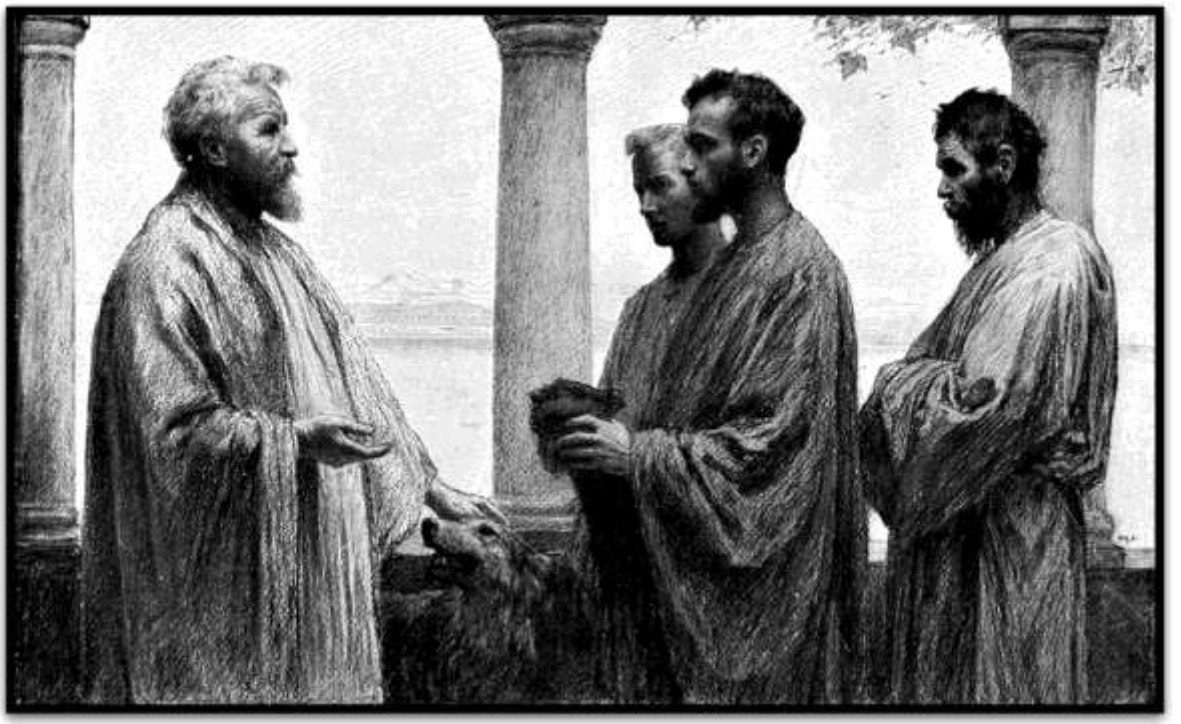
SOLA SCRIPTURA ✠ SOLA GRATIA ✠ SOLA FIDE

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

November 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. Preschool, pre-kindergarten and lower elementary meet in the church basement; upper elementary in the teller room; junior high and high school at the parsonage; and adults in the sanctuary.

Serving in Worship Today

Celebrant	Pastor Peter Gregory
Liturgist & Preacher	Sem. Sergiu Trifa
Organist	Anne Bennet
Acolytes	Andrew Gull, Hayden England

Prayer for Worship

For Holy Communion: Grant us, 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.

