

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 22, 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
Liturgist
Organist
Acolytes

The Rev. Peter Gregory
Tim Terhune
Anne Bennet
Andrew Gull, Jack Gould

Prayers for Worship

To Jesus: O Jesus, You have come in human flesh for my benefit. You have come into the world for my sake. Come to me and dwell in my heart! Sanctify my heart wholly and prepare it for Yourself so that it may become Your dwelling place. Strengthen my faith, and fill me with Your love, that I may choose You above the world and its pleasures. Amen.

Before communion: Father, as Your Son comes to us in the body and blood that He took up in the womb of the Virgin Mary, renew us in our life in Him. Let this gift of Your love, that He makes present on the altar and places in our mouths and our hearts, strengthen our faith and deepen our love. Amen.

After communion: Lord, now let your servant depart in peace according to Your word, for my eyes have seen Your salvation. 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

- Do I honor the Word of God highly by studying it gladly, learning it by heart, and living it?
- Do I despise the Word of God by neglect, paying no attention to it when it is read or preached?

Cover Illustration

*Benedicta tu inter mulieres et benedictus fructus ventris
after Raphael (c. 1500–1600).*

THE OPENING HYMN—TUNE: TLH 647 & TEXT: LSB 361

1 O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.

2 For Christ is born of Mary,
And, gathered all above
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together
Proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the king
And peace to all the earth!

3 How silently, how silently
The wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of His heav'n.
No ear may hear His coming;
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him, still
The dear Christ enters in.

4 O holy Child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in,
Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Immanuel!

Text: 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.

Liturgy for the
confession of sin
is spoken.

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 INTROIT

Luke 1:46b-47; 1 Samuel 2:1b, 2, 5b-7

My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

My mouth derides my enemies,
because I rejoice in Your salvation.

There is none holy like the LORD;
there is none besides You; there is no rock like our God.

The barren has borne seven,
but she who has many children is forlorn.

The LORD kills and brings to life;
He brings down to Sheol and raises up.

The LORD makes poor and makes rich;
He brings low and he exalts.

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 Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; 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: Micah 5:2–5a

After the reading:

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE PSALM

Psalm 80:1–7; antiphon v. 7

Restore us, O God of hosts; let Your face shine, that we may be saved!

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, You who lead Joseph like a flock!

You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth.

Before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh, stir up Your might and come to save us!

Restore us, O God; let Your face shine, that we may be saved!

O LORD God of hosts, how long will You be angry with Your people's prayers?

You have fed them with the bread of tears and given them tears to drink in full measure.

**You make us an object of contention for our neighbors,
and our enemies laugh among themselves.**

Restore us, O God of hosts; let Your face shine, that we may be saved!

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.

Restore us, O God of hosts; let Your face shine, that we may be saved!

from the Letters: Hebrews 10:5–10

After the reading:

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

HALLELUJAH AND VERSE

Matthew 1:23a

Hallelujah! Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son,

and they shall call His name Immanuel. Hallelujah!

from the Holy Gospel: Luke 1:39–56

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 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 62 & TEXT: LSB 357, STANZAS 1–5

**1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear**

Refrain **Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!**

**2 O come, Thou Wisdom from on high,
Who ord'rest all things mightily;
To us the path of knowledge show,
And teach us in her ways to go. *Refrain***

Text: Public domain

**3 O come, O come, Thou Lord of might,
Who to Thy tribes on Sinai's height
In ancient times didst give the Law
In cloud and majesty and awe. *Refrain***

**4 O come, Thou Branch of Jesse's tree,
Free them from Satan's tyranny
That trust Thy mighty pow'r to save,
And give them vict'ry o'er the grave.
*Refrain***

**5 O come, Thou Key of David, come,
And open wide our heav'nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery. *Refrain***

The Sermon

Luke 1:39–56

THE OFFERTORY HYMN – TUNE: TLH 62 & TEXT: LSB 357, STANZAS 6–7

**6 O come, Thou Dayspring from on high,
And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!**

**7 O come, Desire of nations, bind
In one the hearts of all mankind;
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease,
And be Thyself our King of Peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!**

Text: Public domain

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: TLH 95 & TEXT: LSB 332, STANZAS 1–3, 7

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 Savior of the nations, come,
Virgin's Son, make here Your home!
Marvel now, O heav'n and earth,
That the Lord chose such a birth. | 3 Here a maid was found with child,
Yet remained a virgin mild.
In her womb this truth was shown:
God was there upon His throne. |
| 2 Not by human flesh and blood,
By the Spirit of our God,
Was the Word of God made flesh—
Woman's offspring, pure and fresh. | 4 From the manger newborn light
Shines in glory through the night.
Darkness there no more resides;
In this light faith now abides. |

Text (sts. 1–2): Public domain. Text (sts. 3, 7): © 2006 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110002389

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 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 111 (antiphon v. 9)

