

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

August 23, 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 is on break for the summer. Adult Bible Study and Junior High/High School Study follow the service, adults in the sanctuary and the youth at the parsonage.

Serving in Worship Today

Guest Preacher & Celebrant	The Rev. Paul Becker
Liturgist	Tom Connell
Organist	Anne Bennet
Acolytes	Hayden England, Andrew Gull

Prayer for Worship

Confessing the faith: Lord Jesus, by Your Spirit, You give us faith to cast out all fear of confessing the true faith; for we are helpless to save ourselves, and we must trust in You and You alone for our salvation. Keep us faithful to the end, that You will not be ashamed of us when You come in Your glory with Your Father and the holy angels. Amen.

For right reception of the Lord's Supper: O Lord, our God, in Holy Baptism You have called us to be Christians and granted us the remission of sins. Make us ready to receive the most holy body and blood of Christ for the forgiveness of all our sins, and grant us grateful hearts that we may give thanks to You, O Father, to Your Son, and to the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Preparation for Confession

Romans 1:22–23: Claiming to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.

Questions for self-examination

- Do I humble myself before God's truth and see Him behind the created order?
- Out of what parts of God's creation do I make idols for myself?

Cover Illustration

Christ Giving the Keys to St. Peter by Paul Ponce
Antoine Robert (Robert de Seri) (1686–1733).
Achenbach Foundation for Graphic Arts

THE OPENING HYMN – TUNE & TEXT: LSB 576

- 1

**My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus’ blood and righteousness;
No merit of my own I claim
But wholly lean on Jesus’ name. *Refrain***

Refrain **On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand,
All other ground is sinking sand.**
- 2

**When darkness veils His lovely face,
I rest on His unchanging grace;
In ev’ry high and stormy gale
My anchor holds within the veil. *Refrain***
- 3

**His oath, His covenant and blood
Support me in the raging flood;
When ev’ry earthly prop gives way,
He then is all my hope and stay.
*Refrain***
- 4

**When He shall come with trumpet sound,
Oh, may I then in Him be found,
Clothed in His righteousness alone,
Redeemed to stand before His throne!
*Refrain***

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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.*

Psalms 124:8

*I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
and You forgave the guilt of my sin.*

Psalms 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.

We will bless the LORD

from this time forth and forevermore. Praise the LORD!

As for Me, I have set My King

on Zion, My holy hill.

I will tell of the decree:

The LORD said to Me, "You are My Son; today I have begotten You.

Praise the LORD, all nations!

Extol Him, all peoples!

For great is His steadfast love toward us,

and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever. Praise the LORD!

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. > Silence for personal prayers. <

Almighty God, whom to know is everlasting life, grant us to know Your Son, Jesus, to be the way, the truth, and the life that we may boldly confess Him to be the Christ and steadfastly walk in the way that leads to life eternal; through the same Jesus Christ, 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 51:1–6

After the reading:

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE PSALM

Psalm 138; antiphon v. 8a

The LORD will fulfill His purpose for me; Your steadfast love, O LORD, endures forever.

I give You thanks, O LORD, with my whole heart; before the gods I sing Your praise;

I bow down toward Your holy temple and give thanks to Your name for Your steadfast love and Your faithfulness, for You have exalted above all things Your name and Your word.

On the day I called, You answered me; my strength of soul You increased.

**All the kings of the earth shall give You thanks, O LORD,
for they have heard the words of Your mouth,**

and they shall sing of the ways of the LORD, for great is the glory of the LORD.

For though the LORD is high, He regards the lowly, but the haughty He knows from afar.

Though I walk in the midst of trouble, You preserve my life;

You stretch out Your hand against the wrath of my enemies, and Your right hand delivers me.

The LORD will fulfill His purpose for me; Your steadfast love, O LORD, endures forever.

Do not forsake the work of Your hands.

