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 November 24, AD 2024

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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

Guest Celebrant & Preacher The Rev. Eric Wismar
Liturgist Tom Connell
Crcufier Matthew Connell
Organist Anne Bennet
Acolytes Liam McGuire, William Jackson

Prayers for Worship

The Prayer of the Waiting Bride, the Church: Come, Lord Jesus! Amen. (Revelation 22:20)

Approaching our last hour: Into Your hands, O Lord, I commit my spirit. (Luke 23:46/Psalm 31:5)

With an eye toward the end: Abide with us, Lord, for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent. Abide with us and with Your whole Church. Abide with us at the end of the day, at the end of our life, at the end of the world. Abide with us with Your grace and goodness, with Your holy Word and Sacrament, with Your strength and blessing. Abide with us when the night of affliction and temptation comes upon us, the night of fear and despair, the night when death draws near. Abide with us and with all the faithful, now and forever. Amen.

Preparation for Confession

The Second Commandment: You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God. What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not curse, swear, use satanic arts, lie, or deceive by His name, but call upon it in every trouble, pray, praise, and give thanks.

 $Questions\ for\ self-examination$

- How are my prayers?
- Do I honor God's name in daily speech and conduct, or do I curse, speak carelessly, or misuse God's name?

Cover Illustration

Icon of Christ enthroned in glory.

> Please stand and face the processional crucifix. <

THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN - TUNE & TEXT: LSB 621

- 1 Let all mortal flesh keep silence
 And with fear and trembling stand;
 Ponder nothing earthly-minded,
 For with blessing in His hand
 Christ our God to earth descending
 Comes our homage to demand.
- 2 King of kings yet born of Mary,
 As of old on earth He stood,
 Lord of lords in human vesture,
 In the body and the blood,
 He will give to all the faithful
 His own self for heav'nly food.
- 3 Rank on rank the host of heaven
 Spreads its vanguard on the way
 As the Light of Light, descending
 From the realms of endless day,
 Comes the pow'rs of hell to vanquish
 As the darkness clears away.
- 4 At His feet the six-winged seraph, Cherubim with sleepless eye, Veil their faces to the presence As with ceaseless voice they cry: "Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, Lord Most High!"

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, because we must all appear before the judgment throne of Christ, and because we must not be found in sin when He returns, and above all, because He Himself has shed His blood to grant us pardon and to seal us for that Day, let us draw near with sincere hearts to confess our sins to Him, and to plead for the mercy He Himself has bought for us.

> Silence for reflection and self-examination. <

Lord Jesus Christ, our Judge and our Redeemer, we poor sinners confess to You 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. Therefore, we flee to find refuge in Your holy wounds, looking and pleading for Your grace now and on the Day of Judgment.

Merciful Savior, You bore our judgment on the cross to save us from damnation. Have mercy on us and forgive us 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, so that we may await Your coming with joy, stand before You without fear, and by Your grace alone enter with You into the endless world to come. Amen.

[John 20:19-23]

The Absolution

Amen.

THE INTROIT

2 Peter 3:13b NIV; Psalm 39:4-5a, 7-8, 12a

We look forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness.

O LORD, make me know my end and what is the measure of my days;

let me know how fleeting I am!

Behold, You have made my days a few handbreadths, and my lifetime is as nothing before You.

And now, O Lord, for what do I wait?

My hope is in You.

Deliver me from all my transgressions.

Do not make me the scorn of the fool!

Hear my prayer, O LORD, and give ear to my cry;

hold not Your peace at my tears!

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 Glory to God on high:

Luke 2:14; John 1:29

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.
Of ord Cod, heavenly King, God the Eather Almighty

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

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

THE COLLECT

Let us pray.

> Silence for personal prayers. <

Lord Jesus Christ, so govern our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that, ever mindful of Your glorious return, we may persevere in both faith and holiness of living; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The Reading of God's Word

from the Old Testament: Isaiah 51:4-6

After the reading:

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE PSALM

Psalm 93; antiphon v. 2

Your throne is established from of old; You are from everlasting.

The LORD reigns; He is robed in majesty; the LORD is robed; He has put on strength as His belt.

Yes, the world is established; it shall never be moved.

Your throne is established from of old; You are from everlasting.

The floods have lifted up, O LORD, the floods have lifted up their voice; the floods lift up their roaring.

Mightier than the thunders of many waters, mightier than the waves of the sea, the LORD on high is mighty!

Your decrees are very trustworthy; holiness befits Your house, O LORD, forevermore.

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.

Your throne is established from of old; You are from everlasting.

from the Letters: Jude 20–25

After the reading:

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE HALLELUJAH

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

from the Holy Gospel: Mark 13:24–37

Glory be to You, O Lord!

After the reading:

Praise be to You, O Christ!

