

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

January 5, AD 2025

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

Preacher & Celebrant	Pastor Peter Gregory
Liturgist	Ray Arsenault
Organist	Anne Bennet
Crucifer	Landon Vega
Acolytes	Jack Gould, Simeon Gregory

## Epiphany

Epiphany means to "reveal" or "make manifest." The season of Epiphany focuses on the revelation of who Jesus really is: true God as well as true man. He is that for all people, not just for the children of Israel, as we see in the visit of the magi from the East (Matthew 2:1–12). "For God, who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ" (2 Corinthians 4:6).

## Prayers for Worship

*For Holy Communion:* Grant us, gracious Lord, so to eat the body of Thy dear son Jesus Christ, and to drink His blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by His body, and our souls washed by His most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in Him, and He in us. 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?
- Have I helped make it easier for those who carry responsibilities for governing?

## Cover Illustration

Mosaic of the Adoration of the Magi (19th century) from Our Lady of the Assumption and St. Gregory, The Lady Chapel, Warwick Street Parish in London.

THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN – TUNE & TXT: LSB 376

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|--|---|
| <p><b>1</b> Once in royal David's city<br/>    Stood a lowly cattle shed,<br/>Where a mother laid her baby<br/>    In a manger for His bed:<br/>Mary was that mother mild,<br/>Jesus Christ her little child.</p> <p><b>2</b> He came down to earth from heaven,<br/>    Who is God and Lord of all,<br/>And His shelter was a stable,<br/>    And His cradle was a stall;<br/>With the poor and mean and lowly<br/>Lived on earth our Savior holy.</p> <p><b>5</b> Not in that poor, lowly stable with the oxen standing by<br/>    Shall we see Him, but in heaven, set at God's right hand on high.<br/>Then like stars His children, crowned, all in white, His praise will sound!</p> | <p><b>3</b> For He is our childhood's pattern,<br/>    Day by day like us He grew;<br/>He was little, weak, and helpless,<br/>    Tears and smiles like us He knew;<br/>And He feels for all our sadness,<br/>And He shares in all our gladness.</p> <p><b>4</b> And our eyes at last shall see Him,<br/>    Through His own redeeming love;<br/>For that child so dear and gentle<br/>    Is our Lord in heav'n above;<br/>And He leads His children on<br/>To the place where He is gone.</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 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 unto the Lord,  
and You forgave the guilt of my sin.*

Psalm 32:5

**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

Psalm 45:17, 6–8a

*I will cause Your name to be remembered in all generations;*  
**therefore nations will praise You forever and ever.**

*Your throne, O God, is forever and ever. The scepter of Your kingdom is a scepter of uprightness;*  
**You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness.**

*Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You with the oil of gladness beyond Your companions;*  
**Your robes are all fragrant with myrrh and aloes and cassia.**

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.**

Let us pray.

> Silence for personal prayers. <

O God, by the leading of a star You made known Your only-begotten Son to the Gentiles. Lead us, who know You by faith, to enjoy in heaven the fullness of Your divine presence; 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: Isaiah 59:19–60:6*

*After the reading:*

*This is the Word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

THE PSALM

*Psalm 72:1–11; antiphon v. 18*

*Blesséd be the LORD, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things.*

*Give the King Your justice, O God, and Your righteousness to the royal Son!*

**May He judge Your people with righteousness, and Your poor with justice!**

*Let the mountains bear prosperity for the people, and the hills, in righteousness!*

**May He defend the cause of the poor of the people,**

**give deliverance to the children of the needy, and crush the oppressor!**

*May they fear You while the sun endures, and as long as the moon, throughout all generations!*

**May He be like rain that falls on the mown grass, like showers that water the earth!**

*In His days may the righteous flourish, and peace abound, till the moon be no more!*

**May He have dominion from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth!**

*May desert tribes bow down before Him and His enemies lick the dust!*

**May the kings of Tarshish and of the coastlands render Him tribute;**

**may the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts!**

*May all kings fall down before Him, all nations serve Him!*

**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.**

*Blesséd be the LORD, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things.*

*from the Letters: Ephesians 3:1–12*

*After the reading:*

*This is the Word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

THE HALLELUJAH

**Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!**

*from the Holy Gospel: Matthew 2:1–12*

**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 worshipped 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.**

