

Holy Spirit Lutheran Church

23rd Sunday after Pentecost

November 16, 2025

Pastor Joe Lettrich

A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

2205 Old Liberty Road, Eldersburg, MD 21784

Church Office 410-795-6333

HSLC Website--www.hslceldersburgmd.org



We extend the warmest welcome to all worshipping with us today. Whether this is your first time worshipping with us, you haven't been in a while, or you are here regularly; *we are so glad you are here!* If this is your first time with us, we ask that you sign our Friendship Book, so that we might pray with/for you, get to know you better, and check-in with you from time to time.

Holy Communion is open to all. In this church, we preach, teach, and confess that this is the table of Jesus, and it is Jesus who invites you to His table. You need not be a member of this church, or any other church; anyone who desires a deeper walk with Christ is invited. The ushers will direct you to proceed up the center aisle. You are invited to take an empty, individual cup from the silver tray near the baptismal font, and *red wine*, the blood of Christ, will be poured for you at the altar rail. You will also find *red grape juice*, the blood of Christ, in sealed individual cups in that same tray. As you come to the altar rail, you may stand or kneel as you are able, and the minister will place bread, the body of Christ, in your hand. If you are in need of a gluten free host, please let the minister know. If you prefer not to receive the Communion elements, Jesus still invites you into His Holy Communion; at the altar rail you may fold your arms, and the minister will pray with and bless you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

Let us prepare our hearts and minds for worship.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Please rise, in body or spirit.

P: Blessed be the Holy Trinity, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: Gracious and loving God, open our hearts so that we are able to admit to you the fullness of our lives; that which is beautiful and whole, and that which is hurtful and fractured.

(We pause for reflection)

P: Faithful God,

C: You have shown us the ways of your heart, yet we stray from your paths.

We are stuck in sinful systems of oppression and do not embrace the freedom of your faithful promises. We ignore our neighbors. We exploit the earth.

We reject your abundance, trusting our impulses instead of your steadfast love.

**Repair our relationships, restore what we have broken,
renew our hearts, and bring us to new life.**

C: Amen.

P: Hear the good news: God the Faithful One loves you, ✠ in Christ Jesus your sins are forgiven, and by the power of the Holy Spirit you are set free.

C: Amen.

GATHERING HYMN: *How Firm a Foundation* - LBW (Green) – 507, verses 1, 2, 4

How Firm a Foundation



1 How firm a foun - da - tion, O saints of the Lord,
 2 "Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dis - mayed,
 3 "When through fi - ery tri - als your path - way shall lie,
 4 "Through - out all their life - time my peo - ple shall prove

is laid for your faith in his ex - cel - lent word!
 for I am your God and will still give you aid;
 my grace, all - suf - fi - cient, shall be your sup - ply.
 my sov - 'reign, e - ter - nal, un - change - a - ble love;

What more can he say than to you he has said
 I'll strength - en you, help you, and cause you to stand,
 The flames shall not hurt you; I on - ly de - sign,
 and then, when gray hairs shall their tem - ples a - dorn,

who un - to the Sav - ior for ref - uge have fled?
 up - held by my righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand."
 your dross to con - sume and your gold to re - fine."
 like lambs they shall still in my bo - som be borne."

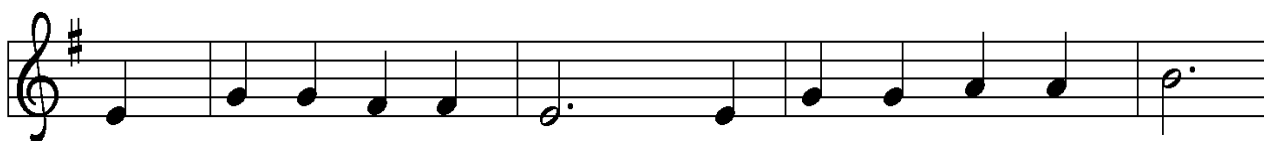
Text: J. Rippon, *A Selection of Hymns*, 1787, alt.
 Music: FOUNDATION, early American

GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

KYRIE



- 1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without you nothing is strong, nothing is holy. Embrace us with your mercy, that with you as our ruler and guide, we may live through what is temporary without losing what is eternal, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

Please be seated

FIRST READING: Malachi 4:1-2a

¹ See, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble; the day that comes shall burn them up, says the LORD of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. ^{2a} But for you who revere my name the sun of righteousness shall rise, with healing in its wings.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: 98

¹ Sing a new song to the LORD, who has done marvelous things, whose right hand and holy arm have won the victory.

