

SOLA SCRIPTURA ✕ SOLA GRATIA ✕ SOLA FIDE

Divine Service



Our Savior Lutheran Church

Westminster, Massachusetts

SCRIPTURE ALONE ✕ GRACE ALONE ✕ FAITH ALONE

1 Hager Park Road
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Our Savior Lutheran Church

March 30, AD 2025

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church: 978-874-2479
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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
Acolytes	Simeon Gregory, Riley Albert

The Divine Service in Lent

During Lent, our practice is to use a simplified order of service. The "high points" remain the same—absolution, the readings, and Holy Communion—and draw us to Christ Jesus in repentance and faith.

Prayers for Worship

For the fruit of Christ's redemption: Merciful Father, You have given Your only Son as the sacrifice for sinners. Grant us grace to receive the fruits of His redeeming work with thanksgiving and daily to follow in His way; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Preparation for Confession

The Eighth Commandment: You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor. *What does this mean?* We should fear and love God so that we do not tell lies about our neighbor, betray him, slander him, or hurt his reputation, but defend him, speak well of him, and explain everything in the kindest way.

Questions for self-examination

- Am I bitter?
- Do I gossip or take pleasure in talking about the faults and mistakes of others?
- Do I uphold and defend the name and reputation of others?

Cover Illustration

Retour de l'Enfant Prodigue (quatrième planche)
print by Jean Louis Forain (1909)

THE OPENING HYMN – TUNE: TLH 376 & TEXT: LSB 761

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| <p>1 Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in Thee;
Let the water and the blood,
From Thy riven side which flowed,
Be of sin the double cure:
Cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.</p> <p>2 Not the labors of my hands
Can fulfill Thy Law's demands;
Could my zeal no respite know,
Could my tears forever flow,
All for sin could not atone;
Thou must save, and Thou alone.</p> | <p>3 Nothing in my hand I bring;
Simply to Thy cross I cling.
Naked, come to Thee for dress;
Helpless, look to Thee for grace;
Foul, I to the fountain fly;
Wash me, Savior, or I die.</p> <p>4 While I draw this fleeting breath,
When mine eyelids close in death,
When I soar to worlds unknown,
See Thee on Thy judgment throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in Thee.</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.

OPENING VERSES

Psalm 130:3–4; 139:23–24; Ex. 15:26; Is. 53:5

*If You, O LORD, should count our sins,
O LORD, who could stand?*

*But with You there is forgiveness,
that You may be feared.*

**Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my ways.
See where there is sin in me; lead me in the everlasting way, O Lord Jesus.**

**Thou art the LORD that healeth me; by Thy wounds I am healed.
Thou art my Redeemer; rescue me and draw me after Thee, O Lord Jesus.**

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS: EXODUS 20

Thus says the LORD: I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of bondage.

**You shall have no other gods.
You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God.
Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.
Honor your father and your mother.**

**You shall not murder.
You shall not commit adultery.
You shall not steal.
You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.
You shall not covet your neighbor's house.
You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

1 John 1:8-9

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

> Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination through the Ten Commandments. <

Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

The Absolution

[John 20:19-23]

Amen.

THE INTROIT

Psalms 51:1-6; antiphon: v. 1

Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your steadfast love;
according to Your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin!

For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.

Against You, You only, have I sinned and done what is evil in Your sight,
so that You may be justified in Your words and blameless in Your judgment.

Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity,
and in sin did my mother conceive me.

Behold, You delight in truth in the inward being,
and You teach me wisdom in the secret heart.

**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.**

*Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your steadfast love;
according to Your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.*

THE SALUTATION

2 Timothy 4:22

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

THE COLLECT

Let us pray. > Silence for personal prayers. <

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; 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: Isaiah 12:1–6

After the reading:

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE PSALM

Psalm 32; antiphon v. 11

Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart!

Blessèd is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

**Blessèd is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity,
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.**

For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long.

**For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me;
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.**

I acknowledged my sin to You, and I did not cover my iniquity;

I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

**Therefore let everyone who is godly offer prayer to You at a time when You may be found;
surely in the rush of great waters, they shall not reach him.**

*You are a hiding place for me; You preserve me from trouble;
You surround me with shouts of deliverance.*

**I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go;
I will counsel you with my eye upon you.**

*Be not like a horse or a mule, without understanding,
which must be curbed with bit and bridle, or it will not stay near you.*

**Many are the sorrows of the wicked,
but steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts in the LORD.**

Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart!