For the return of our Lord Jesus Christ: O Jesus Christ, do not delay, but hasten our salvation; we often tremble on our way in fear and tribulation. O hear and grant our fervent plea: Come, mighty Judge, and set us free from death and every evil. Amen. (*Lutheran Service Book* 508, stanza 7)

Preparation for Confession

The Second Commandment: You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God. *What does this mean?* We should fear and love God so that we do not curse, swear, use satanic arts, lie, or deceive by His name, but call upon it in every trouble, pray, praise, and give thanks.
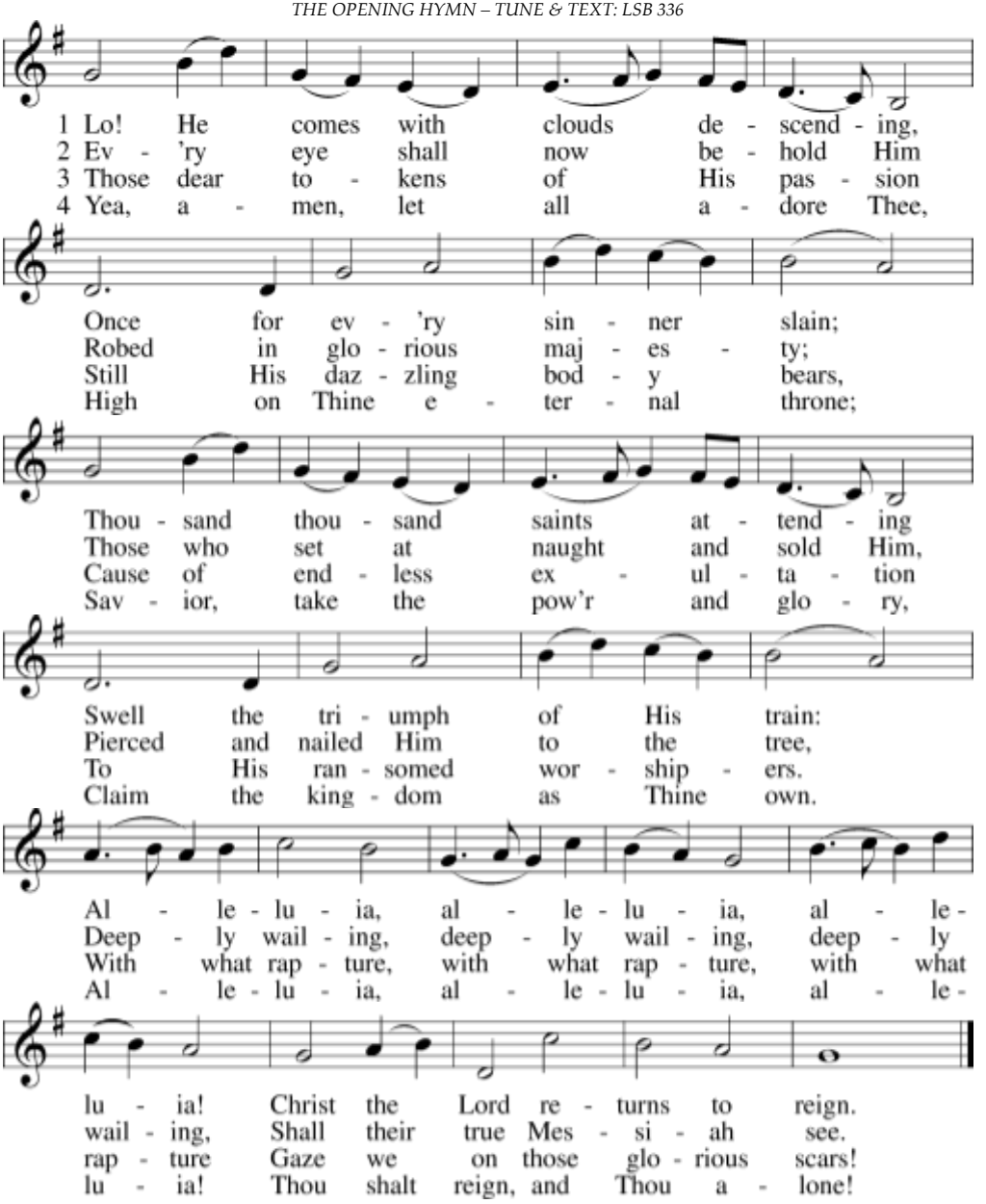
Questions for self-examination

- How are my prayers?
- Have I praised and thanked God when I receive good?
- Do I honor God's name in daily speech and conduct, or do I curse, speak carelessly, or misuse God's name?

