

Unity Service
6th Sunday After Pentecost,
Semi-quincentennial: Independence Day
July 5, 2026

Holy Spirit Lutheran Church
&
Shepherd of The Glen Lutheran Church



Holy Spirit Lutheran Church
2205 Old Liberty Road, Eldersburg, MD 21784.
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HSLC Website- www.hslceldersburgmd.org

Shepherd of The Glen Lutheran Church
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The Rev. Tom Kaye, Sr., Pastor
A Shared Ministry in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

We extend the warmest welcome to all worshipping with us today. No matter who you are: if this is your first time worshipping with us, if you haven't been here in a while, if you are here regularly, if you are seeking a community of people trying their best to follow Jesus, if you are curious about Jesus, or even if you are not entirely sure what or who you are looking for; know that you are welcome in this place, and 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. 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.

We believe the varied sounds and actions from children of all ages during worship is evidence of Jesus among us, and bears witness to the life, growth, present and future of the Church. If your child makes noise, you are not bothering anyone, you are blessing everyone. If you would like an activity bag for your child during worship, please ask the greeter who handed you this bulletin.

We stream our worship service on a private zoom link and publicly on Facebook. We also setup a laptop in the lobby area, just outside of the sanctuary, so that we might connect with our members who regularly "Zoom-in" for service. Please stop by to say hello!

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

Let us prepare our hearts and minds for worship.

Please rise, in body or spirit.

INVOCATION, CONFESSION, AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the Holy Trinity, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, one God, source of hope in every nation, rest for the weary, glory and peace to the ends of the earth.

C: Amen.

P: Let us bring every burden to God.

(We pause for reflection)

P: God of all mercy,

C: We have sinned against you, our neighbors, and your creation.

Within ourselves and our communities, our desire to do what is good is at war with the evil that dwells in us. We lament the evil that holds us captive. We repent of the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Rescue us, forgive us, and restore us for lives of compassion and courage through our Savior Jesus Christ.

Amen.

P: All-merciful, Almighty God forgive you all your sins in the name of + Jesus Christ, and by the Holy Spirit's power, strengthen you in doing what is good.

C: Amen.

**GATHERING HYMN: *What a Friend We Have in Jesus – LBW (Green)*
#439 (Printed on Next Page)**

What a Friend We Have in Jesus



- 1 What a friend we have in Je - sus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
- 2 Have we tri - als and temp - ta - tions? Is there trou - ble an - y - where?
- 3 Are we weak and heav - y - lad - en, cum - bered with a load of care?



What a priv - i - lege to car - ry ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer!
We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged—take it to the Lord in prayer.
Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge—take it to the Lord in prayer.



Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit; oh, what need - less pain we bear—
Can we find a friend so faith - ful who will all our sor - row share?
Do your friends de - spise, for - sake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer.



all be - cause we do not car - ry ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer!
Je - sus knows our ev - 'ry weak - ness—take it to the Lord in prayer.
In his arms he'll take and shield you; you will find a so - lace there.

REETING

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.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. Lord of all the worlds, guide this nation by your Spirit to go forward in justice and freedom. Give to all living in these lands the blessings of well-being and harmony, but above all things give us faith in you, that our nation may bring glory to your name and blessings to all peoples, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

Please be seated

FIRST READING: Zechariah 9:9-12

⁹ Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion!

Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!

See, your king comes to you;

triumphant and victorious is he,

humble and riding on a donkey,

on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

¹⁰ He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim

and the war horse from Jerusalem;

and the battle bow shall be cut off,

and he shall command peace to the nations;

his dominion shall be from sea to sea

and from the River to the ends of the earth.

¹¹ As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you,

I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.

¹² Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope;

today I declare that I will restore to you double.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 145:8-14

⁸ The Lord is gracious and full of compassion,

slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

⁹ **Lord, you are good to all, and your compassion is over all your works.**

¹⁰ All your works shall praise you, O Lord, and your faithful ones shall bless you.