² **O LORD, you have made known your victory, you have revealed your righteousness in the sight of the nations.**

³ You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel; all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

⁴ **Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands; lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.**

⁵ Sing to the LORD with the harp, with the harp and the voice of song.

⁶ With trumpets and the sound of the horn shout with joy before the king, the LORD.

⁷ Let the sea roar, and all that fills it, the world and those who dwell therein.

⁸ Let the rivers clap their hands, and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD, who comes to judge the earth.

⁹ The LORD will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with equity.

SECOND READING: 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13

⁶ Now we command you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to keep away from every brother or sister living irresponsibly and not according to the tradition that they received from us. ⁷ For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us; we were not irresponsible when we were with you, ⁸ and we did not eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but with toil and labor we worked night and day so that we might not burden any of you. ⁹ This was not because we do not have that right but in order to give you an example to imitate. ¹⁰ For even when we were with you, we gave you this command: anyone unwilling to work should not eat. ¹¹ For we hear that some of you are living irresponsibly, mere busybodies, not doing any work. ¹² Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living. ¹³ Brothers and sisters, do not be weary in doing what is right.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Please rise, in body or spirit.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL: Luke 21:5-19

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty first chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

⁵ When some were speaking about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God, [Jesus] said, ⁶ “As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down.”

⁷ They asked him, “Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?” ⁸ And he said, “Beware that you are not led astray, for many will come in my name and say, ‘I am he!’ and, ‘The time is near!’ Do not go after them.

⁹ “When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified, for these things must take place first, but the end will not follow immediately.” ¹⁰ Then he said to them, “Nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom; ¹¹ there will be great earthquakes and in various places famines and plagues, and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven.

¹² “But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name. ¹³ This will give you an opportunity to testify. ¹⁴ So make up your minds not to prepare your defense in advance, ¹⁵ for I will give you words and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict. ¹⁶ You will be betrayed even by parents and siblings, by relatives and friends, and they will put some of you to death. ¹⁷ You will be hated by all because of my name. ¹⁸ But not a hair of your head will perish. ¹⁹ By your endurance you will gain your souls.”

L: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: *If You But Trust in God to Guide You – LBW (Green) – 453, verses 1, 2, 4.*

Please rise, in body or spirit, as we lift our hearts and voices together in song.

If You But Trust in God to Guide You

1 If you but trust in God to guide you and place your
 2 What gain is there in fu - tile weep - ing, in help - less
 3 In pa - tient trust a - wait his lei - sure in cheer - ful
 4 Sing, pray, and keep his ways un - swerv - ing, of - fer your

con - fi - dence in him, you'll find him al - ways there be -
 an - ger and dis - tress? If you are in his care and
 hope, with heart con - tent to take what - e'er your Fa - ther's
 ser - vice faith - ful - ly, and trust his word; though un - de -

side you, to give you hope and strength with - in. For those who
 keep - ing, in sor - row will he love you less? For he who
 plea - sure and all - dis - cern - ing love have sent; doubt not your
 serv - ing, you'll find his prom - ise true to be. God nev - er

trust God's change - less love build on the rock that will not move.
 took for you a cross will bring you safe through ev - 'ry loss.
 in - most wants are known to him who chose you for his own.
 will for - sake in need the soul that trusts in him in - deed.

