

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

April 6, AD 2025

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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

Preacher & Celebrant
Liturgist
Organist
Acolytes

Pastor Peter Gregory
Paul Dwiggin
Anne Bennet
Liam McGuire, 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 faithfulness: Lord God, heavenly Father, You have called Your Church to worship Your Son in Spirit and truth. Through the Spirit of Jesus, keep us faithful to the one who is the way, the truth, and the life, so that we may be partakers of His divine life and inherit the kingdom promised for those who drink from the water of life; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. 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?
- Have I judged others without being duly authorized to do so?
- Have I gladly and willingly found ways to explain in the best possible way the words and actions of others, including those who hurt me?

Cover Illustration

The Parable of the Vineyard: The Arrival of the Lord's Son
by Dante Gabriel Rossetti (1828–1882).

THE OPENING HYMN – TUNE: TLH 175, FIRST TUNE & TEXT: LSB 425

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1 When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of Glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss
And pour contempt on all my pride.</p> <p>2 Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast
Save in the death of Christ, my God;
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to His blood.</p> | <p>3 See, from His head, His hands, His feet
Sorrow and love flow mingled down!
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?</p> <p>4 Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a tribute far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all!</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

Psalm 3:3–6; antiphon: v. 8

Salvation belongs to the LORD;

Your blessing be on Your people!

*But You, O LORD, are a shield about me,
my glory, and the lifter of my head.*

*I cried aloud to the LORD,
and He answered me from His holy hill.*

*I lay down and slept;
I woke again, for the LORD sustained me.*

*I will not be afraid of many thousands of people
who have set themselves against me all around.*

**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.**

Salvation belongs to the LORD;

Your blessing be on Your people!

THE SALUTATION

The Lord be with you.
And with your spirit.

THE COLLECT

Let us pray. > Silence for personal prayers. <

Almighty God, by Your great goodness mercifully look upon Your people that we may be governed and preserved evermore in body and soul; 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 43:16–21

After the reading:

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE PSALM

Psalm 126; antiphon v. 3

The LORD has done great things for us; we are glad.

When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream.

Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy;

then they said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them."

The LORD has done great things for us; we are glad.

Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like streams in the Negeb!

Those who sow in tears shall reap with shouts of joy!

He who goes out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing,

shall come home with shouts of joy, bringing his sheaves with 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 has done great things for us; we are glad.

from the Letters: Philippians 3:4b–14

After the reading:

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE VERSE

Luke 20:17b

The stone that the builders rejected

has become the cornerstone.

from the Holy Gospel: Luke 20:9–20

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.

HYMN OF THE DAY – TUNE & TEXT: LSB 430

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|--|---|
| <p>1 My song is love unknown,
My Savior's love to me,
Love to the loveless shown
That they might lovely be.
Oh, who am I that for my sake
My Lord should take
Frail flesh and die?</p> <p>2 He came from His blest throne
Salvation to bestow;
But men made strange, and none
The longed-for Christ would know.
But, oh, my friend, my friend indeed,
Who at my need
His life did spend!</p> <p>3 Sometimes they strew His way
And His sweet praises sing;
Resounding all the day
Hosannas to their King.
Then "Crucify!" is all their breath,
And for His death
They thirst and cry.</p> | <p>4 Why, what hath my Lord done?
What makes this rage and spite?
He made the lame to run,
He gave the blind their sight.
Sweet injuries! Yet they at these
Themselves displease
And 'gainst Him rise.</p> <p>5 They rise and needs will have
My dear Lord made away;
A murderer they save,
The Prince of Life they slay.
Yet cheerful He to suff'ring goes
That He His foes
From thence might free.</p> <p>6 In life no house, no home
My Lord on earth might have;
In death no friendly tomb
But what a stranger gave.
What may I say? Heav'n was His home
But mine the tomb
Wherein He lay.</p> |
|--|---|

7 Here might I stay and sing, no story so divine!
Never was love, dear King, never was grief like Thine.
This is my friend, in whose sweet praise
I all my days could gladly spend!

