

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

January 4, AD 2026

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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 | Paul Diggins |
| Organist | Anne Bennet |
| Crucifer | Eli Roach |
| Acolytes | William Jackson, Jack Gould |

Prayers for Worship

Before communion: Lord Jesus, You invite all who are burdened with sin to come to You for rest. We now come at Your invitation to the heavenly feast, which You have provided for Your children on earth.

Preserve us from impenitence and unbelief, cleanse us from our unrighteousness, and clothe us with the righteousness purchased with Your blood.

Strengthen our faith, increase our love and hope, and assure us a place at Your heavenly table, where we will eat eternal manna and drink of the river of Your pleasure forever and ever. Hear us, Jesus, for Your own sake. 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

- What is my attitude toward worship?
- Do I honor the Word of God highly by studying it gladly, learning it by heart, and living it?
- Do I despise the Word of God by neglect, paying no attention to it when it is read or preached?

Cover Illustration

Christ Discovered in the Temple,
also known as *The Holy Family*
by Simone Martini (c. 1284–1344).

> *If able, please stand and face the processional crucifix.* <

THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN—TUNE & TEXT: LSB 376

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1 Once in royal David's city Stood a lowly cattle shed, Where a mother laid her baby In a manger for His bed: Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.</p> <p>2 He came down to earth from heaven, Who is God and Lord of all, And His shelter was a stable, And His cradle was a stall; With the poor and mean and lowly Lived on earth our Savior holy.</p> | <p>3 For He is our childhood's pattern, Day by day like us He grew; He was little, weak, and helpless, Tears and smiles like us He knew; And He feels for all our sadness, And He shares in all our gladness.</p> <p>4 And our eyes at last shall see Him, Through His own redeeming love; For that child so dear and gentle Is our Lord in heav'n above; And He leads His children on To the place where He is gone.</p> <p>5 Not in that poor, lowly stable With the oxen standing by Shall we see Him, but in heaven, Set at God's right hand on high. Then like stars His children, crowned, All in white, His praise will sound!</p> |
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Text: Public domain

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

> *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

John 1:14; Psalm 147:1, 5, 11–12

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory,
glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Praise the LORD! For it is good to sing praises to our God;
for it is pleasant, and a song of praise is fitting.

Great is our Lord, and abundant in power;
His understanding is beyond measure.

But the LORD takes pleasure in those who fear Him,
in those who hope in His steadfast love.

Praise the LORD, O Jerusalem!
Praise your God, O Zion!

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 COLLECT OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

> Silence for personal prayers. <

Almighty God, You have poured into our hearts the true Light of Your incarnate Word. Grant that this Light may shine forth in our lives; through the same 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: 1 Kings 3:4–15

After the reading:

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE PSALM

Psalm 119:97–104, "Mem"; antiphon v. 99

I have more understanding than all my teachers, for Your testimonies are my meditation.

Oh how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day.

Your commandment makes me wiser than my enemies, for it is ever with me.

I have more understanding than all my teachers, for Your testimonies are my meditation.

I understand more than the aged, for I keep Your precepts.

I hold back my feet from every evil way, in order to keep Your word.

I do not turn aside from Your just decrees, for You have taught me.

How sweet are Your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!

Through Your precepts I get understanding; therefore I hate every false way.

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 more understanding than all y teachers, for Your testimonies are my meditation.

from the Letters: Ephesians 1:3–14

After the reading:

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE TRIPLE HALLELUJAH

> Stand and face the crucifix as it enters the nave. The reading of the Gospel in the midst of the congregation is a visual reminder that “the Word became flesh and dwelt among us” (John 1:14). <

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

the Holy Gospel: Luke 2:40–52

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 worshipped 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.

HYMN OF THE DAY – TUNE: TLH 341 & TEXT: TLH 133, ALT.

**1 Here in His Father’s House,
A Son is found at home;
Thus to His Temple, suddenly,
The long-sought Lord has come.
The teachers of the Law
Meet Mercy undefiled,
And wonder at the wisdom here
In one amazing Child.**

**2 Yet not to them is giv’n
The awesome truth to know,
To lift the earthly veil that hides
Incarnate God below.
The secrets of the Lord
No sin-filmed eye can see
And even faithful hearts must wait
For full epiphany.**

3 Teach us, O Lord, to love
Each slightest shining here
And by Your Word to know the Face
That soon, now, shall appear;
Till, though Your ways be dark,
We trust all that You do,
For if we know not how or why,
Yet, Jesus, we know You.

4 Then from our clouded sight
The clouds shall pass away
And on our light-washed souls shall burst
The everlasting Day
To know as we are known
In His high House above
The Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
All One, All Wise, All Love.

Text: Public domain

The Sermon

1 Kings 3:4–15 & Luke 2:40–52

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

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; for in the mystery of the Word made flesh You have given us a new revelation of Your glory that, seeing You in the person of Your Son, we may know and love those things which are not seen. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify Your glorious name, forever 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

The coming of Christ in the flesh at Bethlehem was a concrete outward act of God in humble means that was despised by the world. The flesh and blood coming of Christ in the sacrament is also a concrete outward act of God in humble means that can be despised. Rather than despise it, however, God would have us delight in it!

With deep thankfulness for His gifts to us here we also express our deep desire to celebrate it according to God's will. Since this includes oneness in the faith we confess (doctrine), guests who desire to commune are asked to speak with pastor first. Anyone is welcome to come forward with arms crossed to receive a blessing.

