

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

September 21, 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, 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	Jeremy Henrikson
Organist	Mary Gregory
Acolytes	Luis DiVito, Laz Gregory

Prayer for Worship

For reception of Holy Communion: Lord Jesus Christ, in the solemn night of Your betrayal You established the holy meal of Your body and blood for us Christians to eat and to drink. Look in mercy on those who will receive the holy Sacrament this day. Grant that they come to Your table in true repentance and faith, that the gift of Your body and blood will sustain them in their afflictions, strengthen them in the communion of Your holy people, and be a pledge of the resurrection of their bodies to life everlasting; in Your holy Name. Amen.

Preparation for Confession

Galatians 5:22–23: But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

Questions for self-examination

- Does my faith in Christ, through the power of the Holy Spirit, bear these fruits?
- How do I pursue the highest of all Christian gifts and works, the love of God and of the neighbor?
- For which of these fruits of the Spirit do I need to pray?

Cover Illustration

Matthew the Evangelist from the Lindisfarne Gospels, an illuminated Gospel book made in the early 700s AD in the monastery at Lindisfarne, in northern England.
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THE OPENING HYMN – TUNE & TEXT: LSB 611, STANZAS 1–4

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1 Chief of sinners though I be,
Jesus shed His blood for me,
Died that I might live on high,
Lives that I might never die.
As the branch is to the vine,
I am His, and He is mine.</p> <p>2 Oh, the height of Jesus' love,
Higher than the heav'ns above,
Deeper than the depths of sea,
Lasting as eternity!
Love that found me—wondrous thought!
Found me when I sought Him not.</p> | <p>3 Only Jesus can impart
Balm to heal the wounded heart,
Peace that flows from sin forgiv'n,
Joy that lifts the soul to heav'n,
Faith and hope to walk with God
In the way that Enoch trod.</p> <p>4 Chief of sinners though I be,
Christ is all in all to me;
All my wants to Him are known,
All my sorrows are His own.
He sustains the hidden life
Safe with Him from earthly strife.</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.

I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.

For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.

It is good to give thanks to the LORD,

to sing praises to Your name, O Most High;

to declare Your steadfast love in the morning,

and Your faithfulness by night,

to the music of the lute and the harp,

to the melody of the lyre.

For You, O LORD, have made me glad by Your work;

at the works of Your hands I sing for joy.

How great are Your works, O LORD!

Your thoughts are very deep!

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 Son of God, our blessed Savior Jesus Christ, You called Matthew the tax collector to be an apostle and evangelist. Through his faithful and inspired witness, grant that we also may follow You, leaving behind all covetous desires and love of riches; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The Reading of God's Word

from the Old Testament: Ezekiel 2:8–3:11

After the reading:

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE PSALM

Psalm 119:33–40 (He); antiphon v. 35

Lead me in the path of Your commandments, for I delight in it.

Teach me, O LORD, the way of Your statutes; and I will keep it to the end.

Give me understanding, that I may keep Your law and observe it with my whole heart.

Lead me in the path of Your commandments, for I delight in it.

Incline my heart to Your testimonies, and not to selfish gain!

Turn my eyes from looking at worthless things; and give me life in Your ways.

Confirm to Your servant Your promise, that You may be feared.

Turn away the reproach that I dread, for Your just decrees are good.

Behold, I long for Your precepts; in Your righteousness give me life!

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.

Lead me in the path of Your commandments, for I delight in it.

from the Letters: Ephesians 4:7–16

After the reading:

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE TRIPLE HALLELUJAH

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

the Holy Gospel: Matthew 9:9–13

Glory be to You, O Lord!

After the reading:

Praise be to You, O Christ!

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.

