

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

December 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 upper elementary students meet in the basement, junior high and high school students at the parsonage, and adults in the sanctuary.

## Serving in Worship Today

Preacher & Celebrant	Pastor Peter Gregory
Liturgist	Patrick Jackson
Organist	Mary Gregory
Acolytes	Andrew Gull, Jack Gould

## Advent Note

The Divine Service is simplified and changed in Advent to mark this as a season of repentant joy in preparation for the glorious celebration of our Lord's birth beginning on Christmas Eve.

## Prayers for Worship

*For grace:* Shed Your Holy Spirit upon Your people, O Lord, and make ready our hearts this day to hear and keep Your holy Word that in the communion of Your congregation we may rightly sanctify Your holy day and through Your Word with all Your saints come to eternal blessedness; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

*From the Litany:* By the mystery of Your holy incarnation and by Your holy nativity: Help us, good Lord. Amen.

## Preparation for Confession

The Third Commandment: Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. *What does this mean?* We should fear and love God so that we do not despise preaching and His Word, but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it.

*Questions for self-examination*

- Do I care about holy living?
- Do I use the Word of God and prayer to make my time, work, study, and life holy day by day?

## Cover Illustration

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THE OPENING HYMN – TUNE & TEXT: LSB 356



1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came,  
2 "For know a bless - ed moth - er thou shalt be,  
3 Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head;  
4 Of her, Em - man - u - el, the Christ, was born



With wings as drift - ed snow, with eyes as flame:  
All gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee;  
"To me be as it pleas - eth God," she said.  
In Beth - le - hem all on a Christ - mas morn,



"All hail to thee, O low - ly maid - en Mar - y,  
Thy son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,  
"My soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy God's ho - ly name."  
And Chris - tian folk through - out the world will ev - er say:



Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy." Glo - ri - a!  
Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy." Glo - ri - a!  
Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy, Glo - ri - a!  
"Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy." Glo - ri - a!

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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 to the Lord,  
and You forgave the guilt of my sin.*

Psalm 32:5

*Liturgy for the  
confession of sin  
is spoken.*

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and self-examination.*

*Almighty God, our Maker and our Redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

**O most merciful God, who has given Your only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us, and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will and true obedience to Your Word, so that by Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

## *The Absolution*

*[John 20:19–23]*

**Amen.**

THE INTROIT

*Isaiah 64:1; Psalm 130:5–8*

*Oh that You would rend the heavens and come down,  
that the mountains might quake at Your presence.*

*I wait for the LORD, my soul waits,  
and in His word I hope;*

*my soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen for the morning,  
more than watchmen for the morning.*

*O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love,  
and with Him is plentiful redemption.*

*And He will redeem Israel  
from all his iniquities.*

*Sung liturgy*

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, the Song of the Angels, is omitted until Christmas.*

THE SALUTATION

*2 Timothy 4:22*

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

*Let us pray.* > *Silence for personal prayers.* <

*Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

*Almighty and ever-living God, You strengthened Your apostle Thomas with firm and certain faith in the resurrection of Your Son. Grant us such faith in Jesus Christ, our Lord and our God, that we may never be found wanting in Your sight; through the same Jesus Christ, 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 7:10–17*

*After the reading:*

*This is the word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

THE PSALM

Psalm 24; antiphon v. 7

*Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.*

*The earth is the LORD's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein,*

**for He has founded it upon the seas and established it upon the rivers.**

*Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD? And who shall stand in His holy place?*

**He who has clean hands and a pure heart,**

**who does not lift up his soul to what is false and does not swear deceitfully.**

*He will receive blessing from the LORD and righteousness from the God of his salvation.*

**Such is the generation of those who seek Him, who seek the face of the God of Jacob.**

*Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.*

**Who is this King of glory? The LORD, strong and mighty, the LORD, mighty in battle!**

*Lift up your heads, O gates! And lift them up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.*

**Who is this King of glory? The LORD of hosts, He is the King of glory!**

**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.**

*Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.*

*from the Letters: Romans 1:1–7*

*After the reading:*

*This is the word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

*Hallelujah! Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son,  
and they shall call His name Immanuel. Hallelujah!*

*the Holy Gospel: Matthew 1:18–25*

**Glory be to You, O Lord!**

*After the reading:*

**Praise be to You, O Christ!**

THE APOSTLES' CREED

*Having heard the Word, what do you believe?*

**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 357, STANZAS 1–5

**1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear**

*Refrain*      **Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel!**

**2 O come, Thou Wisdom from on high,  
Who ord'rst all things mightily;  
To us the path of knowledge show,  
And teach us in her ways to go. *Refrain***

