

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 15, 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	Tom Connell
Organist	Anne Bennet
Acolytes	William Jackson, Jack Gould

## 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 the eyes of our hearts to be opened:* Lord God, heavenly Father, as Your Son gave sight to the blind man, giving the man eyes to see the one who is the healer of the nations, so give us sight to see the salvation prepared for us in Him who opens our eyes in the breaking of the bread; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

*For faith, hope, and love:* Almighty God, grant us a steadfast faith in Jesus Christ, a cheerful hope in Your mercy, and a sincere love for You and one another; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

## Preparation for Confession

The Seventh Commandment: You shall not steal. *What does this mean?* We should fear and love God so that we do not take our neighbor's money or possessions, or get them in any dishonest way, but help him to improve and protect his possessions and income.

*Questions for self-examination*

- Am I generous?
- Do I faithfully attend to the responsibilities of my vocations and work?

## Cover Illustration

*The Healing of the Man Born Blind* from the Maestà  
by Duccio di Buoninsegna (ca. 1255–1319).

THE OPENING HYMN – TUNE: TLH 245 & TEXT: LSB 571

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|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <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 27:4–6; antiphon 25:15

*My eyes are ever toward the LORD,  
for He will pluck my feet out of the net.*

*One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after:  
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life,  
to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in His temple.*

*For He will hide me in His shelter in the day of trouble;  
He will conceal me under the cover of His tent; He will lift me high upon a rock.*

*And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies all around me,  
and I will offer in His tent sacrifices with shouts of joy;*

**I will sing and make melody to the LORD.**

**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.**

*My eyes are ever toward the LORD,*  
**for He will pluck my feet out of the net.**

THE SALUTATION

2 Timothy 4:22

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

THE COLLECT

*Let us pray. > Silence for personal prayers. < Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; 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: Isaiah 42:14–21*

*After the reading:*

*This is the Word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

THE PSALM

Psalm 142; antiphon v. 5

*I cry to You, O LORD; I say, "You are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living."*

*With my voice I cry out to the LORD; with my voice I plead for mercy to the LORD.*

**I pour out my complaint before Him; I tell my trouble before Him.**

*When my spirit faints within me, You know my way!*

*In the path where I walk they have hidden a trap for me.*

**Look to the right and see: there is none who takes notice of me;  
no refuge remains to me; no one cares for my soul.**

*I cry to You, O LORD; I say, "You are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living."*

**Attend to my cry, for I am brought very low!**

**Deliver me from my persecutors, for they are too strong for me!**

*Bring me out of prison, that I may give thanks to Your name!*

*The righteous will surround me, for You will deal bountifully with me.*

**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 cry to You, O LORD; I say, "You are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living."*

*from the Letters: Ephesians 5:8–14*

*After the reading:*

*This is the Word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

THE VERSE

Psalm 36:9

*With You is the fountain of life;*  
**in Your light do we see light.**

*from the Holy Gospel: John 9:1–41*

**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.**

HYMN OF THE DAY – TUNE: TLH 387 & TEXT: LSB 556, STANZAS 1–6

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| <p><b>1 Dear Christians, one and all, rejoice,<br/>With exultation springing,<br/>And with united heart and voice<br/>And holy rapture singing,<br/>Proclaim the wonders God has done,<br/>How His right arm the vict'ry won.<br/>What price our ransom cost Him!</b></p> <p><b>2 Fast bound in Satan's chains I lay;<br/>Death brooded darkly o'er me.<br/>Sin was my torment night and day;<br/>In sin my mother bore me.<br/>But daily deeper still I fell;<br/>My life became a living hell,<br/>So firmly sin possessed me.</b></p> | <p><b>3 My own good works all came to naught,<br/>No grace or merit gaining;<br/>Free will against God's judgment fought,<br/>Dead to all good remaining.<br/>My fears increased till sheer despair<br/>Left only death to be my share;<br/>The pangs of hell I suffered.</b></p> <p><b>4 But God had seen my wretched state<br/>Before the world's foundation,<br/>And mindful of His mercies great,<br/>He planned for my salvation.<br/>He turned to me a father's heart;<br/>He did not choose the easy part<br/>But gave His dearest treasure.</b></p> |
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5 God said to His beloved Son:  
    *"It's time to have compassion.*  
Then go, bright jewel of My crown,  
    And bring to all salvation.  
From sin and sorrow set them free;  
Slay bitter death for them that they  
    May live with You forever."

6 The Son obeyed His Father's will,  
    Was born of virgin mother;  
And God's good pleasure to fulfill,  
    He came to be my brother.  
His royal pow'r disguised He bore;  
A servant's form, like mine, He wore  
    To lead the devil captive.

