

SOLA SCRIPTURA ✘ SOLA GRATIA ✘ SOLA FIDE

The Order
of a
Christian Funeral



Born – August 6, AD 1950

Baptized into Christ Jesus – September 3, AD 1950

✘ *John Henry Walters* ✘

Confirmed in the Faith – May 12, AD 1963

Entered into His Glory – June 7, AD 2026

Our Savior Lutheran Church, Westminster, MA

SCRIPTURE ALONE ✘ GRACE ALONE ✘ FAITH ALONE

The Funeral Service for John H. Walters (1950–2026)June 17, AD 2026

Thank you for silencing your cell phone. The congregation sings the hymns and speaks the liturgy in bold.

THE OPENING HYMN – TUNE & TEXT: TLH 246

- 1 **Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!**
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee;
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!
- 2 **Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore Thee,**
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee,
Which wert and art and evermore shalt be.
- 3 **Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide Thee,**
Though the eye of sinful man Thy glory may not see,
Only Thou art holy; there is none beside Thee,
Perfect in pow'r, in love, and purity.
- 4 **Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!**
All Thy works shall praise Thy name in earth and sky and sea.
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

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

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.

Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all yours sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

THE INTROIT

Revelation 7:9–10; Psalm 84:1; 97:12a

A huge multitude that no one could count stood before the throne and before the Lamb,

Clothed in white robes, with palms in their hands,

And they shouted aloud:

“Salvation belongs to our God upon the throne and to the Lamb!”

Oh, rejoice in the Lord, you righteous!

How lovely is Your dwelling place, O LORD of Hosts!

THE GLORIA PATRI

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

THE KYRIE

Mark 10:47

Lord, have mercy on us.

Christ, have mercy on us.

Lord, have mercy on us.

THE GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

Luke 2:14; John 1:29

Glory to God on high:

and on earth peace, good will toward men.

We praise You, we bless You, we worship You,

we glorify You, we give thanks to You for Your great glory.

O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty.

O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ;

O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,

You take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

You take away the sin of the world, receive our prayer.

You sit at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy on us.

For You only are holy; You only are the Lord.

You only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, are most high

in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

THE SALUTATION

2 Timothy 4:22

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

THE COLLECT

Let us pray. Lord Jesus, You were dead; now You are alive forever. Strengthen us, who must die soon, so that we turn from our sins and follow You through this world, and then follow on, through death into life everlasting; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

The Reading of God's Word

from the Old Testament: Isaiah 25:6–9

After the reading:

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

the Psalmody: Psalm 23 (KJV)

The LORD is my shepherd;

I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:

He leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul:

He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for Thou art with me;

Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies:

Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:

and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

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.

from the Letters: Romans 8:31–39

After the reading:

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Alleluia, alleluia! Jesus Christ is the firstborn of the dead;

to Him be glory and power forever. Alleluia!

from the Holy Gospel: John 6:27–40

Glory be to You, O Lord!

After the reading:

Praise be to You, O Christ!

THE APOSTLES' CREED

God has made us His people through our Baptism into Christ.

Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith:

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 catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life † everlasting. Amen.

HYMN OF THE DAY – TEXT & TUNE: TLH 388

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

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The Sermon

Psalm 73:26

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1 What a friend we have in Jesus,
All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
Ev'rything to God in prayer!
Oh, what peace we often forfeit;
Oh, what needless pain we bear—
All because we do not carry
Ev'rything to God in prayer!</p> | <p>2 Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged—
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful
Who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our ev'ry weakness—
Take it to the Lord in prayer.</p> |
|---|---|

- 3** Are we weak and heavy laden,
Cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge—
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee?
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
In His arms He'll take and shield thee;
Thou wilt find a solace there.

Text: Public domain

The Prayer of the Church

after each petition:

*Lord, in Your mercy,
hear our prayer.*

PRAYERS

Dear Lord Jesus, hear Your disciples as we pray, for we long to leave and be with You, which is far better. When we are with You, we need nothing else on earth, but we are always with You. You lead us by the hand. You guide us with Your counsel, and afterward, You will take us into glory. In Your presence is fullness of joy and at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore. How beautiful is Your dwelling place, O LORD of hosts! Our souls long, they ache for the courts of the Living God. We shall be satisfied when we awake to see Your face. Until then, as You have taught us, we pray:

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.

“I am the resurrection and the life,” says the Lord. “He who believes in Me will live, even though He dies; and whoever lives and believes in Me will never die.”

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.

“I am the resurrection and the life,” says the Lord. “He who believes in Me will live, even though He dies; and whoever lives and believes in Me will never die.”

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. Blessed Lord Jesus, God and Savior, we thank You for every earthly gift You gave to John in this world, from life itself to the love of those who are gathered here now, and for every gift, earthly and heavenly, that You gave to us through him. But above all, we thank You that You loved him and carried his sins in Your own body on the cross, and that You rose from Your grave to find him, and through Your Church held out to him Your wounded hands, and through Your Word and Sacraments gave him forgiveness of all his sins and eternal life.

O Christ, Judge and Master of us all, grant that all of us who loved him here may now look to Your love, that we may grasp Your hands, scarred for us, and believe and receive Your forgiveness. Give each of us grace to follow You in this life, that each of us may also leave this life with You and enter the Paradise prepared for those who love You. 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 **Be still, my soul; the Lord is on your side;
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain;
Leave to your God to order and provide;
In ev'ry change He faithful will remain.
Be still, my soul; your best, your heav'nly Friend
Through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.**
- 2 **Be still, my soul; your God will undertake
To guide the future as He has the past.
Your hope, your confidence let nothing shake;
All now mysterious shall be bright at last.
Be still, my soul; the waves and winds still know
His voice who ruled them while He dwelt below.**
- 3 **Be still, my soul; though dearest friends depart
And all is darkened in this vale of tears;
Then you will better know His love, His heart,
Who comes to soothe your sorrows and your fears.
Be still, my soul; your Jesus can repay
From His own fullness all He takes away.**
- 4 **Be still, my soul; the hour is hast'ning on
When we shall be forever with the Lord,
When disappointment, grief, and fear are gone,
Sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored.
Be still, my soul; when change and tears are past,
All safe and blessèd we shall meet at last.**

Text: Public domain



*Immediately after the service, you are invited to join the procession to Woodside Cemetery.
Following the committal, there will be a light luncheon served in the church basement.*

Officiant

Rev Peter F. Gregory

Organist

Anne Bennet