**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 fulfill His purpose for me; Your steadfast love, O LORD, endures forever.

from the Letters: Romans 11:33–12:8

After the reading:

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE TRIPLE HALLELUJAH

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

from the Holy Gospel: Matthew 16:13–20

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 worshiped 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.

THE HYMN OF THE DAY – TUNE: TLH 477 & TEXT: LSB 647

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 Lord Jesus Christ, the Church's Head, | 2 O Lord, let this, Your little flock, |
| You are her one Foundation. | Your name alone confessing, |
| In You she trusts, before You bows, | Continue in Your loving care, |
| And waits for Your salvation. | True unity possessing. |
| Built on this Rock secure, | Your Sacraments, O Lord, |
| Your Church shall endure | And Your Holy Word |
| Though all the world decay | To us, Lord, pure retain. |
| And all things pass away. | Grant that they may remain |
| O hear, O hear us, Jesus! | Our only strength and comfort. |

3 Help us to serve You evermore
With hearts both pure and lowly;
And may Your Word, that light divine,
Shine on in splendor holy
That we repentance show,
In faith ever grow;
The pow'r of sin destroy
And evils that annoy
O make us faithful Christians!

4 And for Your Gospel let us dare
To sacrifice all treasure;
Teach us to bear Your blessed cross,
To find in You all pleasure.
O grant us steadfastness
In joy and distress,
Lest we, Lord, You forsake.
Let us by grace partake
Of endless joy and glory.

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The Sermon

Isaiah 51:1–6 ~ “Know Where to Look”

THE OFFERTORY

Psalms 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

[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.
We lift them up to the Lord.

[Colossians 3:1]

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is good and right that we do.

[Psalm 136]

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, who, out of love for His fallen creation, humbled Himself by taking on the form of a servant, becoming obedient unto death, even death upon a cross. Risen from the dead, He has freed us from eternal death and given us life everlasting. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore 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

> *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 31:1–5, 14–18 (antiphon: v. 24)

DISTRIBUTION HYMN – TUNE & TEXT: TLH 310

This hymn can also be sung from The Lutheran Hymnal #310.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 Thy table I approach,
Dear Savior, hear my prayer;
Oh, let no unrepented sin
Prove hurtful to me there! | 4 Search not how this takes place,
This wondrous mystery;
God can accomplish vastly more
Than seemeth plain to thee. |
| 2 Lo, I confess my sins
And mourn their wretched bands;
A contrite heart is sure to find
Forgiveness at Thy hands. | 5 Vouchsafe, O blessed Lord,
That earth and hell combined
May ne'er about this Sacrament
Raise doubt within my mind. |
| 3 Thy body and Thy blood,
Once slain and shed for me,
Are taken here with mouth and soul,
In blest reality. | 6 Oh, may I never fail
To thank Thee day and night
For Thy true body and true blood,
O God, my Peace and Light! |

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DISTRIBUTION HYMN – TUNE: TLH 376 & TEXT: LSB 761

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|---|---|
| 1 Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in Thee;
Let the water and the blood,
From Thy riven side which flowed,
Be of sin the double cure:
Cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r. | 3 Nothing in my hand I bring;
Simply to Thy cross I cling.
Naked, come to Thee for dress;
Helpless, look to Thee for grace;
Foul, I to the fountain fly;
Wash me, Savior, or I die. |
| 2 Not the labors of my hands
Can fulfill Thy Law's demands;
Could my zeal no respite know,
Could my tears forever flow,
All for sin could not atone;
Thou must save, and Thou alone. | 4 While I draw this fleeting breath,
When mine eyelids close in death,
When I soar to worlds unknown,
See Thee on Thy judgment throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in Thee. |