HYMN OF THE DAY – TUNE: TLH 343 & TEXT: LSB 395, STANZAS 1–4

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|--|--|
| <p><b>1 O Morning Star, how fair and bright!</b><br/> <b>You shine with God’s own truth and light,</b><br/> <b>Aglow with grace and mercy!</b><br/> <b>Of Jacob’s race, King David’s son,</b><br/> <b>Our Lord and master, You have won</b><br/> <b>Our hearts to serve You only!</b><br/> <b>Lowly, holy! Great and glorious,</b><br/> <b>All victorious, rich in blessing!</b><br/> <b>Rule and might o’er all possessing!</b></p> | <p><b>2 Come, heav’nly Bridegroom, Light divine,</b><br/> <b>And deep within our hearts now shine;</b><br/> <b>There light a flame undying!</b><br/> <b>In Your one body let us be</b><br/> <b>As living branches of a tree,</b><br/> <b>Your life our lives supplying.</b><br/> <b>Now, though daily earth’s deep sadness</b><br/> <b>May perplex us and distress us,</b><br/> <b>Yet with heav’nly joy You bless us.</b></p> |
|--|--|

3 Lord, when You look on us in love,  
At once there falls from God above  
A ray of purest pleasure.  
Your Word and Spirit, flesh and blood  
Refresh our souls with heav'nly food.  
You are our dearest treasure!  
Let Your mercy warm and cheer us!  
O draw near us! For You teach us  
God's own love through You has reached us.

4 Almighty Father, in Your Son  
You loved us when not yet begun  
Was this old earth's foundation!  
Your Son has ransomed us in love  
To live in Him here and above:  
This is Your great salvation.  
Alleluia! Christ the living,  
To us giving life forever,  
Keeps us Yours and fails us never!

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## **The Sermon**

*Matthew 2:1–12*

OFFERTORY HYMN – TUNE: TLH 108 & TEXT: R. CRASHAW, ALT.

1 Welcome, all Wonders at one sight:  
In winter, Summer; Day at night,  
All Gladness swathed in utter woe;  
All sorrow bringing joy below!  
Hallelujah!

2 Great Small One, whose embracing birth  
Draws earth to heav'n and heav'n to earth!  
Among the living, marked for death;  
Among the dying, Life and Breath.  
Hallelujah!

3 Eternity shut in a span,  
Heaven on earth and God in man.  
To You, meek Majesty, soft King,  
We each an off'ring lamb will bring.  
Hallelujah!

4 From each the pair of silver doves  
Of simple graces and sweet loves,  
Till, burnt at last in Your fair eyes,  
Our selves become our sacrifice.  
Hallelujah!

### *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.**

### *The Prayer of the Church*

*after each petition:*

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

[1 Timothy 2:1–4]

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 what had been hidden from before the foundation of the world You have made known to the nations in Your Son. In Him, being found in the substance of our mortal nature, You have manifested the fullness of Your glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with 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, 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.

## 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 147:1–12 (antiphon: John 1:14)*

*DISTRIBUTION HYMN – TUNE: TLH 126 & TEXT: LSB 396*

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|--|---|
| <p><b>1 Arise and shine in splendor;</b><br/>         Let night to day surrender.<br/>         Your light is drawing near.<br/>         Above, the day is beaming,<br/>         In matchless beauty gleaming;<br/>         The glory of the Lord is here.</p>              | <p><b>3 The world's remotest races,</b><br/>         Upon whose weary faces<br/>         The sun looks from the sky,<br/>         Shall run with zeal untiring,<br/>         With joy Your light desiring<br/>         That breaks upon them from on high.</p>        |
| <p><b>2 See earth in darkness lying,</b><br/>         The heathen nations dying<br/>         In hopeless gloom and night.<br/>         To you the Lord of heaven—<br/>         Your life, your hope—has given<br/>         Great glory, honor, and delight.</p>            | <p><b>4 Lift up your eyes in wonder—</b><br/>         See, nations gather yonder<br/>         From sin to be set free.<br/>         The world has heard Your story;<br/>         Her sons come to Your glory;<br/>         Her daughters haste Your light to see.</p> |
| <p><b>5 Your heart will leap for gladness</b><br/>         When from the realms of sadness<br/>         They come from near and far.<br/>         Your eyes will wake from slumber<br/>         As people without number<br/>         Rejoice to see the Morning Star.</p> |   |