¹¹ **They shall tell of the glory of your kingdom and speak of your power,**

¹² that all people may know of your power and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

¹³ **Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom; your dominion endures throughout all ages. You, Lord, are faithful in all your words, and loving in all your works.**

¹⁴ The Lord upholds all those who fall and lifts up those who are bowed down.

SECOND READING: Romans 7:15-25a

¹⁵ I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. ¹⁶ Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. ¹⁷ But in fact it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me. ¹⁸ For I know that the good does not dwell within me, that is, in my flesh. For the desire to do the good lies close at hand, but not the ability. ¹⁹ For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. ²⁰ Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me.

²¹ So I find it to be a law that, when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. ²² For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, ²³ but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. ²⁴ Wretched person that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? ^{25a} Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Please rise, in body or spirit.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON

After the sermon, please rise, in body or spirit, as we lift our hearts and voices together in song.

HYMN OF THE DAY: *Softly and Tenderly, Jesus is Calling* – WOV (Blue) #734, (printed below).

Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling



1 Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing for
2 Why should we tar - ry when Je - sus is plead - ing, plead - ing for
3 Oh, for the won - der - ful love he has prom - ised, prom - ised for



you and for me. See, on the por - tals he's wait - ing and watch - ing,
you and for me? Why should we lin - ger and heed not his mer - cies,
you and for me! Though we have sinned, he has mer - cy and par - don,

Refrain



watch - ing for you and for me.
mer - cies for you and for me? "Come home, come home!
par - don for you and for me.



You who are wea - ry, come home." Ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly,



Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing, "O sin - ner, come home!"

APOSTLES' CREED

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

**C: We believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**We believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**We 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.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A: Trusting in God's steadfast love, let us pray for the church, the nations, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

A: Gathering God, send your Holy Spirit on the church you have called out from every nation. Knit us together into one body and heal the divisions we have caused. Overcome our timidity to witness and act in the public square when your purpose is being thwarted. Bless rostered and lay leaders with clarity and courage as they center your people in the gospel. God of grace,

C: Hear our prayer.

A: All your works praise you, O God. From the Arctic to the Caribbean, from the Atlantic to the western islands, these lands and waters have sustained its peoples over many centuries. As we take our part in creation's praise, revive our wonder at what you have fashioned, and enliven our will to ensure its health for future generations. God of grace,

C: Hear our prayer.

A: Holy Trinity, you show us the splendor of diversity and the beauty of unity in your own divine life. We come from many nations with many languages; make us a united people that delights in our many different gifts. As the United States of America marks its declaration of independence, give those whom we have entrusted with authority the spirit of wisdom, and curb every abuse of that trust, so that both here and abroad, justice, humility, and peace may flourish. God of grace,

C: Hear our prayer.

A: You are the Mother of exiles, O God. Extend your arms to all who are tired, who live with poverty, the tempest-tossed, all who yearn to breathe free. Embrace people seeking refuge; those incarcerated, detained, or disappeared; and neighbors fearing those they once trusted. Give healing and hope to people in any oppression and need, especially these we name before you now (a brief silence). God of grace,

C: Hear our prayer.

A: We remember before you those who have died in every generation: Jan Hus, executed for protesting the ecclesial system; Benedict, teacher of a prayerful life; and those who have died ensuring the freedoms of this country: people in the armed services, peace officers, advocates, and activists. Gather us, together with those who have gone before us, and with saints of every tribe and nation, into the holy city you have prepared. God of grace,

C: Hear our prayer.

A: Into your mercy, O God, we entrust our restless hearts and all our cares, through Jesus Christ, our 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.

Please be seated

SPECIAL MUSIC *O' Lord On High*- By Mozart Performed to the Glory of God by:

Vocalist- Harry Ransom

Musician- Patty Bush

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.

