

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

September 14, 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, there is a nursery available in the basement during service and Bible class.

Out of courtesy to your brothers and sisters, please silence your cell phone 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	Tom Connell
Organist	Anne Bennet
Acolytes	Jack Gould, Simeon Gregory

Prayer for Worship

To Jesus, the Crucified: Jesus, refuge of the weary, blest Redeemer, whom we love, fountain in life's desert dreary, Savior from the world above: Often have Your eyes, offended, gazed upon the sinner's fall; yet upon the cross extended, You have borne the pain of all.

Do we pass that cross unheeding, breathing no repentant vow, though we see You wounded, bleeding, see Your thorn-encircled brow? Yet Your sinless death has brought us life eternal, peace, and rest; only what Your grace has taught us calms the sinner's deep distress.

Jesus, may our hearts be burning with more fervent love for You; may our eyes be ever turning to behold Your cross anew till in glory, parted never from the blessed Savior's side, graven in our hearts forever, dwell the cross, the Crucified.

Preparation for Confession

Galatians 5:21b: I warn you . . . that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

Questions for self-examination

- Do I, as a Christian, lead a life distinct and different from the world around me?
- Have I withstood the world's temptations or do I participate in its ways?
- Do I fear God's wrath?

Cover Illustration

Stained glass of Jesus Christ as the Good Shepherd at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Arnold, Missouri.

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THE OPENING HYMN – TUNE & TEXT: LSB 686

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

THE INTROIT

Psalm 30:11a, 12b, 2–5

You have turned for me my mourning into dancing;

O LORD my God, I will give thanks to You forever!

*O LORD my God, I cried to You for help,
and You have healed me.*

O LORD, You have brought up my soul from Sheol;

You restored me to life from among those who go down to the pit.

*Sing praises to the LORD, O you His saints,
and give thanks to His holy name.*

For His anger is but for a moment, and His favor is for a lifetime.

Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning.

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 Lord be with you.
And with your spirit.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY & THE COLLECT FOR HOLY CROSS DAY

Let us pray.

> *Silence for personal prayers.* <

Lord Jesus, You are the Good Shepherd, without whom nothing is secure. Rescue and preserve us that we may not be lost forever but follow You, rejoicing in the way that leads to eternal life; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Merciful God, Your Son, Jesus Christ, was lifted high upon the cross that He might bear the sins of the world and draw all people to Himself. Grant that we who glory in His death for our redemption may faithfully heed His call to bear the cross and follow Him, 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: Ezekiel 34:11–24

After the reading:

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE PSALM

Psalm 119:169–176 (Taw); antiphon v. 176

I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek Your servant, for I do not forget Your commandments.

Let my cry come before You, O LORD; give me understanding according to Your word!

Let my plea come before You; deliver me according to Your word.

My lips will pour forth praise, for You teach me Your statutes.

My tongue will sing of Your word, for all Your commandments are right.

Let Your hand be ready to help me, for I have chosen Your precepts.

I long for Your salvation, O LORD, and Your law is my delight.

Let my soul live and praise You, and let Your just decrees help me.

I have gone astray like a lost sheep;

seek Your servant, for I do not forget Your commandments.

**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.**

I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek Your servant, for I do not forget Your commandments.

from the Letters: 1 Timothy 1:5–17

After the reading:

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE TRIPLE HALLELUJAH

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

the Holy Gospel: Luke 15:1–10

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 \dagger of the world to come. Amen.

THE HYMN OF THE DAY – TUNE & TEXT: TLH 436

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want;
He makes me down to lie
In pastures green; He leadeth me
The quiet waters by. | 3 Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale,
Yet will I fear no ill;
For Thou art with me, and Thy rod
And staff me comfort still. |
| 2 My soul He doth restore again
And me to walk doth make
Within the paths of righteousness,
E'en for His own name's sake. | 4 My table Thou hast furnishèd
In presence of my foes;
My head Thou dost with oil anoint,
And my cup overflows. |

**5 Goodness and mercy all my life
Shall surely follow me;
And in God's house forevermore
My dwelling place shall be.**

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The Sermon

Luke 15:1–10

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

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, who, out of love for His fallen creation, humbled Himself by taking on the form of a servant, becoming obedient unto death, even death upon a cross. Risen from the dead, He has freed us from eternal death and given us life everlasting. 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 on 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.

