

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

April 7, 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
Crucifer	Josiah Paradis
Organist	Mary Gregory
Children's Choir	Kelley Newman, director
Acolytes	Sim Gregory, George Newman

## Prayers for Worship

*Before communing:* Dear Savior, at Your gracious invitation I come to Your table to eat and drink Your holy body and blood. Let me find favor in Your eyes to receive this holy Sacrament in faith for the salvation of my soul and to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

*Thanksgiving after receiving the Sacrament:* Almighty and everlasting God, I thank and praise You for feeding me the life-giving body and blood of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Send Your Holy Spirit that, having with my mouth received the holy Sacrament, I may by faith obtain and eternally enjoy Your divine grace, the forgiveness of sins, unity with Christ, and life eternal; through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.

## Preparation for Confession

The Sixth Commandment: You shall not commit adultery. *What does this mean?* We should fear and love God so that we lead a chaste and decent life in what we say and do, and husband and wife love and honor each other.

*Questions for self-examination*

- Am I chaste?
- Am I guilty of lust, indecency, or the use of pornography?
- Have I reserved my sexual activity for the pleasure and consolation of my spouse, and, when God wills, the procreation of children?

## Cover Illustration

*Christ Defeats Satan* detail of a carving from the reredos in All Souls College Chapel, Oxford, England.

THE EASTER ACCLAMATION

*Alleluia! Christ is risen!*

**He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

> Please stand and face the processional crucifix at the entrance to the nave. <

PROCESSIONAL HYMN – TUNE & TEXT: LSB 482

1 This joy - ful Eas - ter - tide A - way with sin and  
2 Death's flood has lost its chill Since Je - sus crossed the  
3 My flesh in hope shall rest And for a sea - son  
sor - row! My love, the Cru - ci - fied,  
riv - er; Lov - er of souls, from ill  
slum - ber Till trump from east to west  
Has sprung to life this mor - row:  
My pass - ing soul de - liv - er:  
Shall wake the dead in num - ber:  
*Refrain*  
Had Christ, who once was slain, Not burst His three-day pris - on,  
Our faith had been in vain: But now has Christ a - ris - en, a -  
ris - en, a - ris - en; But now has Christ a - ris - en!

Text and tune: Public domain

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.**

THE INTROIT

*Habakkuk 3:2a, 13–14a, 18*

*O LORD, I have heard the report of You,  
and Your work, O LORD, do I fear.*

*You went out for the salvation of Your people,  
for the salvation of Your anointed.*

*You crushed the head of the house of the wicked,  
laying him bare from thigh to neck.*

*You pierce with his own arrows the heads of his warriors,  
who came like a whirlwind to scatter me.*

*I will rejoice in the LORD. Hallelujah!*

**I will take joy in the God of my salvation. Hallelujah!**

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.**

*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 Jesus, You were made alive by the Spirit, descended into hell as victor and Lord, and exposed our enemy shattered and defeated. As You, O Savior, have turned all of Satan's accusations against us into empty noises and rescued us from everlasting fire, fill us with the Holy Spirit so that we ignore the devil's lies, despise his temptations, and live through this brief darkness as boldly and joyfully as You marched through hell, for You are one God with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.*

## *The Reading of God's Word*

*from the Old Testament: Genesis 3:8–15*

*After the reading:*

*This is the word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

## THE PSALM

Psalm 124; antiphon v. 8

*Our help is in the name of the LORD,  
who made heaven and earth.*

*If it had not been the LORD who was on our side—  
let Israel now say—*

*if it had not been the LORD who was on our side  
when people rose up against us,*

*then they would have swallowed us up alive,*  
**when their anger was kindled against us;**  
*then the flood would have swept us away,*  
**the torrent would have gone over us;**  
*then over us would have gone*  
**the raging waters.**

*Blessèd be the LORD,*  
**who has not given us as prey to their teeth!**

*We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowlers;*  
**the snare is broken, and we have escaped!**

*Our help is in the name of the LORD,*  
**who made heaven and earth.**

**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.**

*Our help is in the name of the LORD,*  
**who made heaven and earth.**

*from the Letters: Colossians 2:14–15; 1 Peter 3:18b–19*

*After the reading:*

*This is the word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

THE TRIPLE ALLELUIA FOR EASTER

Christ has been raised from the dead! Al - le -  
lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