Text: Georg Neumark, 1621–1681; tr. composite, alt.
 Music: WER NUR DEN LIEBEN GOTT, Georg Neumark, 1621–1681

St. 2 text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A: Gathered with one voice, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

A: God of roots and branches, defend the leaders of your church as they proclaim the gospel using discernment, wisdom, and brave testimony. Keep all the baptized on righteous paths in response to Christ's call. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: God of roaring seas, in a world of earthquake, famine, and plague, use your mighty power to nurture the land and all that lives upon it. Restore peoples and places experiencing natural disasters (*especially*). Strengthen organizations who provide aid to any in crisis. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: God of victory, among quests for power, guide those in government, courts, law enforcement agencies, and the military. Turn them from war and violence to actions of care that build up the common good. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: God of healing, where injustice and exploitation result in populations that are marginalized or underserved, accompany those abandoned by friends, hurt by family, and harmed by violence or oppression. Care for all who are ill, anxious, or in pain of any kind (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: God of new songs, in a congregation of faithful believers, energize us for compassionate service and delight us through worship and inspired prayer. Encourage your people in building equitable community where all are valued. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: God of every generation, we remember the saints with steadfast love and faithfulness (*especially*). Confident in Christ's victory over death, may we be inspired by the example of the faithful. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: We offer these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your grace and unyielding love; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

PASSING THE PEACE

P: The Peace of the Lord be with you always!

C: And also, with you.

P: Let us share a sign of peace with one another.

OFFERING

Here at Holy Spirit Lutheran Church, there are many ways to give. The ushers will pass around an offering plate, in which you can place your weekly offering. If you are attending worship online or you simply wish to give online, you may do so by visiting our website, hslceldersburgmd.org/give. We give thanks to God for all offerings of time, talent, and treasure, all of which make it possible to serve God, by serving our neighbors, here in Eldersburg.

OFFERTORY HYMN

C: We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to You: We are an offering. Lord, use our voices, Lord, use our hands. Lord use our lives, they are Yours. We are an offering; we are an offering.

OFFERING PRAYER

P: Let us pray,

God of healing and hope, you bless those who are hungry, promising to fill them with good things. Fulfill that promise through us and these your gifts. Nourish us with the abundance of your feast and unite us into the blessed body of Jesus Christ our Savior, now and forever.

C: Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

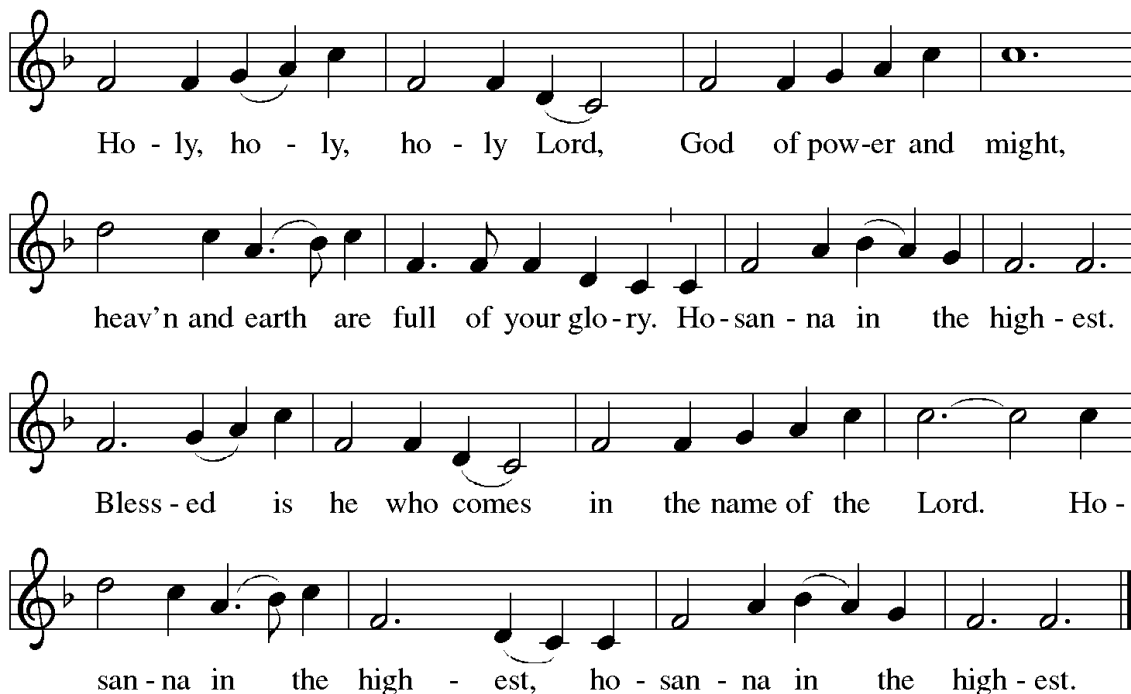
C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER & WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God.

