

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 29, 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

Celebrant & Preacher	The Rev. Peter Gregory
Liturgist	Jeremy Henrikson
Organist	Mary Gregory
Crucifer	Lars Henrikson
Acolytes	Lazarus Gregory, Riley Albert

## Prayers for Worship

*For the Presentation in the Temple:* Almighty and ever-living God, as Your only-begotten Son was this day presented in the temple in the substance of our flesh, grant that we may be presented to You with pure and clean hearts; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

*Before communion:* Lord Jesus Christ, You are the bread of life. Grant us eternal life in Your body and blood and raise us up on the Last Day. Amen.

*After communion:* My eyes have seen your salvation, O Lord; a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel. Amen.

## Preparation for Confession

The Fourth Commandment: Honor your father and your mother. *What does this mean?* We should fear and love God so that we do not despise or anger our parents and other authorities, but honor them, serve and obey them, love and cherish them.

*Questions for self-examination*

- What is my attitude toward authority?
- Has the fear and love of God shaped my honor and obedience to parents and others in authority over me?
- Do I pray for parents, leaders of the nations, schools, and church?
- Do I grumble about work given me to do?

## Cover Illustration

*Presentation of Christ in the Temple by Fra Bartolomeo.*

> If able, please stand and face the processional crucifix. <

THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN – TUNE & TEXT: LSB 389, STANZAS 1, 3–7



1 Let all to - geth - er praise our God Be - fore His  
3 With - in an earth - born form He hides His all - cre -  
4 He un - der - takes a great ex - change, Puts on our  
5 He is a ser - vant, I a lord: How great a



glo - rious throne; To - day He o - pens heav'n a - gain To  
at - ing light; To serve us all He hum - bly cloaks The  
hu - man frame, And in re - turn gives us His realm, His  
mys - ter - y! How strong the ten - der Christ Child's love! No



give us His own Son, To give us His own Son.  
splen - dor of His might, The splen - dor of His might.  
glo - ry, and His name, His glo - ry, and His name.  
tru - er friend than He, No tru - er friend than He.

6 He is the key and He the door  
To blessèd paradise;  
The angel bars the way no more.  
To God our praises rise,  
To God our praises rise.

△ 7 Your grace in lowliness revealed,  
Lord Jesus, we adore  
And praise to God the Father yield  
And Spirit evermore;  
We praise You evermore.

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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 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. <

**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

Isaiah 52:10; Psalm 98:1–4

*The LORD has bared His holy arm before the eyes of all the nations,*  
**and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.**

*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!**

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.**

> Silence for personal prayers. <

THE COLLECT

*Let us pray. O God, our Maker and Redeemer, You wonderfully created us and in the incarnation of Your Son yet more wondrously restored our human nature. Grant that we may ever be alive in Him who made Himself to be like us; through 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: Exodus 13:1–3a, 11–15*

*After the reading:*

*This is the word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

THE PSALM

Psalm 111; antiphon v. 9a, b

*He sent redemption to His people; He has commanded His covenant forever.*

*Praise the LORD! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart,  
in the company of the upright, in the congregation.*

**Great are the works of the LORD, studied by all who delight in them.**

*Full of splendor and majesty is His work, and His righteousness endures forever.*

**He has caused His wondrous works to be remembered; the LORD is gracious and merciful.**

*He provides food for those who fear Him; He remembers His covenant forever.*

**He has shown His people the power of His works, in giving them the inheritance of the nations.**

*The works of His hands are faithful and just; all His precepts are trustworthy;*

**they are established forever and ever, to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.**

*He sent redemption to His people; He has commanded His covenant forever.*

*Holy and awesome is His name!*

**The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;**

**all those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever!**

**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.**

*He sent redemption to His people; He has commanded His covenant forever.*

*from the Letters: Colossians 3:12–17*

*After the reading:*

*This is the word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

THE TRIPLE HALLELUJAH

*> Stand and face the crucifix as it enters the nave. The reading of the Gospel in the midst of the congregation is a visual reminder that "the Word became flesh and dwelt among us" (John 1:14). <*

**Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!**

*from the Holy Gospel: Luke 2:22–40*

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

*After the reading:*

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

THE NICENE CREED

*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.**

- 1 O Jesus Christ, Your manger is  
My Paradise of peace beyond all knowing.  
For there, O Lord, there lies the Word  
Made flesh for us, with love and mercy  
glowing.
- 2 He whom the sea and wind obey  
Comes here to serve us sinners in such  
meekness!  
You, God's own Son, with us are one.  
You join us and our children in our weakness.
- 3 Your light and grace our guilt erase,  
Your heav'nly riches all we lost retrieving.  
Immanuel, Your birth will quell  
The pow'r of Hell and Satan's gross  
deceiving.
- 4 O Christian true, no matter who,  
Come, rest in gladness; let no sorrow move you.  
For God's own Child in mercy mild  
Joins you to Him. How greatly God must  
love you!
- 5 What, then, is pain, since Him I gain?  
The world can keep its comfort, praise, and pleasure.  
Not pow'r or gold, but Christ I hold,  
My first, my last, my everlasting Treasure.

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## The Sermon

*Colossians 3:12–17*

OFFERTORY HYMN – TUNE & TEXT: LSB 519

- 1 In His temple now behold Him,  
See the long-expected Lord;  
Ancient prophets had foretold Him,  
God has now fulfilled His word.  
Now to praise Him, His redeemed  
Shall break forth with one accord.
- 2 In the arms of her who bore Him,  
Virgin pure, behold Him lie  
While His aged saints adore Him  
Ere in perfect faith they die.  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Lo, th'incarnate God Most High!
- 3 Jesus, by Your presentation,  
When they blessed You, weak and poor,  
Make us see Your great salvation,  
Seal us with Your promise sure;  
And present us in Your glory  
To Your Father, cleansed and pure.

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### *The Presentation of the Offering*

*I will offer the thanksgiving sacrifice and call on the name of the LORD.*

**O LORD, my strength, I love You.**

*Psalms 116:17; 18:1*

## ***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, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for in the mystery of the Word made flesh You have given us a new revelation of Your glory that, seeing You in the person of Your Son, we may know and love those things which are not seen. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify Your glorious name, forever 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.**

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.**

## **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.**



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.

## Christmas Communion

*The coming of Christ in the flesh at Bethlehem was a concrete outward act of God in humble means that was despised by the world. The flesh and blood coming of Christ in the sacrament is also a concrete outward act of God in humble means that can be despised. Rather than despise it, however, God would have us delight in it!*

*With deep thankfulness for His gifts to us here we also express our deep desire to celebrate it according to God's will. Since this includes oneness in the faith we confess (doctrine), guests who desire to commune are asked to speak with pastor first. Anyone is welcome to come forward with arms crossed to receive a blessing.*

*Psalm 72:1–9 (antiphon v. 18)*

*DISTRIBUTION HYMN – TUNE & TEXT: LSB 386*

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <p><b>1 Now sing we, now rejoice,<br/>         Now raise to heav'n our voice;<br/>         He from whom joy streameth<br/>         Poor in a manger lies;<br/>         Not so brightly beameth<br/>         The sun in yonder skies.<br/>         Thou my Savior art!<br/>         Thou my Savior art!</b></p> | <p><b>3 Now through His Son doth shine<br/>         The Father's grace divine.<br/>         Death was reigning o'er us<br/>         Through sin and vanity<br/>         Till He opened for us<br/>         A bright eternity.<br/>         May we praise Him there!<br/>         May we praise Him there!</b></p>               |
| <p><b>2 Come from on high to me;<br/>         I cannot rise to Thee.<br/>         Cheer my wearied spirit,<br/>         O pure and holy Child;<br/>         Through Thy grace and merit,<br/>         Blest Jesus, Lord most mild,<br/>         Draw me unto Thee!<br/>         Draw me unto Thee!</b></p>     | <p><b>4 Oh, where shall joy be found?<br/>         Where but on heav'nly ground?<br/>         Where the angels singing<br/>         With all His saints unite,<br/>         Sweetest praises bringing<br/>         In heav'nly joy and light.<br/>         Oh, that we were there!<br/>         Oh, that we were there!</b></p> |

Text: Public domain

- 1 Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King;  
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;  
With the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"  
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"
- 2 Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
Late in time behold Him come, offspring of a virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, hail th'incarnate Deity!  
Pleased as Man with man to dwell, Jesus, our Immanuel!  
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"
- 3 Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all He brings, ris'n with healing in His wings.  
Mild He lays His glory by, born that man no more may die,  
Born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth.  
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Text: Public Domain