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|--|--|
| <p>1 This little Baby, moments old,<br/>Has come to break the devil's hold,<br/>For in this weak, unarmed disguise<br/>He takes Hell's fortress by surprise.</p> <p>2 He pitches camp within a stall;<br/>His barricade, a stable wall.<br/>Comes weak to conquer, meek to die<br/>While angels sing His battle cry.</p> | <p>3 His naked breast, His only shield,<br/>With tears He fights and wins the field.<br/>Though He in wintry coldness shakes,<br/>Hell reels, and at His presence quakes.</p> <p>4 Come, Christian, rise! For we are bound<br/>To take our stand upon His ground.<br/>Would you defeat the Foe with joy?<br/>Stay close behind the heav'nly Boy!</p> |
|--|--|

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <p>1 As with gladness men of old<br/>Did the guiding star behold;<br/>As with joy they hailed its light,<br/>Leading onward, beaming bright;<br/>So, most gracious Lord, may we<br/>Evermore be led by Thee.</p> <p>2 As with joyful steps they sped,<br/>Savior, to Thy lowly bed,<br/>There to bend the knee before<br/>Thee, whom heav'n and earth adore;<br/>So may we with willing feet<br/>Ever seek Thy mercy seat.</p> | <p>3 As they offered gifts most rare<br/>At Thy cradle, rude and bare,<br/>So may we with holy joy,<br/>Pure and free from sin's alloy,<br/>All our costliest treasures bring,<br/>Christ, to Thee, our heav'nly King.</p> <p>4 Holy Jesus, ev'ry day<br/>Keep us in the narrow way;<br/>And when earthly things are past,<br/>Bring our ransomed souls at last<br/>Where they need no star to guide,<br/>Where no clouds Thy glory hide.</p> <p>5 In the heav'nly country bright<br/>Need they no created light;<br/>Thou its light, its joy, its crown,<br/>Thou its sun which goes not down;<br/>There forever may we sing<br/>Alleluias to our King.</p> |
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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. O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; 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.*

## THE RECESSIONAL HYMN – TUNE: TLH 343 &amp; TEXT: LSB 395, STANZAS 5–6

- 5 O let the harps break forth in sound!  
Our joy be all with music crowned, our voices gladly blending!  
For Christ goes with us all the way—today, tomorrow, ev'ry day!  
His love is never ending! Sing out! Ring out!  
Jubilation! Exultation! Tell the story!  
Great is He, the King of Glory!**
- 6 What joy to know, when life is past,  
The Lord we love is first and last, the end and the beginning!  
He will one day, oh, glorious grace, transport us to that happy place  
Beyond all tears and sinning! Amen! Amen!  
Come, Lord Jesus! Crown of gladness!  
We are yearning for the day of Your returning!**

# 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 65:8–25	Luke 3:1–20
M	Isaiah 66:1–20	Luke 3:21–38
Tu	Ezekiel 1:1–14, 22–28	Romans 1:1–17
W	Ezekiel 2:1–3:11	Romans 1:18–32
Th	Ezekiel 3:12–27	Romans 2:1–16
F	Ezekiel 18:1–4, 19–32	Romans 2:17–29
Sa	Ezekiel 33:1–20	Romans 3:1–18

### The Lord's Prayer

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

*What is the Second Petition?* Thy kingdom come.

*What does this mean?* The kingdom of God certainly comes by itself without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may come to us also. God's kingdom comes when our heavenly Father gives us His Holy Spirit, so that by His grace we believe His holy Word and lead godly lives here in time and there in eternity.

*From the Large Catechism:* We pray that the kingdom may come to those who are not yet in it, and that it may come by daily growth here and in eternal life hereafter to us who have received it. All this is simply to say: "Dear Father, we pray, give us first Your Word, so that the Gospel may be preached properly throughout the world. Second, may the Gospel be received in faith and work and live in us, so that through the Word and the Holy Spirit's power, Your kingdom may triumph among us."

Luther's Small Catechism © 1986 Concordia Publishing House, cph.org;  
LC III.53–54

### Hymn

*The hymn stanza may be sung or spoken.*

Holy Jesus, ev'ry day  
Keep us in the narrow way;  
And when earthly things are past,  
Bring our ransomed souls at last  
Where they need no star to guide,  
Where no clouds Thy glory hide.      *LSB 397:4*

### Daily Prayer

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

### Prayers for Others and Ourselves

*As children of the heavenly Father, we are bold to pray.*

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

O God, by the leading of a star You made known  
Your only-begotten Son to the Gentiles. Lead us, who  
know You by faith, to enjoy in heaven the fullness of  
Your divine presence; 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 Baptism of Our Lord, Jan. 12

Isaiah 43:1–7; Psalms 29 (v. 3) & 85 (v. 9);  
Romans 6:1–11; Luke 3:15–22