THE HYMN OF THE DAY – TUNE: LSB 730 & TEXT: TLH 430, STANZAS 1–2, 4, 8

- 1 What is the world to me with all its vaunted pleasure
When Thou, and Thou alone, Lord Jesus, art my treasure!
Thou only, dearest Lord, my soul's Delight shall be;
Thou art my Peace, my Rest,—What is the world to me!**
- 2 The world is like a cloud and like a vapor fleeting,
A shadow that declines, swift to its end retreating.
My Jesus doth abide, though all things fade and flee;
My everlasting Rock,—What is the world to me!**
- 3 The world seeks after wealth and all that Mammon offers
Yet never is content though gold should fill its coffers.
I have a higher good; content with it I'll be:
My Jesus is my Wealth,—What is the world to me!**
- 4 What is the world to me! My Jesus is my Treasure,
My Life, my Health, my Wealth, my Friend, my Love, my Pleasure,
My Joy, my Crown, my All, my Bliss eternally.
Once more, then, I declare: What is the world to me!**

The Sermon

Matthew 9:9–13

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; for You have mightily governed and protected Your holy Church, in which the blessed apostles and evangelists proclaimed Your divine and saving Gospel. Therefore with patriarchs and prophets, apostles and evangelists, with Your servant Matthew, 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.

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.

Psalm 19 (antiphon: v.8)

DISTRIBUTION HYMN – TUNE & TEXT: LSB 682

- 1 God of the prophets, bless the prophets' sons;
Elijah's mantle o'er Elisha cast.
Each age its solemn task may claim but once;
Make each one nobler, stronger than the last.**
- 2 Anoint them prophets, men who are intent
To be Your witnesses in word and deed,
Their hearts aflame, their lips made eloquent,
Their eyes awake to ev'ry human need.**
- 3 Anoint them priests, strong intercessors they,
For pardon and for love and hope and peace,
That, through their pleading, guilty sinners may
Find Jesus' mercy and from sin release.**

- 4 Anoint them kings, yes, kingly kings, O Lord.
 Anoint them with the Spirit of Your Son.
 Theirs not a jeweled crown, a bloodstained sword;
 Theirs, by sweet love, for Christ a kingdom won.
- 5 Make them apostles, heralds of Your cross;
 Forth let them go to tell the world of grace.
 Inspired by You, may they count all but loss
 And stand at last with joy before Your face.

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DISTRIBUTION HYMN – TUNE & TEXT: TLH 696

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| <p>1 O God, my faithful God,
 True fountain ever flowing,
 Without whom nothing is,
 All perfect gifts bestowing;
 Give me a healthy frame,
 And may I have within
 A conscience free from blame,
 A soul unstained by sin.</p> <p>2 Grant me the strength to do
 With ready heart and willing
 Whatever You command,
 My calling here fulfilling;
 That I do what I should
 While trusting You to bless
 The outcome for my good,
 For You must give success.</p> <p>3 Keep me from saying words
 That later need recalling;
 Guard me lest idle speech
 May from my lips be falling;
 But when within my place
 I must and ought to speak,
 Then to my words give grace
 Lest I offend the weak.</p> | <p>4 Lord, let me win my foes
 With kindly words and actions,
 And let me find good friends
 For counsel and correction.
 Help me, as You have taught,
 To love both great and small
 And by Your Spirit's might
 To live in peace with all.</p> <p>5 Let me depart this life
 Confiding in my Savior;
 By grace receive my soul
 That it may live forever;
 And let my body have
 A quiet resting place
 Within a Christian grave;
 And let it sleep in peace.</p> <p>6 And on that final day
 When all the dead are waking,
 Stretch out Your mighty hand,
 My deathly slumber breaking.
 Then let me hear Your voice,
 Redeem this earthly frame,
 And bid me to rejoice
 With those who love Your name.</p> |
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|---|---|
| <p>1 Lord Jesus Christ, the Church's head,
You are her one foundation;
In You she trusts, before You bows,
And waits for Your salvation.
Built on this rock secure,
Your Church shall endure
Though all the world decay
And all things pass away.
O hear, O hear us, Jesus!</p> <p>2 O Lord, let this Your little flock,
Your name alone confessing,
Continue in Your loving care,
True unity possessing.
Your sacraments, O Lord,
And Your saving Word
To us, Lord, pure retain.
Grant that they may remain
Our only strength and comfort.</p> | <p>3 Help us to serve You evermore
With hearts both pure and lowly;
And may Your Word, that light divine,
Shine on in splendor holy
That we repentance show,
In faith ever grow;
The pow'r of sin destroy
And evils that annoy.
O make us faithful Christians.</p> <p>4 And for Your Gospel let us dare
To sacrifice all treasure;
Teach us to bear Your blessed cross,
To find in You all pleasure.
O grant us steadfastness
In joy and distress,
Lest we, Lord, You forsake.
Let us by grace partake
Of endless joy and gladness.</p> |
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THE POST-COMMUNION HYMN – TUNE & TEXT: LSB 680

