

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

December 8, AD 2024

office@oursaviorlcms.com  
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

Celebrant & Preacher	The Rev. Peter Gregory
Liturgist	Ray Arsenault
Organist	Anne Bennet
Acolytes	Riley Albert, Andrew Gull

## Advent Note

During Advent, the Divine Service changes. We use a different confession of sin. The Gloria in Excelsis (first sung by the angels to the shepherds when Jesus was born) waits for Christmas. Hymn stanzas replace the Sanctus and Nunc Dimittis. The liturgy for Holy Communion is shorter. These changes mark this as a season of repentant joy in preparation for the glorious celebration of our Lord's birth beginning on Christmas Eve.

## Prayers for Worship

*For Jesus to come to us and bless us:* O dear God, heavenly Father, give prosperity and salvation to the Son of David, Your dear Son Christ Jesus, and to His kingdom. Let Him also come to us in Your name, that we also may be blessed. Amen.

## Preparation for Confession

The Third Commandment: Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. *What does this mean?* We should fear and love God so that we do not despise preaching and His Word, but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it.

*Questions for self-examination*

- What is my attitude toward worship?
- Do I strive to make the day of rest holy?
- Do I care about holy living?

## Cover Illustration

*St. John the Baptist*

by Hans Holbein the Younger (1519–1520).

THE OPENING HYMN—TUNE: TLH 66 & TEXT: LSB 349

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|--|--|
| <p><b>1 Hark the glad sound! The Savior comes,<br/>The Savior promised long;<br/>Let ev'ry heart prepare a throne<br/>And ev'ry voice a song.</b></p> <p><b>2 He comes the pris'ners to release,<br/>In Satan's bondage held.<br/>The gates of brass before Him burst,<br/>The iron fetters yield.</b></p> | <p><b>3 He comes the broken heart to bind,<br/>The bleeding soul to cure,<br/>And with the treasures of His grace<br/>To enrich the humble poor.</b></p> <p><b>4 Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,<br/>Thy welcome shall proclaim,<br/>And heav'n's eternal arches ring<br/>With Thy belovèd name.</b></p> |
|--|--|

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*Liturgy for the confession of sin is spoken.*

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 to the Lord,  
**and You forgave the guilt of my sin.***

Psalm 32:5

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and self-examination.*

*Almighty God, our Maker and our Redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

**O most merciful God, who has given Your only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us, and for His sake grant us remission of 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 by Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

*The Declaration of Grace*

Mark 16:16; John 1:12

**Amen.**

*The voice of one crying in the wilderness:*

**“Prepare the way of the Lord, make His paths straight.**

*Hear, O my people, while I admonish you!*

**O Israel, if you would but listen to Me!**

*I am the Lord your God, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt.*

**Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it.**

*But My people did not listen to My voice;*

**Israel would not submit to Me.**

*Oh, that my people would listen to me,*

**that Israel would walk in My ways!**

Sung liturgy

## 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 SALUTATION

2 Timothy 4:22

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

## THE COLLECT

*Let us pray.*

*> Silence for personal prayers. <*

*Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, 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: Malachi 3:1–7b*

*After the reading:*

*This is the word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

*We went through fire and through water; yet You have brought us out to a place of abundance.*

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

**Say to God, “How awesome are Your deeds!**

**So great is Your power that Your enemies come cringing to You.**

*All the earth worships You and sings praises to You; they sing praises to Your name.”*

**Come and see what God has done:**

**He is awesome in His deeds toward the children of man.**

*He turned the sea into dry land; they passed through the river on foot.*

**There did we rejoice in Him, who rules by His might forever,**

**whose eyes keep watch on the nations—let not the rebellious exalt themselves.**

*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.**

*For You, O God, have tested us; You have tried us as silver is tried.*

**You brought us into the net; You laid a crushing burden on our backs;**

*You let men ride over our heads; we went through fire and through water;*

*yet You have brought us out to a place of abundance.*

**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.**

*We went through fire and through water; yet You have brought us out to a place of abundance.*