Cover Illustration

Hidden Talents Parable by Eugene Burnard (1850–1921).

THE OPENING HYMN – TUNE & TEXT: LSB 336



Text and tune: 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 unto 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 *Psalm 143:1–2, 5–6, 10–11*

Hear my prayer, O LORD; give ear to my pleas for mercy!
In Your faithfulness answer me, in Your righteousness!

Enter not into judgment with Your servant,
for no one living is righteous before You.

I remember the days of old; I meditate on all that You have done;
I ponder the work of Your hands.

I stretch out my hands to You;
my soul thirsts for You like a parched land.

Teach me to do Your will, for You are my God!
Let Your good Spirit lead me on level ground!

For Your name's sake, O LORD, preserve my life!
In Your righteousness bring my soul out of trouble!

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 and ever-living God, You have given exceedingly great and precious promises to those who trust in You. Dispel from us the works of darkness and grant us to live in the light of Your Son, Jesus Christ, that our faith may never be found wanting; 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: Zephaniah 1:7–16

After the reading:

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

THE PSALM *Psalm 90:1–11; antiphon: v. 17*

Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands upon us;
yes, establish the work of our hands!

Lord, You have been our dwelling place in all generations.

Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever You had formed the earth and the world,
from everlasting to everlasting You are God.

You return man to dust and say, "Return, O children of man!"

For a thousand years in Your sight are but as yesterday when it is past,
or as a watch in the night.

You sweep them away as with a flood; they are like a dream, like grass that is renewed in the morning:
in the morning it flourishes and is renewed; in the evening it fades and withers.
For we are brought to an end by Your anger; by Your wrath we are dismayed.
You have set our iniquities before You, our secret sins in the light of Your presence.
For all our days pass away under Your wrath; we bring our years to an end like a sigh.
The years of our life are seventy, or even by reason of strength eighty;
yet their span is but toil and trouble; they are soon gone, and we fly away.
Who considers the power of Your anger, and Your wrath according to the fear of You?
So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom.
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.
Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands upon us;
yes, establish the work of our hands!

from the Letters: 1 Thessalonians 5:1–11

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 25:14–30

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 611 & TEXT: LSB 508:1–5

1 The day is surely drawing near
When Jesus, God's anointed,
In all His power shall appear
As judge whom God appointed.
Then fright shall banish idle mirth,
And flames on flames shall ravage earth
As Scripture long has warned us.

2 The final trumpet then shall sound
And all the earth be shaken,
And all who rest beneath the ground
Shall from their sleep awaken.
But all who live will in that hour,
By God's almighty, boundless pow'r,
Be changed at His commanding.

3 The books are opened then to all,
A record truly telling
What each has done, both great and small,
When he on earth was dwelling,
And ev'ry heart be clearly seen,
And all be known as they have been
In thoughts and words and actions.

4 Then woe to those who scorned the Lord
And sought but carnal pleasures,
Who here despised His precious Word
And loved their earthly treasures!
With shame and trembling they will stand
And at the judge's stern command
To Satan be delivered.

5 My Savior paid the debt I owe and for my sin was smitten;
Within the Book of Life I know my name has now been written.
I will not doubt, for I am free, and Satan cannot threaten me;
There is no condemnation!

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The Sermon

Zephaniah 1:7–16

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

[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 meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God. In the communion of all Your saints gathered into the one body of Your Son, You have surrounded us with so great a cloud of witnesses that we, encouraged by their faith and strengthened by their fellowship, may run with perseverance the race that is set before us, and, together with them, receive the crown of glory that does not fade away. Therefore with angels and archangels and 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 90:9–17 (antiphon v. 2b)

DISTRIBUTION HYMN – TUNE & TEXT: TLH 430, STANZAS 1–4, 8

1 What is the world to me with all its vaunted pleasure
When Thou, and Thou alone, Lord Jesus, art my treasure!
Thou only, dearest Lord, my soul's Delight shall be;
Thou art my Peace, my Rest,—What is the world to me!