You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory.

You so loved the world that you gave your only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him may not perish
but have eternal life.

P: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

P: Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

P: O God of resurrection and new life: pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Bless this feast.
Grace our table with your presence.
C: Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray the prayer our Lord Jesus taught us, in the language of our hearts:

C: 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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Jesus invites you. Jesus welcomes you. All are invited. All are welcome. Come taste and see that the Lord is good.

C: Amen.

Please be seated.

COMMUNION HYMN: Lamb of God

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us, have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us, have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace, grant us peace.

Please come forward at the direction of the ushers.

SONG DURING COMMUNION

After all have communed, please rise, in body or spirit.

COMMUNION BLESSING

P: May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ bless us and keep us in God's grace, from now and until life everlasting.

C: Amen.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

A: God of field and flower, wheat and grape, you have nourished us with the bread of heaven that gives life to the world. Strengthened by the body and blood of your Son, send us out to gather your good gifts for all who hunger and thirst, and embolden us to love and serve in Christ's name.

C: Amen.

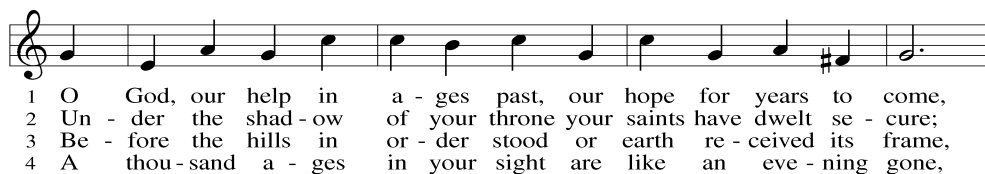
BLESSING

P: You are exactly who God created you to be. Created in Christ Jesus for good works. Created and called holy. Created and called beloved. Now go forth into the world in peace and be of good courage. Hold fast to that which is good. Render to no one an evil thing for an evil thing. Strengthen the fainthearted. Support the weak. Help the afflicted. Show Christ's love to everyone and let the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the +Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you now and forever.

C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN: *O God, Our Help in Ages Past* – LBW (Green) – 320, verses 1, 4, 6.

O God, Our Help in Ages Past



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,
still be our guard while troubles last
and our eternal home!

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.
Music: ST. ANNE, William Croft, 1678–1727

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace, be of good heart!

C: Thanks be to God!

A: Our purpose is to love God,

C: And bring people into a growing relationship with Jesus and his church.

“We all serve as ministers in the mission of the Church.”

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ACTIVITIES AT HOLY SPIRIT LUTHERAN CHURCH:

Sunday (11/16) 9:30am – Sunday School (All ages)
Sunday (11/16) 11:00am – Sunday Morning Worship w/Communion
Sunday (11/23) 9:30am – Sunday School (All ages)
Sunday (11/23) 11:00am – Sunday Morning Worship w/Communion
Wednesday (11/26) – 6:00pm - Thanksgiving Eve Service, Shepherd of the Glen

Please contact Vicar Tom via email at HSLC.pastor@comcast.net if you would like to meet, have any questions, or for any pastoral emergencies.

Volunteers

	<i>THIS WEEK (11-16-2025)</i>	<i>NEXT WEEK (11-23-2025)</i>
Greeters	TBD	TBD
Ushers	Lily K. Henry K.	Dave L. Cara K.
Acolyte	Abby P.	Henry K.
Assisting Minister	Laura B.	Holly deB.
Communion Assistant	Laura B.	Holly deB.
Lector	Cara K,	Krissy L.
Altar Care	Linda L.	Lorraine M.