**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.**

Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart!

from the Letters: 2 Corinthians 5:16–21

After the reading:

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE VERSE

Luke 15:22a, 24a

*The father said to his servants, "This my son was dead, and is alive again;
he was lost, and is found."*

from the Holy Gospel: Luke 15:1–3, 11–32

Glory be to You, O Lord!

After the reading:

Praise be to You, O Christ!

THE APOSTLES' CREED

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.

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|--|---|
| <p>1 God loved the world so that He gave
His only Son the lost to save,
That all who would in Him believe
Should everlasting life receive.</p> <p>2 Christ Jesus is the ground of faith,
Who was made flesh and suffered death;
All then who trust in Him alone
Are built on this chief cornerstone.</p> <p>3 God would not have the sinner die;
His Son with saving grace is nigh;
His Spirit in the Word declares
How we in Christ are heaven's heirs.</p> | <p>4 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son
Forgives all sins which you have done;
And, justified by Jesus' blood,
Your Baptism grants the highest good.</p> <p>5 If you are sick, if death is near,
This truth your troubled heart can cheer:
Christ Jesus saves your soul from death;
That is the firmest ground of faith.</p> <p>△ 6 Glory to God the Father, Son,
And Holy Spirit, Three in One!
To You, O blessed Trinity,
Be praise now and eternally!</p> |
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The Sermon

Luke 15:1–3, 11–32

THE OFFERTORY HYMN – TUNE: TLH 179 & TEXT: LSB 422

**On my heart imprint Your image,
Blessed Jesus, King of grace,
That life's riches, cares, and pleasures
Never may Your work erase;
Let the clear inscription be:
Jesus, crucified for me,
Is my life, my hope's foundation,
And my glory and salvation!**

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

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 good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to 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. Grant us Your Spirit, gracious Father, that we may give heed to the testament of Your Son in true faith and, above all, firmly take to heart the words with which Christ gives to us His body and blood for our forgiveness. By Your grace, lead us to remember and give thanks for the boundless love which He manifested to us when, by pouring out His precious blood, He saved us from Your righteous wrath and from sin, death, and hell. Grant that we may receive the bread and wine, that is, His body and blood, as a gift, guarantee, and pledge of His salvation. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.***

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.

In the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, at His command, and with His own words, we receive His testament:

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 text and tune can be sung from The Lutheran Hymnal #165.

1 Behold the Lamb of God!

O Thou for sinners slain,
Let it not be in vain
That Thou hast died!
Thee for my Savior let me take,
My only refuge let me make
Thy pierced side.

2 Behold the Lamb of God!

Into the sacred flood
Of Thy most precious blood
My soul I cast.
Wash me and make me pure and clean,
Uphold me through life's changeful scene,
Till all be past.

3 Behold the Lamb of God!

All hail, incarnate Word!
Thou everlasting Lord,
Purge out our leaven;
Clothe us with godliness and good,
Feed us with Thy celestial food,
Manna from heaven.

4 Behold the Lamb of God!

Worthy is He alone
To sit upon the throne
Of God above,
One with the Ancient of all days,
One with the Paraclete in praise,
All Light, all Love!

Text: Public domain

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 132:8–18 (antiphon: v. 13)

DISTRIBUTION HYMN – TUNE: TLH 60 & TEXT: LSB 428

1 Cross of Jesus, cross of sorrow,

Where the blood of Christ was shed,
Perfect man on thee did suffer,
Perfect God on thee has bled!

2 Here the King of all the ages,

Throned in light ere worlds could be,
Robed in mortal flesh is dying,
Crucified by sin for me.

3 O mysterious condescending!

O abandonment sublime!
Very God Himself is bearing
All the sufferings of time!

4 Cross of Jesus, cross of sorrow,

Where the blood of Christ was shed,
Perfect man on thee did suffer,
Perfect God on thee has bled!

