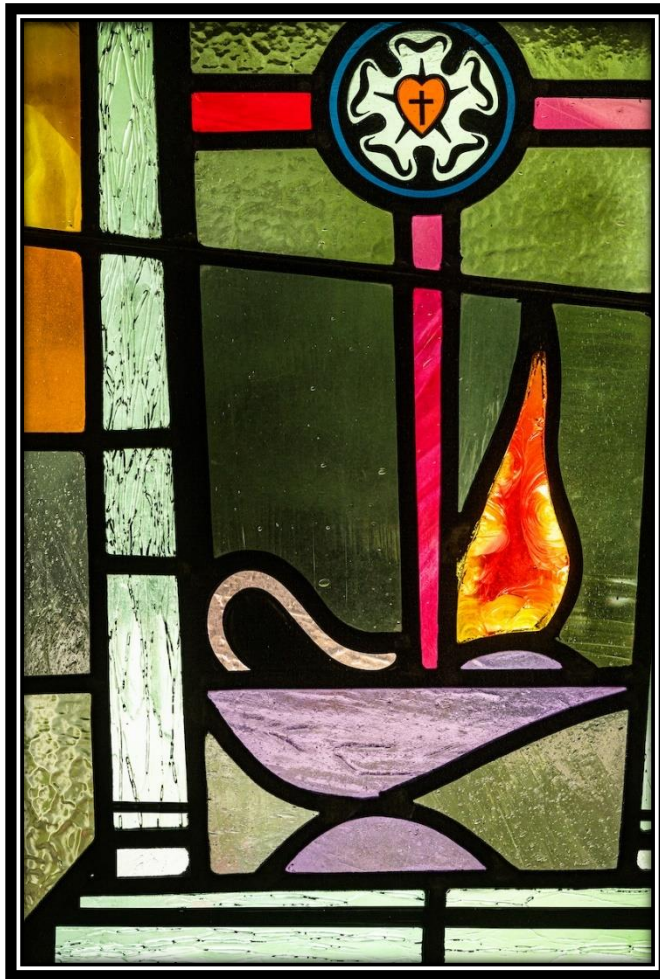


SOLA SCRIPTURA ✠ SOLA GRATIA ✠ SOLA FIDE

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

February 23, 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	Mary Gregory
Acolytes	William Jackson, Simeon Gregory

Prayers for Worship

For right reception of the Lord's Supper: Dear Savior, at Your gracious invitation we come to Your table to eat and drink Your holy body and blood. Let us find favor in Your eyes to receive this holy Sacrament in faith for the salvation of our souls and to the glory of Your holy name; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now forever. Amen.

Thanksgiving after receiving the Sacrament: Almighty and everlasting God, we thank and praise You for feeding us the life-giving body and blood of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Send us Your Holy Spirit that, having with our mouths received the holy Sacrament, we may by faith obtain and eternally enjoy Your divine grace, the forgiveness of sins, unity with Christ, and life eternal; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Preparation for Confession

The Seventh Commandment: You shall not steal. *What does this mean?* We should fear and love God so that we do not take our neighbor's money or possessions, or get them in any dishonest way, but help him to improve and protect his possessions and income.

Questions for self-examination

- Am I generous?
- Have I gotten anything in a dishonest way?

Cover Illustration

Stained glass depicting the lamp of learning from Jesus.
Elm Grove Lutheran Church, Elm Grove, Wisconsin
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Why We Do What We Do

Sunday ✠ The Sanctuary ✠ Font, Lectern, Altar, Pulpit ✠ Vestments and Paraments
Divine Service: The Three High Points ✠ Getting Ready & Responding
The Service of Preparation: Confession & Absolution

THE OPENING HYMN – TUNE & TEXT: LSB 814

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1 O bless the Lord, my soul!
Let all within me join
And aid my tongue to bless His name
Whose favors are divine.</p> <p>2 O bless the Lord, my soul,
Nor let His mercies lie
Forgotten in unthankfulness
And without praises die!</p> <p>3 'Tis He forgives thy sins;
'Tis He relieves thy pain;
'Tis He that heals thy sicknesses
And makes thee young again.</p> | <p>4 He crowns thy life with love
When ransomed from the grave;
He that redeemed my soul from hell
Hath sov'reign pow'r to save.</p> <p>5 He fills the poor with good;
He gives the suff'ers rest.
The Lord hath judgments for the proud
And justice for th'oppressed.</p> <p>6 His wondrous works and ways
He made by Moses known,
But sent the world His truth and grace
By His beloved Son.</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

> 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.

