

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

March 1, AD 2026

office@oursaviorlcms.com  
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 and lower elementary meet in the basement, elementary students in the teller room and Pastor's study, junior high and high school 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, Laz Gregory

## 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 Holy Communion:* Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the body of Thy dear son Jesus Christ, and to drink His blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by His body, and our souls washed by His most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in Him, and He in us. Amen.

## Preparation for Confession

The Sixth Commandment: You shall not commit adultery. *What does this mean?* We should fear and love God so that we lead a chaste and decent life in what we say and do, and husband and wife love and honor each other.

*Questions for self-examination*

- Am I chaste?
- Have I desired or cultivated an emotional or physical relationship with someone who is not my spouse?
- Am I guilty of lust, indecency, or the use of pornography?

## Cover Illustration

John La Farge, *Visit of Nicodemus* to Christ, 1880, oil on canvas, Smithsonian American Art Museum, Gift of William T. Evans, 1909.7.37. Public Domain.

THE OPENING HYMN – TUNE & TEXT: LSB 571

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <p>1 God loved the world so that He gave<br/>His only Son the lost to save,<br/>That all who would in Him believe<br/>Should everlasting life receive.</p> <p>2 Christ Jesus is the ground of faith,<br/>Who was made flesh and suffered death;<br/>All then who trust in Him alone<br/>Are built on this chief cornerstone.</p> <p>3 God would not have the sinner die;<br/>His Son with saving grace is nigh;<br/>His Spirit in the Word declares<br/>How we in Christ are heaven's heirs.</p> | <p>4 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son<br/>Forgives all sins which you have done;<br/>And, justified by Jesus' blood,<br/>Your Baptism grants the highest good.</p> <p>5 If you are sick, if death is near,<br/>This truth your troubled heart can cheer:<br/>Christ Jesus saves your soul from death;<br/>That is the firmest ground of faith.</p> <p>△ 6 Glory to God the Father, Son,<br/>And Holy Spirit, Three in One!<br/>To You, O blessed Trinity,<br/>Be praise now and eternally!</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 105:4-7; antiphon: v. 8

*He remembers His covenant forever,*

**the word that He commanded, for a thousand generations.**

*Seek the LORD and His strength;*

**seek His presence continually!**

*Remember the wondrous works that He has done,*

**His miracles, and the judgments He uttered,**

*O offspring of Abraham, His servant,*

**children of Jacob, His chosen ones!**

*He is the LORD our God;*

**His judgments are in all the earth.**

**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.**

*He remembers His covenant forever,*

**the word that He commanded, for a thousand generations.**

THE SALUTATION

2 Timothy 4:22

*The Lord be with you.*

**And with your spirit.**

THE COLLECT

*Let us pray.*

*> Silence for personal prayers. <*

*O God, You see that of ourselves we have no strength. By Your mighty power defend us from all adversities that may happen to the body and from all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the 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: Genesis 12:1–9*

*After the reading:*

*This is the Word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

THE PSALM

Psalm 121; antiphon v. 8

*The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forevermore.*

*I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come?*

**My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.**

*He will not let your foot be moved; He who keeps you will not slumber.*

**Behold, He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.**

*The LORD is your keeper; the LORD is your shade on your right hand.*

**The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.**

*The LORD will keep you from all evil; He will keep your life.*

**The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in  
from this time forth and forevermore.**

**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 will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forevermore.*

*from the Letters: Romans 4:1–8. 13–17*

*After the reading:*

*This is the Word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

THE VERSE

John 3:16

*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son,  
that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.*

*from the Holy Gospel: John 3:1–17*

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

*After the reading:*

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

THE APOSTLES' CREED

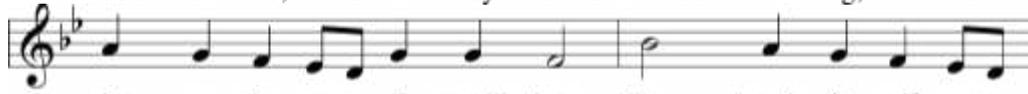
**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.  
And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried.  
He descended into hell.  
The third day He rose 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.**