**3 O come, O come, Thou Lord of might,  
Who to Thy tribes on Sinai's height  
In ancient times didst give the Law  
In cloud and majesty and awe. *Refrain***

**4 O come, Thou Branch of Jesse's tree,  
Free them from Satan's tyranny  
That trust Thy mighty pow'r to save,  
And give them vict'ry o'er the grave.  
*Refrain***

**5 O come, Thou Key of David, come,  
And open wide our heav'nly home;  
Make safe the way that leads on high,  
And close the path to misery. *Refrain***

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*The Sermon*

*Matthew 1:18–25*

6 O come, Thou Dayspring from on high,  
And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
And death's dark shadows put to flight.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

7 O come, Desire of nations, bind  
In one the hearts of all mankind;  
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease,  
And be Thyself our King of Peace.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

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### *The Presentation of the Offering*

*Psalms 116:17; 18:1*

*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 PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

*Blessed are 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. In Your boundless mercy You sent Your servant, John the Baptist, to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of heaven draws near. With thankful hearts we pray, "Come, Lord Jesus," confident that in His body and blood, given us to eat and drink, we receive the forgiveness of sins and so proclaim His death until He comes again in glory.*

*Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:*

#### 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.**

#### CONSECRATION HYMN – TUNE: LSB 358 & TEXT: RMH

1 What hast Thou done, Eternal God,  
Descending to this tainted sod  
To make Thy palace in a maid,  
When Thine own hand the maiden made?

2 Though highest heav'ns be all too small,  
She holdeth Thee who holdeth all,  
To carry Thee in weakness furled,  
That Thou may'st carry all the world.

**3 Thou tender, unborn flesh and blood,  
Thou ancient and almighty God!  
What hath Thy love for sinners done?  
O Love, Thy love our love hath won.**

## *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.*

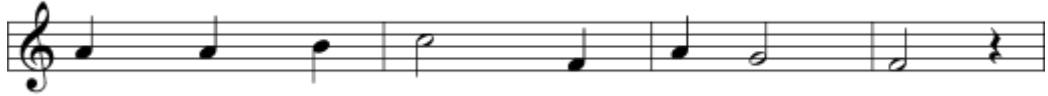
*Psalm 80:1–7 (antiphon: v. 7)*

*DISTRIBUTION HYMN – TUNE: LSB 331 & TEXT: RMH*

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>1 O Adam’s children, sing!<br/>Arise, O fallen earth!<br/>The Second Adam comes, the King<br/>By low yet royal birth.</b>        | <b>4 She meekly bowed her head<br/>To hear the gracious word,<br/>Blest Mary, the believing maid<br/>And favored of the Lord.</b>           |
| <b>2 Isaiah gave the sign<br/>For faithful souls to read:<br/>“A virgin born of David’s line<br/>Shall bear the promised Seed.”</b> | <b>5 And blest shall be her name<br/>In all the Church on earth<br/>Through whom the wondrous mercy came<br/>Of God our Savior’s birth.</b> |
| <b>3 You ask how this could be?<br/>Oh, worship and adore<br/>Like her whom God’s own majesty<br/>Came down to shadow o’er.</b>     | <b>6 O Christ, the virgin’s Son,<br/>With her we magnify<br/>The grace that sees the lowly one<br/>And lifts the humble high.</b>           |



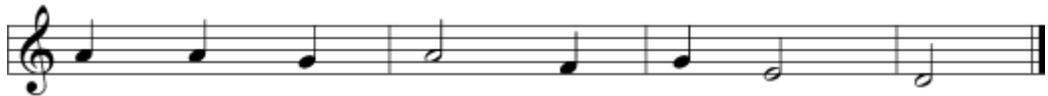
1 O Sav - ior, rend the heav - ens wide;  
 2 O Fa - ther, light from heav - en send;  
 4 O Fount of hope, how long, how long?  
 5 O Morn - ing Star, O ra - dian Sun,  
 7 There shall we all our prais - es bring



Come down, come down with might - y stride;  
 As morn - ing dew, O Son, de - scend.  
 When will You come with com - fort strong?  
 When will our hearts be - hold Your dawn?  
 And sing to You, our Sav - ior King;



Un - lock the gates, the doors break down;  
 Drop down, you clouds, the life of spring:  
 O come, O come, Your throne fore - go;  
 O Sun, a - rise; with - out Your light  
 There shall we laud You and a - dore



Un - bar the way to heav - en's crown.  
 To Ja - cob's line rain down the King.  
 Con - sole us in our vale of woe.  
 We grope in gloom and dark of night.  
 For - ev - er and for - ev - er - more.