2 The world is like a cloud and like a vapor fleeting,
A shadow that declines, swift to its end retreating.
My Jesus doth abide, though all things fade and flee;
My everlasting Rock,—What is the world to me!
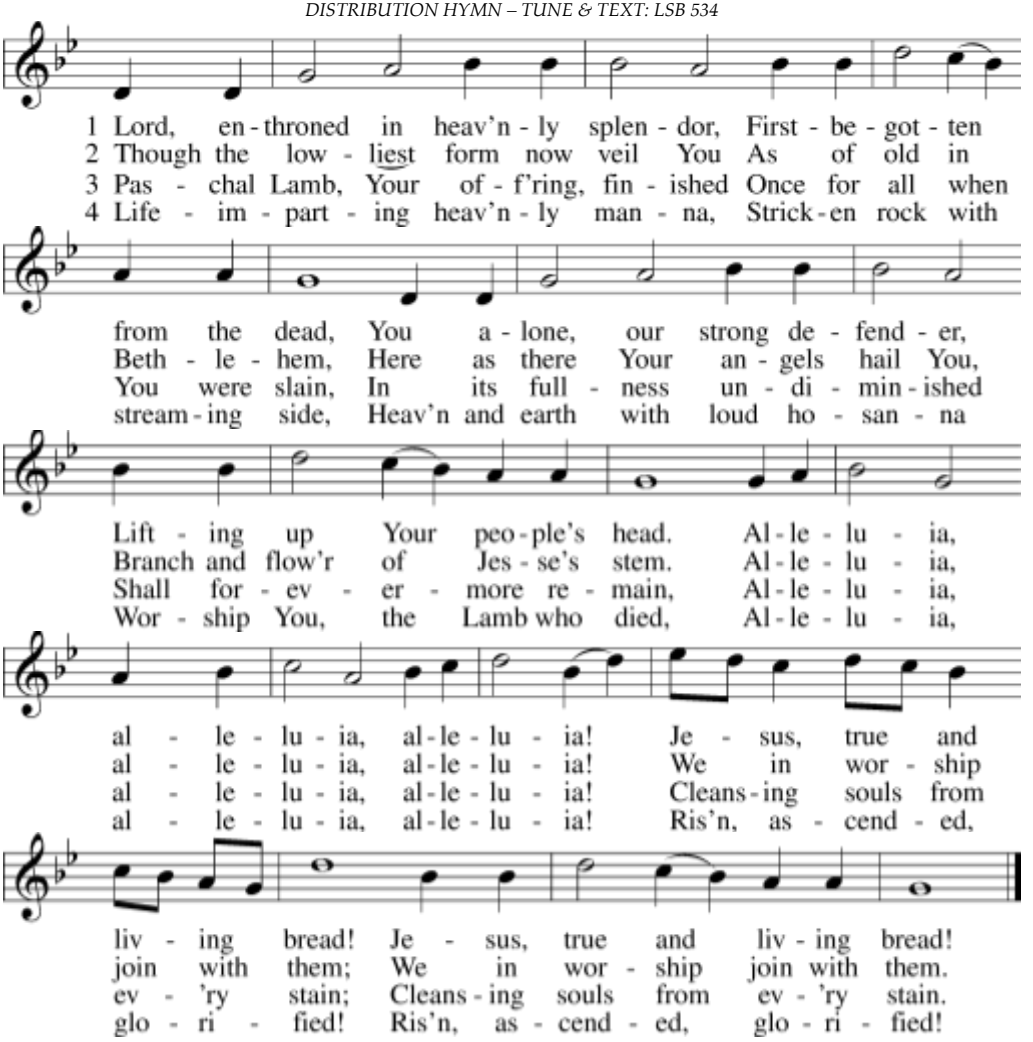
3 The world seeks to be praised and honored by the mighty,
Yet never once reflects that they are frail and flighty.
But what I truly prize above all things is He,
My Jesus, He alone,—What is the world to me!