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|--|---|
| <p>1 Jesus Christ, our blessèd Savior,
Turned away God's wrath forever;
By His bitter grief and woe
He saved us from the evil foe.</p> <p>2 As His pledge of love undying,
He, this precious food supplying,
Gives His body with the bread,
And with the wine the blood He shed.</p> <p>3 Jesus here Himself is sharing;
Heed then how you are preparing,
For if you do not believe,
His judgment then you shall receive.</p> <p>4 Firmly hold with faith unshaken
That this food is to be taken
By the sick who are distressed,
By hearts that long for peace and rest.</p> | <p>5 Agony and bitter labor
Were the cost of God's high favor;
Do not come if you suppose
You need not Him who died and rose.</p> <p>6 Christ says: "Come, all you that labor,
And receive My grace and favor:
Those who feel no pain or ill
Need no physician's help or skill.</p> <p>7 If your heart this truth professes
And your mouth your sin confesses,
You will be your Savior's guest,
Be at His banquet truly blest.</p> <p>8 Let this food your faith so nourish
That its fruit of love may flourish
And your neighbor learn from you
How much God's wondrous love can do.</p> |
|--|---|

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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. Almighty God, heavenly Father, we give thanks that You have refreshed us with the body and blood of Your dear Son, Jesus Christ. Grant that this heavenly food which we have received will strengthen our faith that we may bear all crosses, sickness, and trials with patience and trust until You grant us deliverance, peace, and health; through Jesus Christ, 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.

THE CLOSING HYMN – TUNE & TEXT: TLH 394

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1 My faith looks up to Thee,
Thou Lamb of Calvary,
Savior divine.
Now hear me while I pray;
Take all my guilt away;
O let me from this day
Be wholly Thine!</p> <p>2 May Thy rich grace impart
Strength to my fainting heart;
My zeal inspire!
As Thou hast died for me,
Oh, may my love to Thee
Pure, warm, and changeless be,
A living fire!</p> | <p>3 While life's dark maze I tread
And griefs around me spread,
Be Thou my guide;
Bid darkness turn to day,
Wipe sorrow's tears away,
Nor let me ever stray
From Thee aside.</p> <p>4 When ends life's transient dream,
When death's cold, sullen stream
Shall o'er me roll,
Blest Savior, then, in love,
Fear and distrust remove;
O bear me safe above,
A ransomed soul!</p> |
|---|---|

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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.*

Su	1 Kings 3:1–15	2 Cor. 1:1–22
M	1 Kings 5:1–18	2 Cor. 1:23–2:17
Tu	1 Kings 7:51–8:21	2 Cor. 3:1–18
W	1 Kings 8:22–30, 46–63	2 Cor. 4:1–18
Th	1 Kings 9:1–9; 10:1–13	2 Cor. 5:1–21
F	1 Kings 11:1–26	2 Cor. 6:1–18
Sa	1 Kings 11:42–12:19	2 Cor. 7:1–16

The Ten Commandments

As the head of the family should teach it to his household.

The Close of the Commandments

What does God say about all these commandments? He says, "I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate Me, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love Me and keep My commandments." (Exodus 20:5–6)

From the Large Catechism: Here, then, we have the Ten Commandments, a summary of divine teaching on what we are to do to make our whole life pleasing to God. They are the true fountain from which all good works must spring, the true channel through which all good works must flow. Apart from these Ten Commandments no deed, no conduct can be good or pleasing to God, no matter how great or precious it may be in the eyes of the world. . . . We shall have our hands full to keep these commandments, practicing gentleness, patience, love toward enemies, chastity, kindness, etc., and all that these virtues involve.

Luther's Small Catechism © 1986 Concordia Publishing House, cph.org;
LC 1.311, 313

Hymn

The hymn stanza may be sung or spoken.

My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
No merit of my own I claim
But wholly lean on Jesus' name.
On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand. *LSB 576:1*

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, whom to know is everlasting life,
grant us to know Your Son, Jesus, to be the way, the
truth, and the life that we may boldly confess Him
to be the Christ and steadfastly walk in the way that
leads to life eternal; through the same Jesus Christ,
our Lord. **Amen.**

Readings for next Sunday, August 30

Jeremiah 15:15–21; Psalms 26 (v. 8) & 111 (v. 4);
Romans 12:9–21; Matthew 16:21–28