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The Sermon

Philippians 3:8–14; Luke 20:9–20

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

[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 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 AGNUS DEI HYMN – TUNE & TEXT: TLH 165

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

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> | <p>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.</p> <p>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!</p> |
|--|--|

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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 43 (antiphon: v. 5)

DISTRIBUTION HYMN – TUNE: TLH 409 & TEXT: LSB 685

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|--|---|
| <p>1 Let us ever walk with Jesus,
Follow His example pure,
Through a world that would deceive us
And to sin our spirits lure.
Onward in His footsteps treading,
Pilgrims here, our home above,
Full of faith and hope and love,
Let us do the Father's bidding.
Faithful Lord, with me abide;
I shall follow where You guide.</p> <p>2 Let us suffer here with Jesus
And with patience bear our cross.
Joy will follow all our sadness;
Where He is, there is no loss.
Though today we sow no laughter,
We shall reap celestial joy;
All discomforts that annoy
Shall give way to mirth hereafter.
Jesus, here I share Your woe;
Help me there Your joy to know.</p> | <p>3 Let us gladly die with Jesus.
Since by death He conquered death,
He will free us from destruction,
Give to us immortal breath.
Let us mortify all passion
That would lead us into sin;
And the grave that shuts us in
Shall but prove the gate to heaven.
Jesus, here with You I die,
There to live with You on high.</p> <p>4 Let us also live with Jesus.
He has risen from the dead
That to life we may awaken.
Jesus, You are now our head.
We are Your own living members;
Where You live, there we shall be
In Your presence constantly,
Living there with You forever.
Jesus, let me faithful be,
Life eternal grant to me.</p> |
|--|---|

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- 1 Not all the blood of beasts
On Jewish altars slain
Could give the guilty conscience peace
Or wash away the stain.
- 2 But Christ, the heav'nly Lamb,
Takes all our sins away;
A sacrifice of nobler name
And richer blood than they.
- 3 My faith would lay its hand
On that dear head of Thine,
While as a penitent I stand,
And there confess my sin.
- 4 My soul looks back to see
The burden Thou didst bear
When hanging on the cursèd tree;
I know my guilt was there.
- 5 Believing, we rejoice
To see the curse remove;
We bless the Lamb with cheerful voice
And sing His bleeding love.

Text: Public Domain

- 1 My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
No merit of my own I claim
But wholly lean on Jesus' name. *Refrain*
- Refrain* On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand,
All other ground is sinking sand.
- 2 When darkness veils His lovely face,
I rest on His unchanging grace;
In ev'ry high and stormy gale
My anchor holds within the veil. *Refrain*
- 3 His oath, His covenant and blood
Support me in the raging flood;
When ev'ry earthly prop gives way,
He then is all my hope and stay.
Refrain
- 4 When He shall come with trumpet sound,
Oh, may I then in Him be found,
Clothed in His righteousness alone,
Redeemed to stand before His throne!
Refrain

Text: Public domain

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

2 Corinthians 13:14

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

Amen.

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	Exodus 1:1–22	Mark 14:12–31
M	Exodus 2:1–22	Mark 14:32–52
Tu	Exodus 2:23–3:22	Mark 14:53–72
W	Exodus 4:1–18	Mark 15:1–15
Th	Exodus 4:19–31	Mark 15:16–32
F	Exodus 5:1–6:1	Mark 15:33–47
Sa	Exodus 7:1–25	Mark 16:1–20

The Sacrament of the Altar

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

Where is the benefit of this eating and drinking? These words, "Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins," show us that in the Sacrament forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation are given us through these words. For where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation.

From the Large Catechism: [The Sacrament] is called a food of souls, which nourishes and strengthens the new man. For by Baptism we are first born anew. But . . . there still remains the old vicious nature of flesh and blood in mankind. There are so many hindrances and temptations of the devil and of the world that we often become weary and faint, and sometimes we also stumble. Therefore, the Sacrament is given as a daily pasture and sustenance, that faith may refresh and strengthen itself so that it will not fall back in such a battle, but become ever stronger and stronger. The new life must be guided so that it continually increases and progresses.

Hymn

The hymn stanza may be sung or spoken.

He came from His blest throne
Salvation to bestow;
But men made strange, and none
The longed-for Christ would know.
But, oh, my friend, my friend indeed,
Who at my need His life did spend! LSB 430:2

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, by Your great goodness mercifully
look upon Your people that we may be governed
and preserved evermore in body and soul; through
Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and
reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now
and forever. Amen.

Readings for Palm/Passion Sunday, April 13

John 12:12–19; Deut. 32:36–39; Pss. 118:19–29 (v. 26)
& 31:9–16 (v. 5); Philippians 2:5–11; Luke 23:1–56