*from the Holy Gospel: Mark 3:20–35*

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

*After the reading:*

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

*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.**

HYMN OF THE DAY – TUNE & TEXT: TLH 209, ALT.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <p><b>1 Who is this, returned from Edom,<br/>Striding mighty as a flood?<br/>Who is this, proclaiming freedom,<br/>All His garments stained with blood?<br/>Glorious are the robes He wears<br/>And the plunder that He bears!</b></p> <p><b>2 It's our Kinsman, all victorious,<br/>Marching onward in His might.<br/>Our Redeemer! Oh, how glorious<br/>To poor sinners is the sight!<br/>Satan's conquered and the grave.<br/>Mary's Son is strong to save!</b></p> | <p><b>3 What's that blood His clothing staining?<br/>It's the blood of serpents slain.<br/>Of their pow'r there's none remaining;<br/>All their cunning was in vain.<br/>Now their kingdom prostrate lies,<br/>Razed too low to ever rise.</b></p> <p><b>4 Christus Victor, we could never<br/>All Your conquests rightly tell.<br/>You, once dead, now rule forever<br/>With the keys of death and hell.<br/>You avenge Your people's woes;<br/>You have crushed Your people's foes!</b></p> |
|--|---|

## *The Sermon*

*Colossians 2:14–15*

THE OFFERTORY HYMN – LSB 458, STANZAS 1, 3, 7

*Christ Jesus lay in death's strong bands, for our offenses given;*

*But now at God's right hand He stands and brings us life from heaven.*

*Therefore let us joyful be and sing to God right thankfully loud songs of alleluia! Alleluia!*

*But Jesus Christ, God's only Son, to our low state descended;  
The pow'r of sin He hath undone, the might of death is ended:  
Stripped of pow'r, no more he reigns; an empty form alone remains; his sting is lost forever. Alleluia!*

*Then let us feast this Easter Day on Christ, the Bread of heaven;  
The Word of Grace has purged away the old and evil leaven.  
Christ alone our souls will feed; He is our meat and drink indeed; faith lives upon no other. Alleluia!*

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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***

*[1 Timothy 2:1-4]*

*after each petition:*

*Let us pray to the Lord:*

**Lord, have mercy.**

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.**

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. And most especially are we bound to praise You on this day for the glorious resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, the very Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us and bore the sins of the world. By His dying He has destroyed death, and by His rising again He has restored to us everlasting life. Therefore with Mary Magdalene, Peter and John, and with all the witnesses of the resurrection, 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.**



**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.**

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 on Holy Communion: In the Lord's Supper, the Risen Christ is at once the Giver and the Gift! By His promise His very body and blood are really present, so that we come into direct communion with the exalted Christ and His forgiveness. As we do so, we also bear witness to the oneness in doctrine of those who receive the Sacrament together. For this reason, we kindly ask guests to speak with pastor before communing so that all who receive Holy Communion with us might first be properly instructed. Those who have not been instructed may come forward with their arms crossed to receive a blessing.*

*Psalm 33 (antiphon: verse 6)*

DISTRIBUTION HYMN – TUNE: TLH 223 & TEXT: TLH 211, ALT

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <p><b>1 Lo, Judah's Lion wins the war!</b><br/>The ancient serpent boasts no more!<br/>Our Gideon, in the realms of night,<br/>His trumpet blows and blazes light!<br/>Hallelujah!</p> | <p><b>3 See the old slanderer cast down</b><br/>With crippled jaw and crumpled crown!<br/>Our greater David from the dead<br/>Returns, and holds Goliath's head!<br/>Hallelujah!</p> |
| <p><b>2 The Stronger Man, alive again,</b><br/>Has bound the dragon in His chain!<br/>Our Samson storms death's citadel<br/>And carries off the gates of hell!<br/>Hallelujah!</p>     | <p><b>4 Lion of Judah, Israel's Pride,</b><br/>Who can accuse us at Your side?<br/>Seed of the Woman, Brother True,<br/>We will be ruled by none but You!<br/>Hallelujah!</p>        |

- 1 The strife is o'er, the battle done;  
Now is the victor's triumph won;  
Now be the songs of praise begun.  
Alleluia!
- 2 The pow'rs of death have done their worst,  
But Christ their legions hath dispersed.  
Let shouts of holy joy outburst. Alleluia!
- 3 The three sad days have quickly sped,  
He rises glorious from the dead.  
All glory to our risen Head! Alleluia!
- 4 He broke the age-bound chains of hell;  
The bars from heav'n's high portals fell.  
Let hymns of praise His triumph tell.  
Alleluia!
- 5 Lord, by the stripes which wounded Thee,  
From death's dread sting Thy servants free  
That we may live and sing to Thee. Alleluia!