As the offering is brought forward, 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: Blessed are you, O God, for waves of grain and harvesters, fruitful vines and winepresses, for our labor and our rest, for the gifts of your hand in this land. Transform us and what we offer into the banquet of your compassion, serving your love without limits through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **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, God of might:



heav-en 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: Holy God,
you alone are Majesty,
you alone are Excellency,
you alone are Sovereignty.

P: Within the vast reaches you splashed into being,
you formed our star and this planet:
purple mountains, fruited plains,
crystal waters, towering forests, gleaming mines.
Here you fashioned human beings
in our infinite variety and hue,
yet each one created equal,
to care for one another
and our earthly home.

P: In a time of peace enforced by the cruelty of empire,
you came in Jesus to share our life.
Born under the rule of a merciless king,
Jesus revealed the merciful realm of God.
Moving across borders
to people broken and oppressed,
Jesus brought healing, restoration, and freedom.

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, therefore,
Christ's execution at the hands of a ruthless regime,
Christ's resurrection that buries death,
Christ's ascension to rule with love forever,
we declare the revolutionary mystery of faith:
C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: God, shed your grace on us.
Shower your Holy Spirit on these gifts of bread and wine
and on your people gathered this day.
Ignite in us the flame of freedom.
freedom from prejudice, from supremacy, from fear;
freedom for acceptance, for welcome,
for the shalom that you have first shown to us.

P: Faithful and loving God:
Your Majesty shines forth in weakness.
Your Excellency is revealed to infants.
Your Sovereignty reigns from a cross.
Yours, O God,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
is the everlasting kingdom,
the peaceable power,
and the humble glory,
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

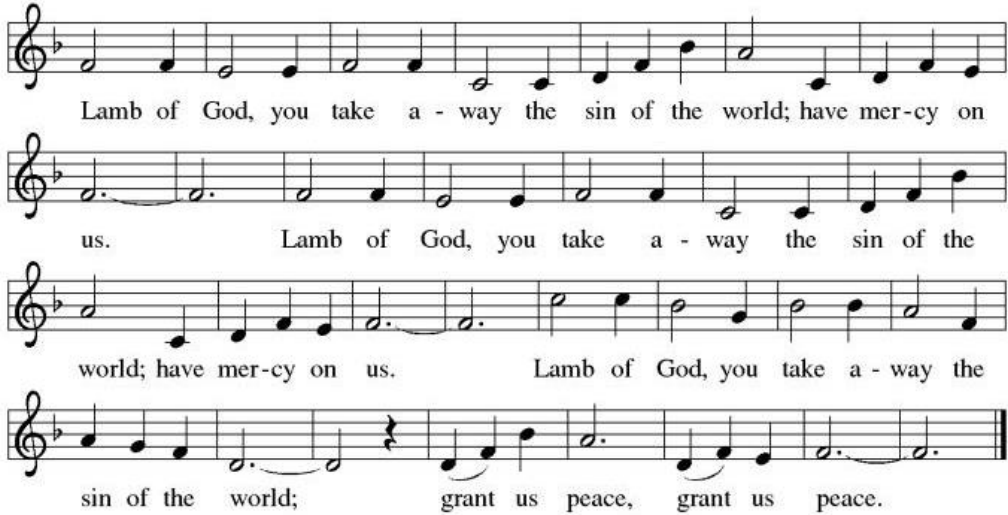
P: Citizens of the commonwealth of heaven:
Taste and know that God is good to all. Jesus invites you. Jesus welcomes you. All are invited. All are welcome. Come taste and see that the Lord is good!

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. Guidance for receiving Communion is on Page 2. 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: We thank you, God of heaven and earth, that you fill our deepest need with the very gift of Jesus Christ, broken and poured out for us. Pour us out into a broken world. Channel our common life toward the common good, following the way our Savior leads us now and forever.

C: Amen.

