

Holy Spirit Lutheran Church

Ascension of Our Lord

May 17, 2026

Pastor Tom Kaye

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.

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

Let us prepare our hearts and minds for worship.

Please rise, in body or spirit.

INVOCATION

P: Blessed be the Holy Trinity, the Father, the ☩ Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, whose rising from the empty tomb brings to us the promise of life eternal.

C: Amen.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Grounded in the promise of the Holy Spirit, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and one another (*We pause for reflection*)

P: Holy God,

We admit to You that not all is right – in our hearts and in our world.

We look to the hopelessness and not to the hope.

We look for what is broken, and not at what is being mended.

We look to criticize and not to praise.

We look at ourselves and not to You.

Turn us around so that we look at the possibility, at hope, at promise, at grace, at healing, at love. This we pray in the strong name of Jesus. Amen.

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

GATHERING HYMN: *Bind Us Together Lord – WOV (Blue) - 748.*

Refrain
F

Bind us to - geth - er, Lord, bind us to - geth - er with cords that

Dm Gm

C⁷ F F

can - not be bro - ken. Bind us to - geth - er, Lord,

Dm Gm C F

bind us to - geth - er, Lord; bind us to - geth - er in love.

F C⁷ F F C⁷ F

1 There . . is on - ly one God. There . . is on - ly one King,
2 You are the fam - ly of God. You are the prom - ise di - vine.

F C⁷ F F C⁷ F B^b/C *Refrain*

There . . is on - ly one Bod - y; that . . is why we can sing;
You are God's cho - sen de - sire, you are the glo - rious new wine.

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.

HYMN OF PRAISE



☐ Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace



to God's peo - ple on earth.



☐ Lord God, heav-en - ly king, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. O God of glory, your Son Jesus Christ suffered for us and ascended to your right hand. Unite us with Christ and each other in suffering and in joy, that all the world may be drawn into your bountiful presence, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Please be seated

FIRST READING: Acts 1:6-14

⁶ When [the apostles] had come together, they asked [Jesus], "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷ He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." ⁹ When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰ While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹ They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

¹² Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a

Sabbath day's journey away. ¹³ When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying: Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. ¹⁴ All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 68:1-10, 32-35

¹ Let God arise, and let God's enemies be scattered; let those who hate God flee.

² **As smoke is driven away, so you should drive them away; as the wax melts before the fire, so let the wicked perish at the presence of God.**

³ But let the righteous be glad and rejoice before God; let them also be merry and joyful.

⁴ **Sing to God, sing praises to God's name; exalt the one who rides the clouds; I AM is that name, rejoice before God!**

⁵ In your holy habitation, O God, you are a father to orphans, defender of widows;

⁶ **you give the solitary a home and bring forth prisoners into freedom; but the rebels shall live in desert places.**

⁷ O God, when you went forth before your people, when you marched ^l through the wilderness,

⁸ **the earth quaked, and the skies poured down rain, at the presence of God, the God of Sinai, at the presence of God, the God of Israel.**

⁹ You sent a bountiful rain, O God; you restored your inheritance when it languished.

¹⁰ **Your people found their home in it; in your goodness, O God, you have made provision for the poor.**

³² Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth; sing praises to the Lord.

³³ **You ride in the heavens, O God, in the ancient heavens; you send forth your voice, your mighty voice.**

³⁴ Ascribe power to God, whose majesty is over Israel; whose strength is in the skies.

³⁵ **How wonderful you are in your holy places, O God of Israel, giving strength and power to your people! Blessed be God!**

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11

¹² Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³ But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. ¹⁴ If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you.

^{5:6} Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. ⁷ Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. ⁸ Discipline yourselves; keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. ⁹ Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. ¹⁰ And after you have suffered for a little while, the

God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. ¹¹To him be the power forever and ever. Amen.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *Congregation sings acclamation once.*

Gospel Acclamation *Celtic Alleluia*

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

HOLY GOSPEL: John 17:1-11

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the seventeenth chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ After Jesus had spoken these words [to his disciples,] he looked up to heaven and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, ² since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. ³ And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. ⁴ I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. ⁵ So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

⁶ “I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. ⁷ Now they know that everything you have given me is from you, ⁸ for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you, and they have believed that you sent me. ⁹ I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. ¹⁰ All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I have been glorified in them. ¹¹ And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: *Alleluia, Sing to Jesus – LBW (Green) – 158, vers. 1, 4, & 5.*

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus; his the scep - ter,
 2 Al - le - lu - ia! Not as or - phans are we left in
 3 Al - le - lu - ia! Bread of heav - en, here on earth our
 4 Al - le - lu - ia! King e - ter - nal, Lord om - nip - o -
 5 Al - le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus; his the scep - ter,



his the throne; Al - le - lu - ia! his the tri - umph, his the
 sor - row now; Al - le - lu - ia! he is near us; faith be -
 food, our stay; Al - le - lu - ia! here the sin - ful flee to
 tent we own; Al - le - lu - ia! born of Mar - y, earth your
 his the throne; Al - le - lu - ia! his the tri - umph, his the



vic - to - ry a - lone. Hark! The songs of peace - ful
 lieves, nor ques - tions how. Though the cloud from sight re -
 you from day to day. In - ter - ces - sor, friend of
 foot - stool, heav'n your throne. As with - in the veil you
 vic - to - ry a - lone. Hark! The songs of peace - ful