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Angels from the realms of glory,<br/>Wing your flight o'er all the earth;<br/>Ye who sang creation's story,<br/>Now proclaim Messiah's birth. <i>Refrain</i></li> </ol> <p><i>Refrain</i> Come and worship, come and worship;<br/>Worship Christ, the newborn King.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2 Shepherds in the field abiding,<br/>Watching o'er your flocks by night,<br/>God with us is now residing,<br/>Yonder shines the Infant Light. <i>Refrain</i></li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3 Sages, leave your contemplations,<br/>Brighter visions beam afar;<br/>Seek the great Desire of nations,<br/>Ye have seen His natal star. <i>Refrain</i></li> <li>4 Saints before the altar bending,<br/>Watching long in hope and fear,<br/>Suddenly the Lord, descending,<br/>In His temple shall appear. <i>Refrain</i></li> </ol> <p>△ 5 All creation, join in praising<br/>God the Father, Spirit, Son,<br/>Evermore your voices raising<br/>To th'eternal Three in One. <i>Refrain</i></p> |
|--|--|

Text: Public domain

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.

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

## THE THANKSGIVING COLLECT

*Let us pray. Lord God, Heavenly Father, we thank and praise You for sending Your Only Son into the world that we might become Your children, and for giving us now the very body and blood born of Mary in Bethlehem to set us free from sin, death, Satan, and hell. By Your Holy Spirit, keep us to the end with our Lord Jesus, that as we rejoice with angels in His birth, we may rejoice with angels in His glory, and behold Him with You and the Spirit in the kingdom of the Triune Majesty, which has no end. 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 &amp; TEXT: LSB 387

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p><b>1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!</b><br/>Let earth receive her King;<br/>Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room<br/>And heav'n and nature sing,<br/>And heav'n and nature sing,<br/>And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing!</p>      | <p><b>3 No more let sins and sorrows grow</b><br/>Nor thorns infest the ground;<br/>He comes to make His blessings flow<br/>Far as the curse is found,<br/>Far as the curse is found,<br/>Far as, far as the curse is found.</p> |
| <p><b>2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!</b><br/>Let men their songs employ,<br/>While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains<br/>Repeat the sounding joy,<br/>Repeat the sounding joy,<br/>Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.</p> | <p><b>4 He rules the world with truth and grace</b><br/>And makes the nations prove<br/>The glories of His righteousness<br/>And wonders of His love,<br/>And wonders of His love,<br/>And wonders, wonders of His love.</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	Isaiah 55:1–13	Luke 1:1–25
M	Isaiah 58:1–59:3, 14–21	Luke 1:26–38
Tu	Isaiah 60:1–22	Luke 1:39–56
W	Isaiah 61:1–11	Luke 1:57–80
Th	Isaiah 62:1–12	Luke 2:1–20
F	Isaiah 63:1–14	Luke 2:21–40
Sa	Isaiah 63:15–65:2	Luke 2:41–52

### The Lord's Prayer

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

#### *The First Petition*

Hallowed be Thy name.

*What does this mean?* God's name is certainly holy in itself, but we pray in this petition that it may be kept holy among us also.

*From the Large Catechism:* How does [God's name] become holy among us? The plainest answer is: When both our teaching and our life are godly and Christian. Since in this prayer we call God our Father, it is our duty in every way to behave as good children so that He may receive from us not shame but honor and praise. . . . We should pray for ourselves who have the Word of God but are ungrateful for it and fail to live according to it as we ought.

Luther's Small Catechism © 1986 Concordia Publishing House, cph.org; LC III.39, 47

### Verse for Meditation

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us,  
and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son  
from the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1:14

### Hymn

*The hymn stanza may be sung or spoken.*

Saints before the altar bending,  
Watching long in hope and fear,  
Suddenly the Lord, descending,  
In His temple shall appear.  
Come and worship, come and worship;  
Worship Christ, the newborn King. LSB 367:4

### 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, our Maker and Redeemer, You wonderfully  
created us and in the incarnation of Your Son yet  
more wondrously restored our human nature. Grant  
that we may ever be alive in Him who made Himself  
to be like us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

### Readings for January 5, the Epiphany of Our Lord (Observed)

Isaiah 60:1–6; Psalm 72:  
Ephesians 3:1–12; Matthew 2:1–12