- 1 Thine the Amen, Thine the praise, alleluias angels raise,
Thine the everlasting head, Thine the breaking of the bread,
Thine the glory, Thine the story, Thine the harvest, then the cup;
Thine the vineyard, then the cup is lifted up, lifted up.
- 2 Thine the life eternally, Thine the promise—let there be.
Thine the vision, Thine the tree; all the earth on bended knee,
Gone the nailing, gone the railing, gone the pleading, gone the cry,
Gone the sighing, gone the dying, what was loss lifted high.
- 3 Thine the truly, Thine the yes; Thine the table, we the guest.
Thine the mercy all from Thee; Thine the glory yet to be.
Then the ringing and the singing, then the end of all the war;
Thine the living, Thine the loving evermore, evermore.
- 4 Thine the kingdom, Thine the prize, Thine the wonderful surprise;
Thine the banquet, then the praise, then the justice of Thy ways.
Thine the glory, Thine the story, then the welcome to the least,
Then the wonder all increasing at Thy feast, at Thy feast.

**5 Thine the glory in the night, no more dying, only light.
Thine the river, Thine the tree, then the Lamb eternally,
Then the holy, holy, holy celebration jubilee,
Thine the splendor, Thine the brightness, only Thee, only Thee.**

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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

[Psalms 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 518, STANZA 25

**Praise, Lord, for him whose Gospel Your human life declared,
Who, worldly gain forsaking, Your path of suff'ring shared.
From all unrighteous mammon, O raise our eyes anew
That we in our vocation may rise and follow You.**

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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	Neh. 5:1–16; 6:1–16	1 Timothy 4:1–16
M	Neh. 7:1–4; 8:1–18	1 Timothy 5:1–16
Tu	Neh. 9:1–21	1 Timothy 5:17–6:2
W	Nehemiah 9:22–38	1 Timothy 6:3–21
	<i>Extra: Read Matthew chapters 1 & 2</i>	
Th	Malachi 1:1–14	Matthew 3:1–17
F	Malachi 2:1–3:5	Matthew 4:1–11
Sa	Malachi 3:6–4:6	Matthew 4:12–25

The Lord's Prayer

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

What is the Fifth Petition? And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.

What does this mean? We pray in this petition that our Father in heaven would not look at our sins, or deny our prayer because of them. We are neither worthy of the things for which we pray, nor have we deserved them, but we ask that He would give them all to us by grace, for we daily sin much and surely deserve nothing but punishment. So we too will sincerely forgive and gladly do good to those who sin against us.

What is the Sixth Petition? And lead us not into temptation.

What does this mean? God tempts no one. We pray in this petition that God would guard and keep us so that the devil, the world, and our sinful nature may not deceive us or mislead us into false belief, despair, and other great shame and vice. Although we are attacked by these things, we pray that we may finally overcome them and win the victory.

Hymn

The hymn stanza may be sung or spoken.

The world seeks after wealth
And all that Mammon offers
Yet never is content

Though gold should fill its coffers.

I have a higher good; content with it I'll be:

My Jesus is my Wealth,

—What is the world to me! TLH 430:4

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, whose strength is made perfect in weakness, grant us humility and childlike faith that we may please You in both will and deed; 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 next Sunday, September 28

Amos 6:1–7; Psalms 146 (v. 2) & 91 (v. 11)

1 Timothy 6:6–19; Luke 16:19–31