Why We Do What We Do

The Service of the Word

THE INTROIT

Psalm 37:7a, b; 1–5

Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for Him;
do not fret over the one who prospers in his way.

Do not fret because of evildoers;
be not envious of wrongdoers!

For they will soon fade like the grass
and wither like the green herb.

Trust in the LORD, and do good;
 dwell in the land and befriend faithfulness.

Delight yourself in the LORD,
and He will give you the desires of your heart.

Commit your way to the LORD;
trust in Him, and He will act.

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.

THE COLLECT

Let us pray. > Silence for personal prayers. <

O God, the strength of all who put their trust in You, mercifully grant that by Your power we may be defended against all adversity; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, 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: Genesis 45:3–15

After the reading:

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE PSALM

Psalm 103:1–13; antiphon v. 8

The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His holy name!

Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits,

who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases,

who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,

who satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

The LORD works righteousness and justice for all who are oppressed.

He made known His ways to Moses, His acts to the people of Israel.

The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

He will not always chide, nor will He keep His anger forever.

He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities.

For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is His steadfast love toward those who fear Him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does He remove our transgressions from us.

As a father shows compassion to his children, so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear 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.

The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

from the Letters: 1 Corinthians 15:21–26, 30–42

After the reading:

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE HALLELUJAH

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

from the Holy Gospel: Luke 6:27–38

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 Lord of glory, You have bought us
With Your lifeblood as the price,
Never grudging for the lost ones
That tremendous sacrifice;
And with that have freely given
Blessings countless as the sand
To th'unthankful and the evil
With Your own unsparing hand.
- 2 Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to give You
Gladly, freely of Your own.
With the sunshine of Your goodness
Melt our thankless hearts of stone
Till our cold and selfish natures,
Warmed by You, at length believe
That more happy and more blessed
'Tis to give than to receive.
- 3 Wondrous honor You have given
To our humblest charity
In Your own mysterious sentence,
"You have done it all to Me."
Can it be, O gracious Master,
That You deign for alms to sue,
Saying by Your poor and needy,
"Give as I have giv'n to you"?
- 4 Lord of glory, You have bought us
With Your lifeblood as the price,
Never grudging for the lost ones
That tremendous sacrifice.
Give us faith to trust You boldly,
Hope, to stay our souls on You;
But, oh, best of all Your graces,
With Your love our love renew.

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The Sermon

Luke 6:27–38

THE OFFERTORY

Psalm 51:10–12

**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

> *Note: The offering of tithes and gifts are received in the offering box as you enter the sanctuary.* <

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

. . . let us pray to the Lord: Lord, have mercy

Why We Do What We Do

The Service of the Sacrament

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.

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 50:1–6, 14–15 (antiphon: v. 2)

DISTRIBUTION HYMN – TUNE & TEXT: LSB 731

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1 O God, forsake me not!
Your gracious presence lend me;
Lord, lead Your helpless child;
Your Holy Spirit send me
That I my course may run.
O be my light, my lot,
My staff, my rock, my shield—
O God, forsake me not!</p> <p>2 O God, forsake me not!
Take not Your Spirit from me;
Do not permit the might
Of sin to overcome me.
Increase my feeble faith,
Which You alone have wrought.
O be my strength and pow’r—
O God, forsake me not!</p> | <p>3 O God, forsake me not!
Lord, hear my supplication!
In ev’ry evil hour
Help me resist temptation;
And when the prince of hell
My conscience seeks to blot,
Be then not far from me—
O God, forsake me not!</p> <p>4 O God, forsake me not!
Lord, I am Yours forever.
O keep me strong in faith
That I may leave You never.
Grant me a blessèd end
When my good fight is fought;
Help me in life and death—
O God, forsake me not!</p> |
|--|---|

Text: Public domain

DISTRIBUTION HYMN – TUNE & TEXT: LSB 548

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1 Thanks to Thee, O Christ, victorious!
Thanks to Thee, O Lord of Life!
Death hath now no power o’er us,
Thou hast conquered in the strife.
Thanks because Thou didst arise
And hast opened paradise!
None can fully sing the glory
Of the resurrection story.</p> | <p>2 Thou hast died for my transgression,
All my sins on Thee were laid;
Thou hast won for me salvation,
On the cross my debt was paid.
From the grave I shall arise
And shall meet Thee in the skies.
Death itself is transitory;
I shall lift my head in glory.</p> |
|--|--|

3 For the joy Thine advent gave me, for Thy holy, precious Word;
For Thy Baptism, which doth save me, for Thy blest Communion board;
For Thy death, the bitter scorn, for Thy resurrection morn,
Lord, I thank Thee and extol Thee, and in heav'n I shall behold Thee.