Psalm 111 (antiphon: v. 9a, b)

DISTRIBUTION HYMN – TUNE: TLH 85 & TEXT: LSB 385

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|--|---|
| <p>1 From east to west, from shore to shore Let ev'ry heart awake and sing The holy child whom Mary bore, The Christ, the everlasting king.</p> <p>2 Behold, the world's creator wears The form and fashion of a slave; Our very flesh our maker shares, His fallen creatures all to save.</p> | <p>3 For this how wondrously He wrought! A maiden, in her lowly place, Became, in ways beyond all thought, The chosen vessel of His grace.</p> <p>4 And while the angels in the sky Sang praise above the silent field, To shepherds poor the Lord Most High, The one great Shepherd, was revealed.</p> |
|--|---|

△ **5** All glory for this blessed morn
To God the Father ever be;
All praise to You, O Virgin-born,
And Holy Ghost eternally.

Text: Public domain

DISTRIBUTION HYMN – TUNE: TLH 625 & TEXT: LSB 862

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1 Oh, blest the house, whate'er befall, Where Jesus Christ is all in all! A home that is not wholly His— How sad and poor and dark it is!</p> <p>2 Oh, blest that house where faith is found And all in hope and love abound; They trust their God and serve Him still And do in all His holy will!</p> | <p>3 Oh, blest the parents who give heed Unto their children's foremost need And weary not of care or cost. May none to them and heav'n be lost!</p> <p>4 Oh, blest that house; it prospers well. In peace and joy the parents dwell, And in their children's lives is shown How richly God can bless His own.</p> |
|--|--|

5 Then here will I and mine today
A solemn promise make and say:
Though all the world forsake His Word,
I and my house will serve the Lord!

Text: Public domain

1 Of the Father's love begotten
Ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega,
He the source, the ending He,
Of the things that are, that have been,
And that future years shall see
Evermore and evermore.

2 Oh, that birth forever blessed,
When the virgin, full of grace,
By the Holy Ghost conceiving,
Bore the Savior of our race,
And the babe, the world's Redeemer,
First revealed His sacred face
Evermore and evermore.

3 This is He whom seers in old time
Chanted of with one accord,
Whom the voices of the prophets
Promised in their faithful word.
Now He shines, the long-expected;
Let creation praise its Lord
Evermore and evermore.

4 O ye heights of heav'n, adore Him;
Angel hosts, His praises sing.
Pow'rs, dominions, bow before Him
And extol our God and King.
Let no tongue on earth be silent,
Ev'ry voice in concert ring
Evermore and evermore.

△ 5 Christ, to Thee, with God the Father,
And, O Holy Ghost, to Thee
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving
And unending praises be,
Honor, glory, and dominion,
And eternal victory
Evermore and evermore.

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. Lord God, Heavenly Father, we thank and praise You for sending Your Only Son into the world that we might become Your children, and for giving us now the very body and blood born of Mary in Bethlehem to set us free from sin, death, Satan, and hell. By Your Holy Spirit, keep us to the end with our Lord Jesus, that as we rejoice with angels in His birth, we may rejoice with angels in His glory, and behold Him with You and the Spirit in the kingdom of the Triune Majesty, which has no end. 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 RECESSIONAL HYMN—TUNE & TEXT: LSB 387

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing!

2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let men their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

3 No more let sins and sorrows grow
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found.

4 He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders of His love.

Text: Public Domain

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 63:15–65:2 | Luke 2:41–52 |
| M | Isaiah 65:8–25 | Luke 3:1–20 |
| | <i>Tuesday: The Feast of Epiphany</i> | |
| Tu | Isaiah 66:1–20 | Luke 3:21–38 |
| W | Ezekiel 1:1–14, 22–28 | Romans 1:1–17 |
| Th | Ezekiel 2:1–3:11 | Romans 1:18–32 |
| F | Ezekiel 3:12–27 | Romans 2:1–16 |
| Sa | Ezekiel 18:1–4, 19–32 | Romans 2:17–29 |

Daily Prayers

*How the head of the family should teach his household
to ask a blessing and return thanks.*

Asking a Blessing

*The children and members of the household shall go to
the table reverently, fold their hands, and say:* The eyes
of all look to You, [O LORD,] and You give them
their food at the proper time. You open Your hand
and satisfy the desires of every living thing. (Ps.
145: 15–16)

Then shall be said the Lord's Prayer and the following:

Lord God, heavenly Father, bless us and these Your
gifts which we receive from Your bountiful
goodness, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

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

Verse for Meditation

To us a child is born, to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon His shoulder.
And His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
Isaiah 9:6

Hymn

The hymn stanza may be sung or spoken.

For He is our childhood's pattern,
Day by day like us He grew;
He was little, weak, and helpless,
Tears and smiles like us He knew;
And He feels for all our sadness,
And He shares in all our gladness. LSB 376:3

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

Almighty God, You have poured into our hearts the
true Light of Your incarnate Word. Grant that this
Light may shine forth in our lives; through the same
Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Amen.

Readings for the Baptism of Our Lord, Sunday, January 11

Isaiah 42:1–9, Psalms 29 (v. 3) & 85 (v.9);
Romans 6:1–11; Matthew 3:13–17