Zi - on thun - der like a might - y flood: "Je - sus
 ceived him when the for - ty days were o'er, shall our
 sin - ners, earth's re - deem - er, hear our plea where the
 en - tered, robed in flesh, our great high priest, here on
 Zi - on thun - der like a might - y flood: "Je - sus



out of ev - 'ry na - tion has re - deemed us by his blood."
 hearts for - get his prom - ise: "I am with you ev - er - more"?
 songs of all the sin - less sweep a - cross the crys - tal sea.
 earth both priest and vic - tim in the eu - cha - ris - tic feast.
 out of ev - 'ry na - tion has re - deemed us by his blood."

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898, alt.
 Music: HYFRYDOL, Rowland H. Prichard, 1811-1887

NICENE CREED

A: Let us confess our faith in the words of the Nicene Creed,

C: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A: Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

A brief silence.

A: O God, your people sing praises throughout the church. By your Holy Spirit, inspire musicians, deacons, pastors, and bishops to proclaim the gospel of Jesus. Merciful God,

C: Receive our prayer.

A: Your creative power fills the universe. Bring favorable weather, nurture plants and animals, protect us from natural disasters, and guide us to care for all you have made. Merciful God,

C: Receive our prayer.

A: Your justice is exercised in society by those in authority. Instill in political leaders, business leaders, school administrators, and all who care for others a desire for peace and equity. Merciful God,

C: Receive our prayer.

A: Your compassion and care come through the gifts of medicine and relationships. Soothe the anxious, protect widows and orphans, comfort those living with memory loss and their families, and heal the sick (*especially*). Merciful God,

C: Receive our prayer.

A: Your love radiates from communities gathered in your name. Bless those experiencing significant transitions in life such as graduation, retirement, new employment (*other transitions may be named*), and accompany us in our prayers during these times. Merciful God,

C: Receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: O God, your promise of eternal life is certain and sure. Inspire us by the steadfast faith of those who have gone before us, so that we may be confident in the assurances you give. Merciful God,

C: Receive our prayer.

A: God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

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 you are able to give. Our 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 the ways you continually offer your time, talent, and treasure for the sake of God and neighbor in our ministry. Please rise, in body or spirit.

OFFERTORY HYMN

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 together.

C: Merciful God, accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory. You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day when we will hunger and thirst no more. Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus, that goodness and mercy may follow us and bless the world you love. In the name of Jesus, Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

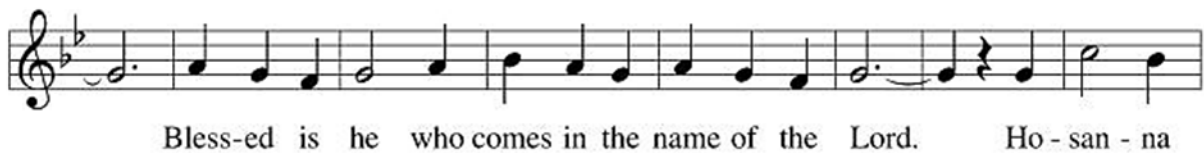
C: We lift them to the Lord.

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, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER & WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: O God most mighty, O God most merciful, O God our rock and our salvation, hear us as we praise, call us to your table, grant us your life.

P: When the earth was a formless void, entrenched in chaos, you formed order and called your creation "good."

P: You entered our sorrows in Jesus our brother.
He was born among the poor,
he lived under oppression,
he wept over the city.
With infinite love, he granted the people your 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: Remembering his death, we cry out Amen. **C: Amen.**

P: Celebrating his resurrection, we shout Amen. **C: Amen.**

P: Trusting his presence in every time and place, we plead Amen. **C: Amen.**

P: O God, you are Breath: send your Spirit on this meal.
O God, you are Bread: feed us with yourself.
O God, you are Wine: warm our hearts and make us one.
O God, you are Fire: transform us with hope.

P: O God most majestic, O God most motherly,
O God our strength and our song, you show us a vision of a tree of life with fruits for all and leaves that heal the nations.
Grant us such life, the life of the Father to the Son, the life of the Spirit of our risen Savior, life in you, now and forever.

C: Amen.

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 a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin 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: Let us pray. Holy One, through this meal you have made your home among us and are making all things new. Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts, to love our enemies, and to bring your healing to the nations. In the name of Jesus,


C: Amen.