Text: Public domain

DISTRIBUTION HYMN – TUNE: LSB 373 & TEXT: LSB 394, ALT.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1 Joyful fear and trembling praise,
O Lord Christ, to You we raise,
Like the Gentiles from afar
Summoned by the calling star.
Righteous Branch of Jesse's Stem,
Shepherd-King of Bethlehem,
Pow'r and love around You shine,
God Incarnate! Man Divine!</p> <p>2 Baptized here for us below
In earth's water and earth's woe,
Filled with might and full of grace
In the Holy Ghost's embrace,
Underneath the tearing sky,
God's Beloved from on high!
Pow'r and love around You shine,
God Incarnate! Man Divine!</p> <p>3 Son of Man and sinners' King,
All our sorrows carrying,
In Your mercy making whole
Crippled limb and crippled soul,
God of God and Light of Light,
Granting eyes and spirits sight,
Pow'r and love around You shine,
God Incarnate! Man Divine!</p> | <p>4 Christ, who hearts and bodies fed
Sudden wine and wondrous bread,
Christ, who walked upon the sea,
Stilling storms in majesty,
Christ, who spoke and demons fled,
Christ, who spoke and waked the dead,
Pow'r and love around You shine,
God Incarnate! Man Divine</p> <p>5 Grant us grace to see You, Lord,
Mirrored in Your Holy Word.
May we imitate You here
And be pure when You appear
That we all like You may be
At Your Great Epiphany,
And like stars around You shine,
God Incarnate! Man Divine!</p> <p>6 Sun and moon will darkened be.
Stars will fall; the skies will flee.
All will then the trumpet hear.
All will see their God appear.
All will kneel and all confess,
"Christ is Lord!" in dread or bliss;
Like the lightning You will shine,
God Incarnate! Man Divine!</p> |
|--|---|

THE NUNC DIMITTIS

Luke 2:29–32

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. We thank You, All-Powerful God, for refreshing us with this healing gift, and we pray: Father of mercy, by this Holy Food make us strong in faith toward You, and in deep love for each other, that through us other beloved sinners may kneel to You and receive with us grace and life in 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 HYMN TO DEPART — TUNE & TEXT: LSB 692

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1 Praise to You and adoration,
Blessèd Jesus, Son of God,
Who, to serve Your own creation,
Came to share our flesh and blood.
Guide me that I never may
From Your fold or pastures stray,
But with zeal and joy exceeding
Follow where Your steps are leading.</p> | <p>2 Hold me ever in Your keeping;
Comfort me in pain and strife.
In my laughter and my weeping
Be with me throughout my life.
Give me greater love for You,
And my faith and hope renew
In Your birth, Your life, and passion,
In Your death and resurrection.</p> |
|--|--|

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Why We Do What We Do
Vocation & The Liturgy of Life

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	Job 18:1–21	John 7:32–53
M	Job 19:1–12, 21–27	John 8:1–20
Tu	Job 20:1–23, 29	John 8:21–38
W	Job 21:1–21	John 8:39–59
Th	Job 30:16–31	John 9:1–23
F	Job 31:1–12, 33–40	John 9:24–41
Sa	Job 33:1–18	John 10:22–42

The Sacrament of Holy Baptism

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

What is Baptism? Baptism is not just plain water, but it is the water included in God's command and combined with God's word.

Which is that word of God? Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Matthew: "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." (Matt. 28:19)

From the Large Catechism: We ought to value Baptism . . . because God has commanded it. Besides, it is done in His name. . . . To be baptized in God's name is to be baptized not by men, but by God Himself. Therefore, although it is performed by human hands, it is still truly God's own work. From this fact everyone may readily conclude that Baptism is a far higher work than any work performed by a man or a saint. For what work can we do that is greater than God's work?

Luther's Small Catechism © 1986 Concordia Publishing House, cph.org;
LC IV.9–10

Hymn

The hymn stanza may be sung or spoken.

O God, forsake me not!
Your gracious presence lend me;
Lord, lead Your helpless child;
Your Holy Spirit send me
That I my course may run.
O be my light, my lot,
My staff, my rock, my shield—
O God, forsake me not! LSB 731:1

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 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, the strength of all who put their trust in You,
mercifully grant that by Your power we may be
defended against all adversity; through Jesus Christ,
our Lord. Amen.

Readings for Our Lord's Transfiguration, March 2

Deuteronomy 34:1–12; Psalms 99 (v. 9) & 2 (v. 7);
Hebrews 3:1–6; Luke 9:28–36