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DISTRIBUTION HYMN – TUNE & TEXT: LSB 480

1 He's ris - en, He's ris - en, Christ Je - sus, the Lord;  
2 The foe was tri - um - phant when on Cal - va - ry  
3 But short was their tri - umph; the Sav - ior a - rose,  
4 O, where is your sting, death? We fear you no more;  
△ 5 Then sing your ho - san - nas and raise your glad voice;

He o - pened death's pris - on, the in - car - nate, true Word.  
The Lord of cre - a - tion was nailed to the tree.  
And death, hell, and Sa - tan He van - quished, His foes.  
Christ rose, and now o - pen is fair E - den's door.  
Pro - claim the blest tid - ings that all may re - joice.

Break forth, hosts of heav - en, in ju - bi - lant song  
In Sa - tan's do - main did the hosts shout and jeer,  
The con - quer - ing Lord lifts His ban - ner on high;  
For all our trans - gres - sions His blood does a - tone;  
Laud, hon - or, and praise to the Lamb that was slain:

And earth, sea, and moun - tain their prais - es pro - long.  
For Je - sus was slain, whom the e - vil ones fear.  
He lives, yes, He lives, and will nev - er - more die.  
Re - deemed and for - giv - en, we now are His own.  
With Fa - ther and Spir - it He ev - er shall reign.

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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. O Lord, in this wondrous Sacrament You have given us a remembrance of Your passion.  
Grant that we may so receive the sacred mystery of Your body and blood that the fruits of Your redemption  
may continually be manifest in us; for You live and reign with the Father 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.**

## THE CLOSING HYMN – TUNE &amp; TEXT: LSB 633, STS. 5–7

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <p><b>1</b> Mighty Victim from the sky,<br/>Hell's fierce pow'rs beneath You lie;<br/>You have conquered in the fight,<br/>You have brought us life and light.<br/>Alleluia!</p> | <p><b>2</b> Now no more can death appall,<br/>Now no more the grave enthrall;<br/>You have opened paradise,<br/>And Your saints in You shall rise.<br/>Alleluia!</p> |
| <p><b>3</b> Easter triumph, Easter joy! This alone can sin destroy;<br/>From sin's pow'r, Lord, set us free,<br/>Newborn souls in You to be. Alleluia!</p>                       |  |

# 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	Exodus 20:1–24	Luke 4:1–15
M	Exodus 22:20–23:13	Luke 4:16–30
Tu	Exodus 23:14–33	Luke 4:31–44
W	Exodus 24:1–18	Luke 5:1–16
Th	Exodus 25:1–22	Luke 5:17–39
F	Exodus 31:1–18	Luke 6:1–19
Sa	Exodus 32:1–14	Luke 6:20–38

### On the Descent of Christ to Hell

*In the Apostles' Creed we confess: "I believe . . . in Jesus  
Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who . . . was crucified,  
died and was buried. He descended into hell."*

*What does it mean that Christ descended to hell?*

We simply believe that the entire person (God and man) descended into hell after the burial, conquered the devil, destroyed hell's power, and took from the devil all his might. We should not, however, trouble ourselves with high and difficult thoughts about how this happened. With our reason and our five senses this article can be understood as little as the preceding one about how Christ is placed at the right hand of God's almighty power and majesty. We are simply to believe it and cling to the Word. So we hold to the substance and consolation that neither hell nor the devil can take captive or injure us and all who believe in Christ.

The Formula of Concord, Solid Declaration, Article IX, 2–3.

### Verse for Meditation

The God of peace will soon crush Satan  
under your feet.

*Romans 16:20*

### Hymn

*The hymn stanza may be sung or spoken.*

Mighty Victim from the sky,  
Hell's fierce pow'rs beneath You lie.  
You have conquered in the fight;  
You have brought us life and light. Alleluia!

*LSB 633:5*

### 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

Almighty God, grant that we who have celebrated  
the Lord's resurrection may by Your grace confess  
in our life and conversation that Jesus is Lord and  
God; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, who  
lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one  
God, now and forever. Amen.

### Readings for the Third Sunday of Easter, April 14

Acts 3:11–21; Psalm 4 (v. 7) & Isaiah 12:1–6;  
1 John 3:1–7; Luke 24:36–49