1 Lord, Thee I love with all my heart; I pray Thee, ne'er from  
 2 Yea, Lord, 'twas Thy rich boun-ty gave My bod - y, soul, and  
 3 Lord, let at last Thine an - gels come, To A - br'ham's bos - om



me de - part, With ten - der mer - cy cheer me. Earth  
 all I have In this poor life of la - bor. Lord,  
 bear me home, That I may die un - fear - ing; And



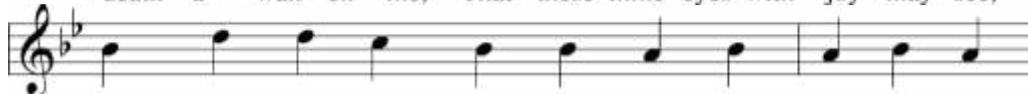
has no plea - sure I would share. Yea, heav'n it - self were  
 grant that I in ev - 'ry place May glo - ri - fy Thy  
 in its nar - row cham - ber keep My bod - y safe in



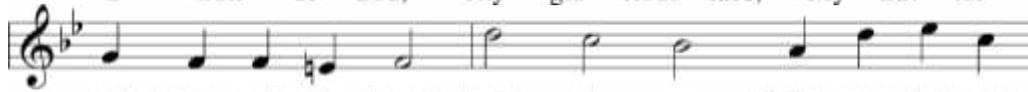
void and bare If Thou, Lord, wert not near me. And should my  
 lav - ish grace And help and serve my neigh - bor. Let no false  
 peace - ful sleep Un - til Thy re - ap - pear - ing. And then from



heart for sor - row break, My trust in Thee can noth - ing shake.  
 doc - trine me be - guile; Let Sa - tan not my soul de - file.  
 death a - wak - en me, That these mine eyes with joy may see,



Thou art the por - tion I have sought; Thy pre - cious  
 Give strength and pa - tience un - to me To bear my  
 O Son of God, Thy glo - rious face, My Sav - ior



blood my soul has bought. Lord Je - sus Christ, my God and  
 cross and fol - low Thee. Lord Je - sus Christ, my God and  
 and my fount of grace. Lord Je - sus Christ, my prayer at -



Lord, my God and Lord, For - sake me not! I trust Thy Word.  
 Lord, my God and Lord, In death Thy com - fort still af - ford.  
 tend, my prayer at - tend, And I will praise Thee with - out end.

# *The Sermon*

*John 3:1–17*

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 Receiving of New Members by Reaffirmation of Faith*

*Corrine Beauvais † Kay Landry † Paul Lauricella*

## *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.***

**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

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 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 5:1–8, 11–12 (antiphon: v. 12)*

DISTRIBUTION HYMN – TUNE & TEXT: LSB 580

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p><b>1 The Gospel shows the Father's grace,<br/>Who sent His Son to save our race,<br/>Proclaims how Jesus lived and died<br/>That we might thus be justified.</b></p> | <p><b>3 It brings the Savior's righteousness<br/>To robe our souls in royal dress;<br/>From all our guilt it brings release<br/>And gives the troubled conscience peace.</b></p> |
| <p><b>2 It sets the Lamb before our eyes,<br/>Who made the atoning sacrifice,<br/>And calls the souls with guilt oppressed<br/>To come and find eternal rest.</b></p>   | <p><b>4 It is the pow'r of God to save<br/>From sin and Satan and the grave;<br/>It works the faith which firmly clings<br/>To all the treasures which it brings.</b></p>        |

5 It bears to all the tidings glad  
And bids their hearts no more be sad;  
The weary, burdened souls it cheers  
And banishes their guilty fears.

6 May we in faith its message learn  
Nor thanklessly its blessings spurn;  
May we in faith its truth confess  
And praise the Lord, our righteousness.

