

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

May 5, AD 2024

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church: 978-874-2479
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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	Ray Arsenault
Crucifer	Paul Dwiggins
Organist	Anne Bennet
Acolytes	Simeon Gregory
	Nate Newman

Prayers for Worship

Life as a baptized child of God: Merciful Father, through Holy Baptism You called us to be Your own possession. Grant that our lives may evidence the working of Your Holy Spirit in love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control, according to the image of Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

For faith, hope, and love: Almighty God, grant us a steadfast faith in Jesus Christ, a cheerful hope in Your mercy, and a sincere love for You and one another; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Preparation for Confession

The Eighth Commandment: You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor. *What does this mean?* We should fear and love God so that we do not tell lies about our neighbor, betray him, slander him, or hurt his reputation, but defend him, speak well of him, and explain everything in the kindest way.

Questions for self-examination

- Am I bitter?
- Do I uphold and defend the name and reputation of others?
- Have I judged others without being duly authorized to do so?

Cover Illustration

By John Hrehov. Used with permission.

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: TLH 199 & TEXT: LSB 457

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|--|--|
| <p>1 Jesus Christ is ris'n today, Alleluia!
 Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
 Who did once upon the cross, Alleluia!
 Suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!</p> <p>2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!
 Unto Christ, our heav'nly king, Alleluia!
 Who endured the cross and grave,
 Alleluia!
 Sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!</p> | <p>3 But the pains which He endured,
 Alleluia!
 Our salvation have procured; Alleluia!
 Now above the sky He's king, Alleluia!
 Where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!</p> <p>△ 4 Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!
 Praise eternal as His love; Alleluia!
 Praise Him, all ye heav'nly host, Alleluia!
 Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!</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 Sacrament of Holy Baptism

As you witness this baptism, take hold of your own baptism and your daily return to the font by again renouncing the devil and confessing faith in the Triune God.

The Baptism of Oliver James Moore

During the baptism, the congregation may join in the responses:

*Do you renounce the devil? **Yes, I renounce him.***

*Do you renounce all his works? **Yes, I renounce them.***

*Do you renounce all his ways? **Yes, I renounce them.***

*Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth? **Yes, I believe.***

*Do you believe 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? **Yes, I believe.***

*Do you 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? **Yes, I believe.***



Come and hear, all you who fear God,
and I will tell what He has done for my soul.

Shout for joy to God, all the earth;
sing the glory of His name; give to Him glorious praise!

Bless our God, O peoples;
let the sound of His praise be heard,
who has kept our soul among the living
and has not let our feet slip.

Blessèd be God,
because He has not rejected my prayer or removed His steadfast love from me!

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, the giver of all that is good, by Your holy inspiration grant that we may think those things that are right and by Your merciful guiding accomplish them; 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

the First Reading: Acts 10:34–48

After the reading:

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE PSALM

Psalms 98; antiphon: v. 2

The LORD has made known His salvation;

He has revealed His righteousness in the sight of the nations.

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!

Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre,

with the lyre and the sound of melody!

With trumpets and the sound of the horn

make a joyful noise before the King, the LORD!

Let the sea roar, and all that fills it;

the world and those who dwell in it!

Let the rivers clap their hands; let the hills sing for joy together before the LORD,

for He comes to judge the earth.

He will judge the world with righteousness,

and the peoples with equity.

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 has made known His salvation;

He has revealed His righteousness in the sight of the nations.

the Second Reading: 1 John 5:1–8

After the reading:

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE ALLELUIA

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

from the Holy Gospel: John 15:9–17

Glory be to You, O Lord!

After the reading:

Praise be to You, O Christ!

HYMN OF THE DAY – TUNE: TLH 387 & TEXT: LSB 556, STS. 1–2, 4–6

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|---|--|
| <p>1 Dear Christians, one and all, rejoice,
With exultation springing,
And with united heart and voice
And holy rapture singing,
Proclaim the wonders God has done,
How His right arm the vict'ry won.
What price our ransom cost Him!</p> <p>2 Fast bound in Satan's chains I lay;
Death brooded darkly o'er me.
Sin was my torment night and day;
In sin my mother bore me.
But daily deeper still I fell;
My life became a living hell,
So firmly sin possessed me.</p> <p>5 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.</p> | <p>3 But God had seen my wretched state
Before the world's foundation,
And mindful of His mercies great,
He planned for my salvation.
He turned to me a father's heart;
He did not choose the easy part
But gave His dearest treasure.</p> <p>4 God said to His beloved 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."</p> |
|---|--|

The Sermon

1 John 5:1–8

THE OFFERTORY

Psalms 51:10–12

**Create in me a pure heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
Do not cast me out of Your presence,
nor take Your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of Your salvation,
and sustain me with a free spirit. Amen.**