*from the Letters: Philippians 1:2–11*

*After the reading:*

*This is the word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

HALLELUJAH AND VERSE

Luke 3:4b, 6

*Hallelujah! Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight;*

**all flesh shall see the salvation of God. Hallelujah!**

*from the Holy Gospel: Luke 3:1–20*

**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.**

HYMN OF THE DAY – TUNE: TLH 63 & TEXT: LSB 344, STANZAS 1–4

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|---|--|
| <p><b>1 On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry<br/>Announces that the Lord is nigh;<br/>Awake and hearken, for he brings<br/>Glad tidings of the King of kings!</b></p> <p><b>2 Then cleansed be ev'ry life from sin;<br/>Make straight the way for God within,<br/>And let us all our hearts prepare<br/>For Christ to come and enter there.</b></p> | <p><b>3 We hail Thee as our Savior, Lord,<br/>Our refuge and our great reward;<br/>Without Thy grace we waste away<br/>Like flow'rs that wither and decay.</b></p> <p><b>4 Lay on the sick Thy healing hand<br/>And make the fallen strong to stand;<br/>Show us the glory of Thy face<br/>Till beauty springs in ev'ry place.</b></p> |
|---|--|

## *The Sermon*

*Luke 3:1–20*

THE OFFERTORY HYMN – TUNE: TLH 63 & TEXT: LSB 344, STANZA 5

- △ **5 All praise, eternal Son, to Thee  
Whose advent sets Thy people free,  
Whom with the Father we adore  
And Holy Spirit evermore.**

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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:*

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

THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

*Blessed are 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. In Your boundless mercy You sent Your servant, John the Baptist, to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of heaven draws near. With thankful hearts we pray, "Come, Lord Jesus," confident that in His body and blood, given us to eat and drink, we receive the forgiveness of sins and so proclaim His death until He comes again in glory. Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:*

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.**

CONSECRATION HYMN—TUNE: 62 & TEXT: LSB 357, STANZAS 2 & 3

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|--|--|
| <p><b>1 O come, Thou Wisdom from on high,<br/>Who ord'rest all things mightily;<br/>To us the path of knowledge show,<br/>And teach us in her ways to go.<br/>Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel<br/>Shall come to thee, O Israel!</b></p> | <p><b>2 O come, O come, Thou Lord of might,<br/>Who to Thy tribes on Sinai's height<br/>In ancient times didst give the Law<br/>In cloud and majesty and awe.<br/>Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel<br/>Shall come to thee, O Israel!</b></p> |
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## *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 25:11–22 (antiphon: v. 22)*

*DISTRIBUTION HYMN – TUNE: LW 28 & TEXT: LSB 347*

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <p><b>1</b> “Comfort, comfort ye My people,<br/>Speak ye peace,” thus saith our God;<br/>“Comfort those who sit in darkness,<br/>Mourning ‘neath their sorrows’ load.<br/>Speak ye to Jerusalem<br/>Of the peace that waits for them;<br/>Tell her that her sins I cover<br/>And her warfare now is over.”</p> <p><b>2</b> Yea, her sins our God will pardon,<br/>Blotting out each dark misdeed;<br/>All that well deserved His anger<br/>He no more will see or heed.<br/>She hath suffered many’ a day,<br/>Now her griefs have passed away;<br/>God will change her pining sadness<br/>Into ever-springing gladness.</p> | <p><b>3</b> Hark, the herald’s voice is crying<br/>In the desert far and near,<br/>Calling sinners to repentance,<br/>Since the Kingdom now is here.<br/>O that warning cry obey!<br/>Now prepare for God a way;<br/>Let the valleys rise to meet Him<br/>And the hills bow down to greet Him.</p> <p><b>4</b> Make ye straight what long was crooked;<br/>Make the rougher places plain.<br/>Let your hearts be true and humble,<br/>As befits His holy reign.<br/>For the glory of the Lord<br/>Now o’er earth is shed abroad,<br/>And all flesh shall see the token<br/>That His Word is never broken.</p> |
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*DISTRIBUTION HYMN – TUNE & TEXT: TLH 70*

*This hymn can also be sung from The Lutheran Hymnal #70.*

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p><b>1</b> Hosanna to the Living Lord!<br/>Hosanna to th’incarnate Word!<br/>To Christ, Creator, Savior, King,<br/>Let earth, let heav’n, hosanna sing.</p> <p><b>2</b> O Savior, with protecting care,<br/>Abide in this Thy house of prayer,<br/>Where we Thy parting promise claim,<br/>Assembled in Thy sacred name.</p> | <p><b>3</b> But, chiefest, in our cleansed breast,<br/>Eternal, have Thy Spirit rest<br/>And make our secret soul to be<br/>A temple pure and worthy Thee.</p> <p><b>4</b> So in the last and dreadful Day,<br/>When earth and heav’n shall melt away,<br/>Thy flock, redeemed from sinful stain,<br/>Shall swell the sound of praise again.</p> |
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This hymn is a versification of the Benedictus (Luke 1:68-79), the Song of Zechariah, father of John the Baptist.