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## *The Sermon*

*Ephesians 5:8–14s*

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 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.*  
**And with your spirit.**

2 Timothy 4:22

*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.*

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.**

*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 122 (antiphon: vv. 1–2)*

- 1 Christ, the life of all the living,  
Christ, the death of death, our foe,  
Who, Thyself for me once giving  
To the darkest depths of woe:  
Through Thy suff'rings, death, and merit  
I eternal life inherit.  
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,  
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.
- 2 Thou, ah! Thou, hast taken on Thee  
Bonds and stripes, a cruel rod;  
Pain and scorn were heaped upon Thee,  
O Thou sinless Son of God!  
Thus didst Thou my soul deliver  
From the bonds of sin forever.  
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,  
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.
- 3 Thou hast borne the smiting only  
That my wounds might all be whole;  
Thou hast suffered, sad and lonely,  
Rest to give my weary soul;  
Yea, the curse of God enduring,  
Blessing unto me securing.  
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,  
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.
- 4 Heartless scoffers did surround Thee,  
Treating Thee with shameful scorn  
And with piercing thorns they crowned Thee.  
All disgrace Thou, Lord, hast borne,  
That as Thine Thou mightest own me  
And with heav'nly glory crown me.  
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,  
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.
- 5 Thou hast suffered men to bruise Thee,  
That from pain I might be free;  
Falsely did Thy foes accuse Thee:  
Thence I gain security;  
Comfortless Thy soul did languish  
Me to comfort in my anguish.  
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,  
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.
- 6 Thou hast suffered great affliction  
And hast borne it patiently,  
Even death by crucifixion,  
Fully to atone for me;  
Thou didst choose to be tormented  
That my doom should be prevented.  
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,  
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.
- 7 Then, for all that wrought my pardon,  
For Thy sorrows deep and sore,  
For Thine anguish in the Garden,  
I will thank Thee evermore,  
Thank Thee for Thy groaning, sighing,  
For Thy bleeding and Thy dying,  
For that last triumphant cry,  
And shall praise Thee, Lord, on high.

*DISTRIBUTION HYMN – TUNE: TLH 388 & TEXT: LSB 570*

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| <p>1 Just as I am, without one plea<br/>But that Thy blood was shed for me<br/>And that Thou bidd'st me come to Thee,<br/>O Lamb of God, I come, I come.</p> <p>2 Just as I am and waiting not<br/>To rid my soul of one dark blot,<br/>To Thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot,<br/>O Lamb of God, I come, I come.</p> <p>3 Just as I am, though tossed about<br/>With many_a conflict, many_a doubt,<br/>Fightings and fears within, without,<br/>O Lamb of God, I come, I come.</p> | <p>4 Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;<br/>Sight, riches, healing of the mind,<br/>Yea, all I need, in Thee to find,<br/>O Lamb of God, I come, I come.</p> <p>5 Just as I am, Thou wilt receive,<br/>Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;<br/>Because Thy promise I believe,<br/>O Lamb of God, I come, I come.</p> <p>6 Just as I am; Thy love unknown<br/>Has broken ev'ry barrier down;<br/>Now to be Thine, yea, Thine alone,<br/>O Lamb of God, I come, I come.</p> |
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*DISTRIBUTION HYMN – TUNE: TLH 175, FIRST TUNE & TEXT: LSB 425*

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| <p>1 When I survey the wondrous cross<br/>On which the Prince of Glory died,<br/>My richest gain I count but loss<br/>And pour contempt on all my pride.</p> <p>2 Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast<br/>Save in the death of Christ, my God;<br/>All the vain things that charm me most,<br/>I sacrifice them to His blood.</p> | <p>3 See, from His head, His hands, His feet<br/>Sorrow and love flow mingled down!<br/>Did e'er such love and sorrow meet<br/>Or thorns compose so rich a crown?</p> <p>4 Were the whole realm of nature mine,<br/>That were a tribute far too small;<br/>Love so amazing, so divine,<br/>Demands my soul, my life, my all!</p> |
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*THE POST-COMMUNION HYMN – TUNE & TEXT: LSB 744*

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| <p>1 Amazing grace—how sweet the sound—<br/>That saved a wretch like me!<br/>I once was lost but now am found,<br/>Was blind but now I see!</p> <p>2 The Lord has promised good to me,<br/>His Word my hope secures;<br/>He will my shield and portion be<br/>As long as life endures.</p> | <p>3 Through many dangers, toils, and snares<br/>I have already come;<br/>His grace has brought me safe thus far,<br/>His grace will lead me home.</p> <p>4 Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail<br/>And mortal life shall cease,<br/>Amazing grace shall then prevail<br/>In heaven's joy and peace.</p> |
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**5 When we've been there ten thousand years,  
Bright shining as the sun,  
We've no less days to sing God's praise  
Than when we'd first begun.**

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HE 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	Genesis 41:28–57	Mark 11:20–33
M	Genesis 42:1–34, 38	Mark 12:1–12
Tu	Genesis 43:1–28	Mark 12:13–27
W	Gen. 44:1–18, 32–34	Mark 12:28–44
Th	Gen. 45:1–20, 24–28	Mark 13:1–23
F	Genesis 47:1–31	Mark 13:24–37
Sa	Gen. 49:29–50:7, 14–26	Mark 14:1–11

### The Table of Duties

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

#### *To Workers of All Kinds*

Slaves, obey your earthly masters with respect and fear, and with sincerity of heart, just as you would obey Christ. Obey them not only to win their favor when their eye is on you, but like slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from your heart. Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men, because you know that the Lord will reward everyone for whatever good he does, whether he is slave or free. Eph. 6:5–8

#### *To Employers and Supervisors*

Masters, treat your slaves in the same way. Do not threaten them, since you know that He who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no favoritism with Him. Eph. 6:9

### Verse for Meditation

Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. Ephesians 5:15–16

### Hymn

*The hymn stanza may be sung or spoken.*

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. LSB 571:2

### 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

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Amen.

**Readings for the Fifth Sunday in Lent, March 22**  
Ezekiel 37:1–14; Psalms 130 (v. 7) & 119:25–32 (v. 32);  
Romans 8:1–11; John 11:1–53