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:

**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 peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

**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.

Psalms 107:1–9 (antiphon v. 19)

DISTRIBUTION HYMN – TUNE: TLH 245 & TEXT: LSB 571

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

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DISTRIBUTION HYMN – TUNE & TEXT: LSB 548

- 1 Thanks to Thee, O Christ, victorious!
Thanks to Thee, O Lord of Life!
Death hath now no power o'er us,
Thou hast conquered in the strife.
Thanks because Thou didst arise
And hast opened paradise!
None can fully sing the glory
Of the resurrection story.
- 2 Thou hast died for my transgression,
All my sins on Thee were laid;
Thou hast won for me salvation,
On the cross my debt was paid.
From the grave I shall arise
And shall meet Thee in the skies.
Death itself is transitory;
I shall lift my head in glory.
- 3 For the joy Thine advent gave me, for Thy holy, precious Word;
For Thy Baptism, which doth save me, for Thy blest Communion board;
For Thy death, the bitter scorn, for Thy resurrection morn,
Lord, I thank Thee and extol Thee, and in heav'n I shall behold Thee.

Text: Public domain

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 O love, how deep, how broad, how high,
Beyond all thought and fantasy,
That God, the Son of God, should take
Our mortal form for mortals' sake! | 4 For us He prayed; for us He taught;
For us His daily works He wrought,
By words and signs and actions thus
Still seeking not Himself but us. |
| 2 He sent no angel to our race,
Of higher or of lower place,
But wore the robe of human frame,
And to this world Himself He came. | 5 For us by wickedness betrayed,
For us, in crown of thorns arrayed,
He bore the shameful cross and death;
For us He gave His dying breath. |
| 3 For us baptized, for us He bore
His holy fast and hungered sore;
For us temptation sharp He knew;
For us the tempter overthrew. | 6 For us He rose from death again;
For us He went on high to reign;
For us He sent His Spirit here
To guide, to strengthen, and to cheer. |

△ 7 All glory to our Lord and God
For love so deep, so high, so broad;
The Trinity whom we adore
Forever and forevermore.

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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 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: TLH 387 & TEXT: LSB 556, STS. 9–10

> Note: In these two hymns stanzas, God's beloved Son speaks to us of His ascension, the gift of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, and the life of the Church. <

**1 "Now to My Father I depart,
From earth to heav'n ascending,
And, heav'nly wisdom to impart,
The Holy Spirit sending;
In trouble He will comfort you
And teach you always to be true
And into truth shall guide you.**

**2 "What I on earth have done and taught
Guide all your life and teaching;
So shall the kingdom's work be wrought
And honored in your preaching.
But watch lest foes with base alloy
The heav'nly treasure should destroy;
This final word I leave you."**

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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.

Su	Num. 3:1–16, 39–48	Luke 14:25–15:10
M	Numbers 8:5–26	Luke 15:11–32
Tu	Numbers 9:1–23	Luke 16:1–18
W	Numbers 10:11–36	Luke 16:19–31
Th	Num. 11:1–23, 31–35	Luke 17:1–19
F	Num. 11:24–29; 12:1–16	Luke 17:20–37
Sa	Num. 13:1–3, 17–33	Luke 18:1–17

Christian Questions & Answers

*Prepared by Dr. Martin Luther
for those who intend to go to the Sacrament.*

After confession and instruction in the Ten Commandments, the Creed, the Lord's Prayer, and the Sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper, Christians may ask themselves these questions:

17. *What motivated Christ to die and make full payment for your sins?* His great love for His Father and for me and other sinners, as it is written in John 14; Romans 5; Galatians 2; and Ephesians 5.

18. *Finally, why do you wish to go to the Sacrament?* That I may learn to believe that Christ, out of great love, died for my sin, and also learn from Him to love God and my neighbor.

19. *What should admonish and encourage a Christian to receive the Sacrament frequently?* First, both the command and the promise of Christ the Lord. Second, his own pressing need, because of which the command, encouragement, and promise are given.

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

Hymn

The hymn stanza may be sung or spoken.

“Now to My Father I depart,
From earth to heav'n ascending,
And, heav'nly wisdom to impart,
The Holy Spirit sending;
In trouble He will comfort you
And teach you always to be true
And into truth shall guide you.” LSB 556:9

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, the giver of all that is good, by Your holy inspiration grant that we may think those things that are right and by Your merciful guiding accomplish them; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Readings for the Feast of the Ascension, Observed on Sunday, May 12

Acts 1:1–11; Psalms 47 (v. 5) & 110 (v. 1);
Ephesians 1:15–23; Luke 24:44–53