DISTRIBUTION HYMN – TUNE & TEXT: TLH 76

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1 A great and mighty wonder,
A full and holy cure:
The virgin bears the Infant
With virgin honor pure!
Repeat the hymn again:
"To God on high be glory
And peace on earth to men!"</p> | <p>3 While thus they sing your Monarch,
Those bright angelic bands,
Rejoice, O vales and mountains,
Ye oceans, clap your hands. .
Repeat the hymn again:
"To God on high be glory
And peace on earth to men!"</p> |
| <p>2 The Word becomes incarnate
And yet remains on high,
And cherubim sing anthems
To shepherds from the sky.
Repeat the hymn again:
"To God on high be glory
And peace on earth to men!"</p> | <p>4 Since all He comes to ransom,
By all be He adored,
The Infant born in Bethl'em,
The Savior and the Lord. .
Repeat the hymn again:
"To God on high be glory
And peace on earth to men!"</p> |
| <p>5 All idols forms shall perish and error shall decay
And Christ shall wield His scepter, our Lord and God for aye.
Repeat the hymn again:
"To God on high be glory and peace on earth to men!"</p> | |

DISTRIBUTION HYMN – TUNE: TLH 85 & TEXT: RMH

- 1 What hast Thou done, Eternal God,
Descending to this tainted sod
To make Thy palace in a maid,
When Thine own hand the maiden made?
- 2 Though highest heav'ns be all too small,
She holdeth Thee who holdeth all,
To carry Thee in weakness furl'd,
That Thou may'st carry all the world.
- 3 Thou tender, unborn flesh and blood,
Thou ancient and almighty God!
What hath Thy love for sinners done?
O Love, Thy love our love hath won.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN – TUNE: TLH 68 & TEXT: RMH

- 1 O Adam's children, sing!
Arise, O fallen earth!
The Second Adam comes, the King
By low yet royal birth.
- 2 Isaiah gave the sign
For faithful souls to read:
"A virgin born of David's line
Shall bear the promised Seed."
- 3 You ask how this could be?
Oh, worship and adore
Like her whom God's own majesty
Came down to shadow o'er.
- 4 She meekly bowed her head
To hear the gracious word,
Blest Mary, the believing maid
And favored of the Lord.
- 5 And blest shall be her name
In all the Church on earth
Through whom the wondrous mercy came
Of God our Savior's birth.
- 6 O Christ, the virgin's Son,
With her we magnify
The grace that sees the lowly one
And lifts the humble high.



THE POST-COMMUNION HYMN – TUNE & TEXT: TLH 275

*This hymn paraphrases the Magnificat (Luke 1:46–56), the Song of Mary.
Because it remains under copyright, we will sing it from The Lutheran Hymnal #275 in the red pew hymnals.*

*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 98 & TEXT: LSB 384, STANZAS 1–3

- 1 **Of the Father's love begotten ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega, He the source, the ending He,
Of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see
Evermore and evermore.**
- 2 **Oh, that birth forever blessèd, when the virgin, full of grace,
By the Holy Ghost conceiving, bore the Savior of our race,
And the babe, the world's Redeemer, first revealed His sacred face
Evermore and evermore.**
- 3 **This is He whom seers in old time chanted of with one accord,
Whom the voices of the prophets promised in their faithful word.
Now He shines, the long-expected; let creation praise its Lord
Evermore and evermore.**

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 43:1–24	Rev. 9:13–10:11
M	Isaiah 43:25–44:20	Revelation 11:1–19
Tu	Isa. 44:21–45:13, 20–25	Revelation 12:1–17
W	Isaiah 49:1–18	Matthew 1:1–17
Th	Isa. 49:22–26; 50:4–51:8, 12–16	Matthew 1:18–25
F	Isaiah 51:17–52:12	Matthew 2:1–12
Sa	Isaiah 52:13–54:10	Matthew 2:13–23

On the Incarnation

Incarnate means "in the flesh."

*This word confesses that our Lord Jesus Christ took on
human flesh for us and for our salvation.*

We believe, teach, and confess that now, since the incarnation, each nature in Christ does not exist by itself. . . . These two natures [divine and human] are so united that they make up one single person, in which the divine and the received human nature are and exist at the same time. So now, since the incarnation, there belongs to the entire person of Christ personally not only His divine nature, but also His received human nature. So without His divinity, and also without His humanity, the person of Christ or the incarnate Son of God is not complete. We meant the Son of God who has received flesh and become man. Therefore, Christ is not two distinct persons, but one single person, even though two distinct natures are found in Him, unconfused in their natural essence and properties.

The Solid Declaration of the Formula of Concord
Article VIII. The Person of Christ, paragraph 11.

Hymn

The hymn stanza may be sung or spoken.

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel! LSB 357:1

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 Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Readings for the Nativity of Our Lord, Dec. 25
Isaiah 52:7–10; Ps. 2; Hebrews 1:1–12; John 1:1–18

Readings for the First Sun. aft. Christmas, Dec. 29
Exod. 13:1–15; Pss. 111 & 72; Col. 3:12–17; Lk 2:22–40