1 Corinthians 1:18–25 (antiphon: Galatians 6:14)

- 1 Jesus sinners doth receive;
Oh, may all this saying ponder
Who in sin's delusions live
And from God and heaven wander!
Here is hope for all who grieve:
Jesus sinners doth receive.
- 2 We deserve but grief and shame,
Yet His words, rich grace revealing,
Pardon, peace, and life proclaim;
Here our ills have perfect healing.
Firmly in these words believe:
Jesus sinners doth receive.
- 3 Sheep that from the fold did stray
No true shepherd e'er forsaketh;
Weary souls that lost their way
Christ, the Shepherd, gently taketh
In His arms that they may live:
Jesus sinners doth receive.
- 4 I, a sinner, come to Thee
With a penitent confession.
Savior, mercy show to me;
Grant for all my sins remission.
Let these words my soul relieve:
Jesus sinners doth receive.
- 5 Oh, how blest it is to know:
Were as scarlet my transgression,
It shall be as white as snow
By Thy blood and bitter passion;
For these words I now believe:
Jesus sinners doth receive.
- 6 Now my conscience is at peace;
From the Law I stand acquitted.
Christ hath purchased my release
And my ev'ry sin remitted.
Naught remains my soul to grieve:
Jesus sinners doth receive.
- 7 Jesus sinners doth receive;
Also I have been forgiven;
And when I this earth must leave,
I shall find an open heaven.
Dying, still to Him I cleave:
Jesus sinners doth receive.

Text: Public domain

- 1 I am Jesus' little lamb,
Ever glad at heart I am;
For my Shepherd gently guides me,
Knows my need and well provides me,
Loves me ev'ry day the same,
Even calls me by my name.
- 2 Day by day, at home, away,
Jesus is my staff and stay.
When I hunger, Jesus feeds me,
Into pleasant pastures leads me;
When I thirst, He bids me go
Where the quiet waters flow.

**3 Who so happy as I am, even now the Shepherd's lamb?
And when my short life is ended, by His angel host attended,
He shall fold me to His breast, there within His arms to rest.**

Text: Public domain

DISTRIBUTION HYMN – TUNE: TLH 245 & TEXT: LSB 571

**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.**

**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.**

**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.**

**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.**

**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.**

**△ 6 Glory to God the Father, Son,
And Holy Spirit, Three in One!
To You, O blessed Trinity,
Be praise now and eternally!**

Text: Public Domain

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.**

THE THANKSGIVING

Psalms 107:1

Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good!
And His mercy endures forever!

THE THANKSGIVING COLLECT

Let us pray. Almighty God, heavenly Father, we give thanks that You have refreshed us with the body and blood of Your dear Son, Jesus Christ. Grant that this heavenly food which we have received will strengthen our faith that we may bear all crosses, sickness, and trials with patience and trust until You grant us deliverance, peace, and health; through Jesus Christ, 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 CLOSING HYMN—TUNE & TEXT: LSB 837

Refrain:

**Lift high the cross,
The love of Christ proclaim
Till all the world adore
His sacred name!**

- 1 Come, Christians, follow where our Captain trod,
Our King victorious, Christ, the Son of God. Refrain**
- 2 Led on their way by this triumphant sign,
The host of God in conqu'ring ranks combine. Refrain**
- 3 All newborn soldiers of the Crucified
Bear on their brows the seal of Him who died. Refrain**
- 4 O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
As Thou hast promised, draw us all to Thee. Refrain**
- 5 Let ev'ry race and ev'ry language tell
Of Him who saves our lives from death and hell. Refrain**
- 6 So shall our song of triumph ever be:
Praise to the Crucified for victory! Refrain**

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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	2 Chronicles 33:1–25	Col. 1:24–2:7
M	2 Chr. 34:1–4, 8–11, 14–33	Colossians 2:8–23
Tu	2 Chr. 35:1–7, 16–25	Colossians 3:1–25
W	2 Chron. 36:1–23	Colossians 4:1–18
Th	Nehemiah 1:1–2:10	1 Timothy 1:1–20
F	Neh. 2:11–20; 4:1–6	1 Timothy 2:1–15
Sa	Nehemiah 4:7–23	1 Timothy 3:1–16

The Lord's Prayer

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

What is the Fourth Petition? Give us this day our daily bread.

What does this mean? God certainly gives daily bread to everyone without our prayers, even to all evil people, but we pray in this petition that God would lead us to realize this and to receive our daily bread with thanksgiving.

What is meant by daily bread? Daily bread includes everything that has to do with the support and needs of the body, such as food, drink, clothing, shoes, house, home, land, animals, money, goods, a devout husband or wife, devout children, devout workers, devout and faithful rulers, good government, good weather, peace, health, self-control, good reputation, good friends, faithful neighbors, and the like.

From Luther's Small Catechism © 1986 Concordia Publishing House, cph.org

Verse for Meditation

I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God
over one sinner who repents. Luke 15:10

Hymn

The hymn stanza may be sung or spoken.

Sheep that from the fold did stray
No true shepherd e'er forsaketh;
Wearied souls that lost their way
Christ, the Shepherd, gently taketh
In His arms that they may live:
Jesus sinners doth receive. LSB 609:3

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

Lord Jesus, You are the Good Shepherd, without whom nothing is secure. Rescue and preserve us that we may not be lost forever but follow You, rejoicing in the way that leads to eternal life; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Readings for the Feast of St. Matthew, Sept. 21

Ezekiel 2:8–3:11; Psalms 119:33–40 (v. 35) & 19 (v. 8);
Ephesians 4:7–16; Matthew 9:9–13