BENEDICTION


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 all that is good. Render to no one an evil thing for an evil thing. Through God's grace, lay down your burdens at the foot of Jesus' cross, take up your own cross, and be the New Creation you are called to be. May God's grace, mercy, peace, and love guide you, as you serve God, by serving your neighbors. And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the +Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with you this day, and every day. **C: Amen.**

SENDING HYMN: *Thine the Amen, Thine the Praise – WOV (Blue) – 801, vers. 1-3.*


Thine the Amen



1 Thine the a - men thine the praise al - le - lu - ias an - gels raise
 2 Thine the life e - ter - nal - ly thine the prom - ise let there be
 3 Thine the tru - ly thine the yes thine the ta - ble we the guest
 4 Thine the king - dom thine the prize thine the won - der full sur - prise
 5 Thine the glo - ry in the night no more dy - ing on - ly light



thine the ev - er - last - ing head thine the break - ing of the bread
 thine the vi - sion thine the tree all the earth on bend - ed knee
 thine the mer - cy all from thee thine the glo - ry yet to be
 thine the ban - quet then the praise then the jus - tice of thy ways
 thine the riv - er thine the tree then the Lamb e - ter - nal - ly



thine the glo - ry thine the sto - ry thine the har - vest then the cup
 gone the nail - ing gone the rail - ing gone the plead - ing gone the cry
 then the ring - ing and the sing - ing then the end of all the war
 thine the glo - ry thine the sto - ry then the wel - come to the least
 then the ho - ly ho - ly ho - ly cel - e - bra - tion ju - bi - lee



thine the vine - yard then the cup is lift - ed up lift - ed up.
 gone the sigh - ing gone the dy - ing what was loss lift - ed high.
 thine the liv - ing thine the lov - ing ev - er - more ev - er - more.
 then the won - der all in - creas - ing at thy feast at thy feast.
 thine the splen - dor thine the bright - ness on - ly thee on - ly thee.

DISMISSAL

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

ACTIVITIES AT HOLY SPIRIT LUTHERAN CHURCH:

Sunday (05/17) 9:30 am Sunday School

11:00am – Worship w/Holy Communion

Sunday (05/24) Unity Sunday; Fellowship starts at 9:30am; service at 11:00

No Sunday School

Volunteers

	<i>This Week (05-17-2026)</i>	<i>Next Week (05-24-2026)</i>
Greeters	TBD	TBD
Ushers	Luke F. Abby Pal.	John F. Luke F.
Acolyte	Lily K.	Maryann F.

Assisting Minister	Laura B.	Krissy K.
Communion Assistant	Laura B.	Krissy K.
Lector	Lisa H.	Lily K.
Altar Care	Lorraine M.	Linda L.
Fellowship/Coffee	Dodson	Hall

Upcoming Events Reminder



Sykesville Carnival

June 6 - 13, 2026

1:00PM - 10:00PM

HSLC Ice Cream Booth



Flea Mart (Rain or Shine), Saturday, June 27, 2026

Saturday, June 27, 2026

8:00AM - 2:00PM

HSLC Multi-purpose room



Vacation Bible School (VBS) 2026

July 27 - 31, 2026

6:00PM - 8:30PM

Rainforest Falls: Exploring the Nature of God

Pray in May: Refreshed and Renewed

Sisters and brothers in Christ,

During the month of May, echoing the prophets and saints who have gone before us, I am personally inviting all of you to be Refreshed and Renewed; to Pray in May.

The call to pray rings throughout scripture: *1 Thessalonians 5:16–18, Ephesians 6:18, Philippians 4:4–7, and Colossians 4:2–4*. Life in the early church was bound together by prayer: *Acts 2:42*. Therefore, let us, too, be bound together, Refreshed and Renewed, through prayer.

Maybe you have an idea about how to renew your prayer life. Maybe you have no idea where to start. In any case, here's how I am renewing mine, and I invite you to use my structure as it suits you:

1. Find a time and space to pray out loud. It's best if the time is the same each day for the sake of structure and consistency. For me, it's right before lunch. I also encourage you to pray out loud because Jesus promised us that when we pray, God listens.

2. Identify someone or something to pray for. In this season of life and ministry, I will pray for the Holy Spirit to embrace all on our Parish Prayer List, the Parish Prayer List at Shepherd of The Glen, and name each person out loud before God. I will then pray for the Church and world as a whole; that God's Spirit of peace be known to all people. Maybe you'd like to pray something like the Prayer of St. Francis, or the full Serenity Prayer; all of which are powerful prayers which have united Christians for centuries.

3. Spend 1-2 minutes in silence before God. The Holy Spirit moves in many ways. When we silence our hearts and minds before God, it creates space for the Spirit. If you are "not good and being silent or still," I encourage you to try being silent and still for smaller increments of time.

Lastly, I'd like to encourage you; no one is good at anything the first, or even the tenth time they try something new. It takes practice and consistency; silence, stillness, quietness, and prayer in general, are of no

exception. Keep at it. Ask for help if needed. May God's grace and peace be with you now and always, in Jesus' name.

With all my love and prayers,
The Rev. Tom Kaye, Sr.