4 The world seeks after wealth and all that Mammon offers
Yet never is content though gold should fill its coffers.
I have a higher good; content with it I'll be:
My Jesus is my Wealth,—What is the world to me!

5 What is the world to me! My Jesus is my Treasure,
My Life, my Health, my Wealth, my Friend, my Love, my Pleasure,
My Joy, my Crown, my All, my Bliss eternally.
Once more, then, I declare: What is the world to me!

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DISTRIBUTION HYMN – TUNE & TEXT: LSB 534



Text and tune: Public domain

DISTRIBUTION HYMN – TUNE: TLH 123 & TEXT: LSB 733

Text: Public domain

1 O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal home:

2 Under the shadow of Thy throne
Thy saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is Thine arm alone,
And our defense is sure.

3 Before the hills in order stood
Or earth received her frame,
From everlasting Thou art God,
To endless years the same.

4 A thousand ages in Thy sight
Are like an evening gone,
Short as the watch that ends the night
Before the rising sun.

5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
Soon bears us all away;
We fly forgotten as a dream
Dies at the op'ning day.

6 O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Be Thou our guard while troubles last
And our eternal home!

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 *Psalm 107:1*

Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good!
And His mercy endures forever!

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 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: TLH 611 & TEXT: LSB 508:6–7 Text: Public domain

6 May Christ our intercessor be
And through His blood and merit
Read from His book that we are free
With all who life inherit.
Then we shall see Him face to face,
With all His saints in that blest place
Which He has purchased for us.

7 O Jesus Christ, do not delay,
But hasten our salvation;
We often tremble on our way
In fear and tribulation.
O hear and grant our fervent plea:
Come, mighty judge, and set us free
From death and ev'ry evil.

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	Jeremiah 30:1–24	Matthew 26:57–75
M	Jeremiah 31:1–34	Matthew 27:1–10
Tu	Jeremiah 33:1–22	Matthew 27:11–32
W	Jeremiah 37:1–21	Matthew 27:33–56
Th	Jeremiah 38:1–28	Matthew 27:57–66
F	Daniel 1:1–21	Matthew 28:1–20
Sa	Daniel 2:1–23	Revelation 18:1–24

The Third Article: Sanctification

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

What is the Third Article of the Apostles' Creed? 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.

From the Large Catechism: Since holiness has begun and is growing daily, we await the time when our flesh will be put to death, will be buried with all its uncleanness, and will come forth gloriously and arise to complete and perfect holiness in a new, eternal life. Now we are only halfway pure and holy. The Holy Spirit must continue to work in us through the Word, daily granting forgiveness until we attain only perfectly pure and holy people, full of goodness and righteousness, completely freed from sin, death, and all evil, living in new, immortal, and glorified bodies.

Luther's Small Catechism © 1986 Concordia Publishing House, cph.org;
LC II.57–58

Verse for Meditation

I AM the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last,
the beginning and the end. Revelation 22:13

Hymn

The hymn stanza may be sung or spoken.

O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Be Thou our guard while troubles last
And our eternal home! *LSB* 733:6

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 and ever-living God, You have given exceedingly great and precious promises to those who trust in You. Dispel from us the works of darkness and grant us to live in the light of Your Son, Jesus Christ, that our faith may never be found wanting; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Readings for the Last Sunday of the Church Year

Ezek. 34:11–24; Pss 95:1–7a (v. 7a) & 50:1–15 (v. 15);
1 Corinthians 15:20–28; Matthew 25:31–46