THE LITANY CREED

He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

Refrain: I believe in the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

As the lightning flashes from east to west, the Son of Man will come in His Father's glory with His holy angels to reward everyone according to what each has done. He will come like a thief in the night; one will be taken and the other left. **Refrain**

The skies will disappear with a roar, the elements will disintegrate in the heat, and the earth and everything on it will be burned. **Refrain**

He will send His angels with a loud trumpet call and gather His chosen from the four winds. We will be caught up to meet the Lord in the air. **Refrain**

We will all stand before Christ's judgment seat. Each of us will give an account of himself to God. **Refrain**

He will say to those on His left, "Depart from Me, you who are cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels." **Refrain**

He will say to those on his right, "Come, you blessed of My Father! Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the creation of the world." **Refrain**

He will change our lowly bodies to be like His own glorious body; we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. **Refrain**

We look for new heavens and a new earth, the home of righteousness. Then the righteous shall shine like the sun in their Father's kingdom, and we shall be with the Lord forever, whose kingdom shall have no end. **Refrain**

Great, we confess, is the mystery of our faith: Jesus died. Jesus died.

Jesus rose! Jesus rose!

Jesus will come again! Jesus will come again!

I believe in the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life + everlasting.

Come quickly, Lord Jesus. Amen.



Text and tune: Public domain

The Sermon

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: 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.

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. In the communion of all Your saints gathered into the one body of Your Son, You have surrounded us with so great a cloud of witnesses that we, encouraged by their faith and strengthened by their fellowship, may run with perseverance the race that is set before us, and, together with them, receive the crown of glory that does not fade away. Therefore with angels and archangels and 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 LORD God of Sabaoth; Heav'n and earth are full of Your glory.

Hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is He, blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

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 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. <

The Te Deum Laudamus – We Praise You, O God

DISTRIBUTION HYMN - TUNE & TEXT: TLH 56. ALT.

- 1 Jesus came, the heav'ns adoring, Came in peace from realms on high, Came in flesh for our redemption, Lowly came to earth to die. Alleluia! Alleluia! Came in deep humility.
- 2 Jesus came from death triumphant, Mighty, brilliant as the morn To the house where, hid in darkness, His disciples sat forlorn. Alleluia! Alleluia!
- Jesus came and joy was born.
- 3 Jesus comes by Word and Water, In and under Bread and Wine! Jesus comes, the Host and Banquet, Gladly calling, "Come and dine!" Alleluia! Alleluia! I am His and He is mine.
- 4 He shall come in clouds of glory; We shall see Him with our eyes. He shall come, the Judge and Bridegroom; We in flesh, like Him, shall rise. Alleluia! Alleluia! Singing through the shouting skies!

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DISTRIBUTION HYMN - TUNE & TEXT: LSB 578

- 1 Thy strong word did cleave the darkness; at Thy speaking it was done. For created light we thank Thee, while Thine ordered seasons run. Alleluia, alleluia! Praise to Thee who light dost send!

 Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia without end!
- 2 Lo, on those who dwelt in darkness, dark as night and deep as death, Broke the light of Thy salvation, breathed Thine own life-breathing breath. Alleluia, alleluia! Praise to Thee who light dost send!

Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia without end!

- 3 Thy strong Word bespeaks us righteous; bright with Thine own holiness, Glorious now, we press toward glory, and our lives our hopes confess. Alleluia, alleluia! Praise to Thee who light dost send!

 Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia without end!
- 4 From the cross Thy wisdom shining breaketh forth in conqu'ring might; From the cross forever beameth all Thy bright redeeming light.
 Alleluia, alleluia! Praise to Thee who light dost send!
 Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia without end!
- 5 Give us lips to sing Thy glory, tongues Thy mercy to proclaim,
 Throats that shout the hope that fills us, mouths to speak Thy holy name.
 Alleluia, alleluia! May the light which Thou dost send
 Fill our songs with alleluias, Alleluias without end!
- △ 6 God the Father, light-creator, to Thee laud and honor be.
 To Thee, Light of Light begotten, praise be sung eternally.
 Holy Spirit, light-revealer, glory, glory be to Thee.
 Mortals, angels, now and ever praise the holy Trinity!

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THE POST-COMMUNION HYMN - TUNE & TEXT: LSB 680

- 1 Thine the amen Thine the praise
 Alleluias angels raise
 Thine the everlasting head
 Thine the breaking of the bread
 Thine the glory Thine the story
 Thine the harvest then the cup
 Thine the vineyard then the cup
 Is lifted up lifted up.
- 2 Thine the life eternally
 Thine the promise let there be
 Thine the vision Thine the tree
 All the earth on bended knee
 Gone the nailing gone the railing
 Gone the pleading gone the cry
 Gone the sighing gone the dying
 What was loss lifted high.
- 3 Thine the truly Thine the yes
 Thine the table we the guest
 Thine the mercy all from Thee
 Thine the glory yet to be
 Then the ringing and the singing
 Then the end of all the war
 Thine the living Thine the loving
 Evermore evermore.
- 4 Thine the kingdom Thine the prize
 Thine the wonder full surprise
 Thine the banquet then the praise
 Then the justice of Thy ways
 Thine the glory Thine the story
 Then the welcome to the least
 Then the wonder all increasing
 At Thy feast at Thy feast.