1 Sing praise to the God of Is - ra - el! Sing praise for His  
 2 God spoke by the proph - ets long a - go, His prom - ise on  
 3 You, child, will go on be - fore the Lord As proph - et, His  
 4 O bright, ris - ing Sun, now shine on us In need of il -



vis - i - ta - tion! Re - deem - ing His peo - ple from their sin,  
 oath re - call - ing— To A - bra - ham made in for - mer years:  
 way pre - par - ing; To speak on be - half of God Most High,  
 lu - mi - na - tion; Come scat - ter the shades of sin and death



Ac - com - plish - ing their sal - va - tion, Up - rais - ing a  
 Of van - quish - ing foes ap - pall - ing, That those He de -  
 His coun - sel of truth de - clar - ing: Rich mer - cy and  
 And shat - ter their dom - i - na - tion. Be guid - ing our



might - y horn with - in The house of His ser - vant Da - vid!  
 liv - ered from their fears Might glad - ly and tru - ly serve Him.  
 grace for all where - by In - iq - ui - ty is for - giv - en.  
 foot - steps on the path Of peace, in Your pres - ence dawn - ing!

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THE POST-COMMUNION HYMN - TUNE: TLH 58 & TEXT: LSB 334, STANZAS 4, 6

**1 Love caused Your incarnation;  
 Love brought You down to me.  
 Your thirst for my salvation  
 Procured my liberty.  
 Oh, love beyond all telling,  
 That led You to embrace  
 In love, all love excelling,  
 Our lost and fallen race.**

**2 He comes to judge the nations,  
 A terror to His foes,  
 A light of consolations  
 And blessed hope to those  
 Who love the Lord's appearing.  
 O glorious Sun, now come,  
 Send forth Your beams so cheering,  
 And guide us safely home.**

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*Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good,  
and His mercy endures forever.*

## THE THANKSGIVING COLLECT

*Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You 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.*

## HYMN TO DEPART – TUNE: TLH 46 &amp; TEXT: LSB 921, STAZNAS 1 &amp; 3

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| <p><b>1</b> On what has now been sown<br/>Thy blessing, Lord, bestow;<br/>The pow’r is Thine alone<br/>To make it sprout and grow.<br/>Do Thou in grace the harvest raise,<br/>And Thou alone shalt have the praise!</p> | <p><b>2</b> O grant that each of us,<br/>Now met before Thee here,<br/>May meet together thus<br/>When Thou and Thine appear<br/>And follow Thee to heav’n, our home.<br/>E’en so, amen, Lord Jesus, come!</p> |
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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.*

	Morning Prayer	Evening Prayer
Su	Isaiah 24:14–25:12	1 John 2:15–29
M	Isaiah 26:1–19	1 John 3:1–24
Tu	Isaiah 26:20–27:13	1 John 4:1–21
W	Isaiah 28:14–29	1 John 5:1–21
Th	Isaiah 29:1–14	Jude 1–25
F	Isaiah 29:15–30:14	Revelation 1:1–20
Sa	Isaiah 30:15–26	Revelation 2:1–29

### The Lord's Prayer

*As the head of the family should teach it to his household.*

*What is the Lord's Prayer?* [see p. 5 of the bulletin]

*From the Large Catechism:* We have heard what we are to do [the Ten Commandments] and believe [the Apostles' Creed]. The best and most blessed life consists of these things. Now follows the third part, how we are to pray. Mankind is in such a situation that no one can keep the Ten Commandments perfectly, even though he has begun to believe. Besides, the devil, along with the world and our flesh, resists our efforts with all his power. Therefore nothing is so necessary as to call upon God continually and drum into His ears our prayer that He may give, preserve, and increase in us faith and obedience to the Ten Commandments and remove all that stands in our way and hinders us from fulfilling them. That we may know what and how to pray, our Lord Christ Himself has taught us both the way and the words.

Luther's Small Catechism © 1986 Concordia Publishing House, cph.org; LC III.1–3

### Hymn

*The hymn stanza may be sung or spoken.*

All praise, eternal Son, to Thee  
Whose advent sets Thy people free,  
Whom with the Father we adore  
And Holy Spirit evermore.

LSB 344:5

### 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 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

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

### Readings for the Third Sunday in Advent,

### Gaudete Sunday, December 15

Zephaniah 3:14–20; Psalm 85 (v. 5) & Isaiah 40:1–8;  
Philippians 4:4–7; Luke 7:18–35