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DISTRIBUTION HYMN – TUNE & TEXT: LSB 332

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>1 Savior of the nations, come,<br/>                 Virgin's Son, make here Your home!<br/>                 Marvel now, O heav'n and earth,<br/>                 That the Lord chose such a birth.</p> | <p>3 Here a maid was found with child,<br/>                 Yet remained a virgin mild.<br/>                 In her womb this truth was shown:<br/>                 God was there upon His throne.</p> |
| <p>2 Not by human flesh and blood,<br/>                 By the Spirit of our God,<br/>                 Was the Word of God made flesh—<br/>                 Woman's offspring, pure and fresh.</p>        | <p>4 Then stepped forth the Lord of all<br/>                 From His pure and kingly hall;<br/>                 God of God, yet fully man,<br/>                 His heroic course began.</p>          |

5 God the Father was His source,  
Back to God He ran His course.  
Into hell His road went down,  
Back then to His throne and crown.

6 For You are the Father's Son  
Who in flesh the vict'ry won.  
By Your mighty pow'r make whole  
All our ills of flesh and soul.

7 From the manger newborn light  
Shines in glory through the night.  
Darkness there no more resides;  
In this light faith now abides.

△ 8 Glory to the Father sing,  
Glory to the Son, our king,  
Glory to the Spirit be  
Now and through eternity.

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THE POST-COMMUNION HYMN – TUNE & TEXT: TLH 275

*Following the common dismissal for Holy Communion, we stand for this hymn paraphrase of the Magnificat, the Song of Mary. (Luke 1:46–56). The hymn may be sung from The Lutheran Hymnal #275 (the red pew hymnal).*

THE THANKSGIVING

Psalm 107:1

*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.*

1 O little town of Bethlehem,  
How still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
The silent stars go by;  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth  
The everlasting light.  
The hopes and fears of all the years  
Are met in thee tonight.

2 For Christ is born of Mary,  
And, gathered all above  
While mortals sleep, the angels keep  
Their watch of wond'ring love.  
O morning stars, together  
Proclaim the holy birth,  
And praises sing to God the king  
And peace to all the earth!

3 How silently, how silently  
The wondrous gift is giv'n!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
The blessings of His heav'n.  
No ear may hear His coming;  
But in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive Him, still  
The dear Christ enters in.

4 O holy Child of Bethlehem,  
Descend to us, we pray;  
Cast out our sin, and enter in,  
Be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
The great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us,  
Our Lord Immanuel!

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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	Isaiah 42:1–25	Revelation 9:1–12
M	Isaiah 43:1–24	Rev. 9:13–10:11
Tu	Isaiah 43:25–44:20	Revelation 11:1–19
W	Isa. 44:21–45:13, 20–25	Revelation 12:1–17
Th	Isaiah 49:1–18	Matthew 1:1–17
F	Isa. 49:22–51:8, 12–16	Matthew 1:18–25
Sa	Isaiah 51:17–52:12	Matthew 2:1–12

### Daily Prayers

*How the head of the family should teach his household  
to pray morning and evening.*

#### Morning Prayer

*In the morning when you get up, make the sign of the  
holy cross and say:* In the name of the Father and of  
the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

*Then, kneeling or standing, repeat the Creed and the  
Lord's Prayer. If you choose, you may also say this little  
prayer:* I thank You, my heavenly Father, through  
Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me  
this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that  
You would keep me this day also from sin and  
every evil, that all my doings and life may please  
You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my  
body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel  
be with me, that the evil foe may have no power  
over me. Amen.

*Then go joyfully to your work, singing a hymn, like that  
of the Ten Commandments, or whatever your devotion  
may suggest.*

### Hymn

*The hymn stanza may be sung or spoken.*

From the manger newborn light  
Shines in glory through the night.  
Darkness there no more resides;  
In this light faith now abides.

*LSB 332:7*

### 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 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

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us  
by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down  
may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for  
You live and reign with the Father and the Holy  
Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

#### Readings for the Feast of the Nativity, Christmas Day

Isa. 52:7–10; Ps. 2 (v. 7); Hebrews 1:1–6; John 1:1–18

#### For the Feast of the Holy Innocents, Sun., Dec. 28

Jer. 31:15–17; Ps. 54 (v. 4); Rev. 14:1–5; Matt. 2:13–18