Text: Public domain

*DISTRIBUTION HYMN – TUNE & TEXT: LSB 439, STANZAS 1, 8–12*

- 1 O dearest Jesus, what law hast Thou broken  
That such sharp sentence should on Thee be spoken?  
Of what great crime hast Thou to make confession, what dark transgression?
- 2 O mighty King, no time can dim Thy glory!  
How shall I spread abroad Thy wondrous story?  
How shall I find some worthy gifts to proffer? What dare I offer?
- 3 For vainly doth our human wisdom ponder—  
Thy woes, Thy mercy, still transcend our wonder.  
Oh, how should I do aught that could delight Thee! Can I requite Thee?
- 4 Yet unrequited, Lord, I would not leave Thee;  
I will renounce whate'er doth vex or grieve Thee  
And quench with thoughts of Thee and prayers most lowly all fires unholy.
- 5 But since my strength will nevermore suffice me  
To crucify desires that still entice me,  
To all good deeds O let Thy Spirit win me and reign within me!
- 6 I'll think upon Thy mercy without ceasing,  
That earth's vain joys to me no more be pleasing;  
To do Thy will shall be my sole endeavor henceforth forever.

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*DISTRIBUTION HYMN – TUNE & TEXT: LSB 453*

- 1 Upon the cross extended  
See, world, your Lord suspended.  
Your Savior yields His breath.  
The Prince of Life from heaven  
Himself has freely given  
To shame and blows and bitter death.
- 2 Come, see these things and ponder,  
Your soul will fill with wonder  
As blood streams from each pore.  
Through grief beyond all knowing  
From His great heart came flowing  
Sighs welling from its deepest core.

- 3 Who is it, Lord, that bruised You?  
Who has so sore abused You  
And caused You all Your woe?  
We all must make confession  
Of sin and dire transgression  
While You no ways of evil know.
- 4 I caused Your grief and sighing  
By evils multiplying  
As countless as the sands.  
I caused the woes unnumbered  
With which Your soul is cumbered,  
Your sorrows raised by wicked hands.
- 5 Your soul in griefs unbounded,  
Your head with thorns surrounded,  
You died to ransom me.  
The cross for me enduring,  
The crown for me securing,  
You healed my wounds and set me free.
- 6 Your cords of love, my Savior,  
Bind me to You forever,  
I am no longer mine.  
To You I gladly tender  
All that my life can render  
And all I have to You resign.

7 Your cross I place before me;  
Its saving pow'r restore me,  
Sustain me in the test.  
It will, when life is ending,  
Be guiding and attending  
My way to Your eternal rest.

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THE POST-COMMUNION HYMN – TUNE: LSB 811 & TEXT: TLH 385, STANZA 4

**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	Gen. 16:1–9, 15–17:22	Mark 6:1–13
M	Genesis 18:1–15	Mark 6:14–34
Tu	Genesis 21:1–21	Mark 6:35–56
W	Genesis 22:1–19	Mark 7:1–23
Th	Genesis 24:1–31	Mark 7:24–37
F	Gen. 24:32–52, 61–67	Mark 8:1–21
Sa	Genesis 27:1–29	Mark 8:22–38

### The Table of Duties

*Certain passages of Scripture for various holy orders and positions,  
admonishing them about their duties and responsibilities.*

#### To Husbands

Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers. 1 Peter 3:7

Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them. Col. 3:19

#### To Wives

Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. Eph. 5:22

They were submissive to their own husbands, like Sarah, who obeyed Abraham and called him her master. You are her daughters if you do what is right and do not give way to fear. 1 Peter 3:5–6

### Verse for Meditation

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

John 3:16 NKJV

### Hymn

*The hymn stanza may be sung or spoken.*

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. LSB 571:4

### 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

O God, You see that of ourselves we have no strength. By Your mighty power defend us from all adversities that may happen to the body and from all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the 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 the Third Sunday in Lent, March 8

Exodus 17:1–7; Psalms 95:1–9 (v. 6) & 84 (v. 4);

Romans 5:1–8; John 4:5–30, 39–42