. 2:1

### Hymn

*The hymn stanza may be sung or spoken.*

Christ Jesus is the ground of faith,  
Who was made flesh and suffered death;  
All then who trust in Him alone  
Are built on this chief cornerstone.      LSB 571:2

### 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  
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

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

### Readings for the Fifth Sun. in Lent, March 17

Jer. 31:31–34; Pss. 119:9–16 (v. 10) & 43 (v. 5);  
Hebrews 5:1–10; Mark 10:32–45