5 Thine the glory in the night no more dying only light
Thine the river Thine the tree then the Lamb eternally
Then the holy holy celebration jubilee
Thine the splendor Thine the brightness only Thee only Thee.

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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 Christ, our Life, our Lord, our Love, we thank You for coming to us veiled in bread and wine. Let what our bodies have received produce faith and love in our souls, that You may be pleased with us when You come unveiled to judge us, and never to leave us again.

Come quickly, Lord Jesus. Amen.

THE SALUTATION

2 Timothy 4:22

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

[Psalm 103:1]

THE BENEDICAMUS

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.

HYMN TO DEPART - TUNE & TEXT: LSB 805, SUNG A CAPPELLA

△ 1 Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
 Praise Him, all creatures here below;
 Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host:
 Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

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Note on the Last Sunday of the Church Year

also called Christ the King Sunday or The Sunday of the Second Coming

Yes, we Christians even have our own calendar! It starts on the First Sunday in Advent and goes through the Last Sunday of the Church Year, which is today.

The first half of the Church year, from Advent through Pentecost, we call "the Lord's half-year" because it's all about what Jesus *did*: from His first coming to Bethlehem to His pouring out the Lord Holy Spirit from heaven. It's all about how He was born for us on Christmas, how He shone out here in Epiphany, how He suffered for us in Lent, how He died for us on Good Friday, how He rose again for us on Easter, then ascended into heaven as one of us, and finally poured out the wind and fire of the Spirit on His apostles for our sake. We spend an entire half-year studying and celebrating what Jesus Christ did for us once and for all, and we do it every year because we'll never get done with how much He *did*.

The second half of the Church year, from Trinity Sunday through today, we call "the Church's half-year" because it's all about what Jesus *does* right now in the world in everybody who receives Him. It's all about how He opens God to us and opens us to God and takes us in, that is, from the time He baptizes each of us and, through the Holy Spirit, gives us faith to receive all the forgiveness and eternal life He won and accomplished for us once and for all. It's all about receiving His grace now and growing in grace now and spreading His grace now and sharing in the life of Jesus now. We spend an entire half year studying and celebrating what Jesus Christ *does* in us, and we do it every year because we'll never get done with how much He still *does*.

And so it goes, Church year after Church year, round and round. You might think we were just going in circles, but then comes today, when we celebrate not just the last day of the Church Year but *the* Last Day of the world.

Because the truth is that we'll go round and round and round and round and then . . . we'll fly off suddenly into splendor when Jesus comes again. He'll end this whole creation and the whole new creation will start. Christians who've died will come from heaven with Him and rise from their graves alive and well, and we who are still alive will be caught up together with them to meet the Lord, to pass through the judgment safe with Him and then to enter, body and soul, what no one has ever seen or heard or imagined. Everything He did for us, once for all, and everything He does in us now—it's all for this. It's all for the moment when we see with our own eyes Christ the King—already reigning—and start the life we were made for. Everything Jesus did and everything He does—the Sunday of the Second Coming shouts what He did and does it all for.

Christ the King Sunday reminds us that things don't just go on and on. They stop. And then they start. The Last Sunday of the Church Year is practice for the Last Day of earth. It's a wedding rehearsal, one which could very well be interrupted by a trumpet blast and the Beginning of All Things New.

"But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared . . . "
Titus 3:4

written by Pastor R. M. Hintze; revised 2015 by Pastor Peter Gregory

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	Daniel 4:1-37	Revelation 21:1-8
M	Daniel 5:1-30	Revelation 21:9-27
Tu	Daniel 6:1-28	Revelation 22:1-21
W	Isaiah 1:1–28	1 Peter 1:1-21
Th	Isaiah 2:1–22	1 Peter 1:13-25
F	Isaiah 5:1-25	1 Peter 2:1–12
Sa	Isaiah 6:1-7:9	1 Peter 2:13–25

Christ's Return for Judgment

Our churches teach that at the end of the world Christ will appear for judgment and will raise all the dead. He will give the godly and elect eternal life and everlasting joys, but He will condemn the ungodly people and the devils to be tormented without end.

They condemn the Anabaptists, who think that there will be an end to the punishments of condemned men and devils. They also condemn those who are spreading certain [false] opinions, that before the resurrection of the dead the godly shall take possession of the kingdom of the world, the ungodly being everywhere suppressed.

The Augsburg Confession, Article XVII

Hymn

The hymn stanza may be sung or spoken.

Yea, amen, let all adore Thee,
High on Thine eternal throne;
Savior, take the pow'r and glory,
Claim the kingdom as Thine own.
Alleluia, alleluia!

Thou shalt reign, and Thou alone! LSB 336:4

Verse for Meditation

I AM the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end. *Revelation* 22:13

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
- The 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

Lord Jesus Christ, so govern our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that, ever mindful of Your glorious return, we may persevere in both faith and holiness of living; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Readings for the First Sunday in Advent, Dec. 1 Jeremiah 33:14–16; Psalms 25:1–10 (v. 6) & 24 (v. 7); 1 Thessalonians 3:9–13; Luke 19:28–40