Text: Public domain

- 1 Christ, the life of all the living,
Christ, the death of death, our foe,
Who, Thyself for me once giving
To the darkest depths of woe:
Through Thy suff'rings, death, and merit
I eternal life inherit.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.
- 2 Thou, ah! Thou, hast taken on Thee
Bonds and stripes, a cruel rod;
Pain and scorn were heaped upon Thee,
O Thou sinless Son of God!
Thus didst Thou my soul deliver
From the bonds of sin forever.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.
- 3 Thou hast borne the smiting only
That my wounds might all be whole;
Thou hast suffered, sad and lonely,
Rest to give my weary soul;
Yea, the curse of God enduring,
Blessing unto me securing.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.
- 4 Heartless scoffers did surround Thee,
Treating Thee with shameful scorn
And with piercing thorns they crowned Thee.
All disgrace Thou, Lord, hast borne,
That as Thine Thou mightest own me
And with heav'nly glory crown me.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.
- 5 Thou hast suffered men to bruise Thee,
That from pain I might be free;
Falsely did Thy foes accuse Thee:
Thence I gain security;
Comfortless Thy soul did languish
Me to comfort in my anguish.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.
- 6 Thou hast suffered great affliction
And hast borne it patiently,
Even death by crucifixion,
Fully to atone for me;
Thou didst choose to be tormented
That my doom should be prevented.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.
- 7 Then, for all that wrought my pardon,
For Thy sorrows deep and sore,
For Thine anguish in the Garden,
I will thank Thee evermore,
Thank Thee for Thy groaning, sighing,
For Thy bleeding and Thy dying,
For that last triumphant cry,
And shall praise Thee, Lord, on high.

- 1 **Come, Thou Fount of ev'ry blessing,
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,
Call for songs of loudest praise.
While the hope of endless glory
Fills my heart with joy and love,
Teach me ever to adore Thee;
May I still Thy goodness prove.**
- 2 **Here I raise my Ebenezer,
Hither by Thy help I've come;
And I hope, by Thy good pleasure,
Safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
Wand'ring from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger,
Interposed His precious blood.**
- 3 **Oh, to grace how great a debtor
Daily I'm constrained to be;
Let that grace now like a fetter
Bind my wand'ring heart to Thee:
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it;
Prone to leave the God I love.
Here's my heart, O take and seal it,
Seal it for Thy courts above.**
- 4 **Oh, that day when freed from sinning,
I shall see Thy lovely face;
Clothed then in the blood-washed linen,
How I'll sing Thy wondrous grace!
Come, my Lord, no longer tarry;
Take my ransom'd soul away;
Send Thine angels soon to carry
Me to realms of endless day.**

Text: Public domain

THE POST-COMMUNION HYMN – TUNE & TEXT: TLH 385, STANZA 4

**O depths of love, to me revealing
The sea where my sins disappear!
In Christ, my wounds find perfect healing,
There is no condemnation here.
For Jesus' blood through earth and skies
Forever, "Mercy! Mercy!" cries.**

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 BENEDICTION

*The grace of our Lord ✠ Jesus Christ and the love of God
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.*

Amen.

2 Corinthians 13:14

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	Genesis 41:28–57	Mark 11:20–33
M	Genesis 42:1–34, 38	Mark 12:1–12
Tu	Genesis 43:1–28	Mark 12:13–27
W	Gen. 44:1–18, 32–34	Mark 12:28–44
Th	Gen. 45:1–20, 24–28	Mark 13:1–23
F	Genesis 47:1–31	Mark 13:24–37
Sa	Gen. 49:29–50:7, 14–26	Mark 14:1–11

The Sacrament of the Altar

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

Where is this written? The holy Evangelists Matthew, Mark, Luke, and St. Paul write: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me." In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

From the Large Catechism: It is not the word or ordinance of a prince or emperor. But it is the Word of the grand Majesty, at whose feet all creatures should fall and affirm it is as He says, and accept it with all reverence, fear, and humility. . . . If these words remain with [the bread and wine], as they shall and must, then, by virtue of the words, it is truly Christ's body and blood. What Christ's lips say and speak, so it is. He can never lie or deceive.

Luther's Small Catechism © 1986 Concordia Publishing House, cph.org. LC V, 11, 14.

Hymn

The hymn stanza may be sung or spoken.

God would not have the sinner die;
His Son with saving grace is nigh;
His Spirit in the Word declares
How we in Christ are heaven's heirs. LSB 571:3

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

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Amen.

Readings for the Fifth Sunday in Lent, April 6

Isaiah 43:16–21; Psalms 126 (v. 3) & 43 (v. 5);
Philippians 3:4b–14; Luke 20:9–20