AFFIRMATION OF CHRISTIAN VOCATION IN CIVIC LIFE

P: People of God, you are chosen and named as God's beloved. You have received the gift of Christian Vocation, a holy calling, lived out in various dimensions of your life, your relationships and communities, your work and your rest. Daily and richly, we live in the promises of Holy Baptism, sustained by grace to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace.

P: I ask you, therefore:

Will you endeavor to pattern your life on Jesus Christ, in gratitude to God and in service to others?

C: We will, and we ask God to help us.

P: Will you strive to pursue the common good in public life, nurturing mutual care among neighbors near and far?

C: We will, and we ask God to help us.

P: Will you pledge to bear witness in word and action, commending what is true and right, renouncing what is unjust and harmful, and working to mend what is flawed?

C: We will, and we ask God to help us.

P: Sovereign God, your Son Jesus lived within the structures of society even as he spoke truth to those in power and challenged systems of oppression. Give to your servants courage, patience, and vision in their commitment to serve in Christ's name. Empower us all in our Christian vocation to be courageous disciples and responsible citizens. Grant that our life in the public realm be grounded in love for our neighbors, care for the most vulnerable, and respect for the common life we share, through Jesus Christ our Savior.

C: Amen.

INDEPENDENCE DAY HYMN- This Is My Song- (Printed on next page)

This Is My Song



1 This is my song, O God of all the na - tions,
2 My coun - try's skies are blu - er than the o - cean,
3 This is my prayer, O God of all earth's king - doms,



a song of peace for lands a - far and mine.
and sun - light beams on clo - ver - leaf and pine.
your king - dom come; on earth your will be done.



This is my home, the coun - try where my heart is;
But oth - er lands have sun - light too, and clo - ver,
O God, be lift - ed up till all shall serve you,



here are my hopes, my dreams, my ho - ly shrine;
and skies are ev - 'ry - where as blue as mine.
and hearts u - nit - ed learn to live as one.



but oth - er hearts in oth - er lands are beat - ing
So hear my song, O God of all the na - tions,
So hear my prayer, O God of all the na - tions;



with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine,
a song of peace for their land and for mine.
my - self I give you; let your will be done.

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 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: *Just a Closer Walk With Thee* – (printed below)

Just a Closer Walk with Thee

Refrain



Just a clos-er walk with thee, grant it, Je-sus, is my plea;



dai - ly walk-ing close to thee, let it be, dear Lord, let it be.



- 1 I am weak but thou art strong: Je - sus, keep me from all wrong;
- 2 Through this world of toil and snares, if I fal-ter, Lord, who cares?
- 3 When my fee-ble life is o'er, time for me will be no more;



Refrain

I'll be sat - is - fied as long as I walk, let me walk close to thee.
Who with me my bur - den shares? None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee.
guide me gent - ly, safe - ly o'er to thy king - dom shore, to thy shore.

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Seek liberty and justice for all!

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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Evangelical Lutheran Worship (Augsburg Fortress, 2006): prayers 125, 237, 289 (pp. 41, 63, 77);

Affirmation of Christian Vocation (p. 84); Holy Baptism (p. 228). All Creation Sings (Augsburg Fortress, 2020), prayer 1041 (p. 50). Enriching Our Worship 1 (Church Publishing, 1998), p. 56.

ACTIVITIES AT HOLY SPIRIT LUTHERAN CHURCH:

Sunday (07/05) 10:30 am – Fellowship

11:00 am – Unity Service w/Holy Communion

Sunday (07/12) 10:30 am – Fellowship

11:00 am – Worship w/Holy Communion

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.

Upcoming Events Reminder:

Please see the “Events” tab on our website for all our upcoming events.

July 26 after the 11:00 am service: Congregational Meeting

July 27-31: VBS 2026

God Bless Those Who Serve

	<i>This Week (07-05-2026)</i>	<i>Next Week (07-12-2026)</i>
Greeters	TBD	TBD
Ushers	Luke F. TBD	TBD TBD
Acolyte	Maryann F.	TBD
Assisting Minister	Megan F.	Laura B.
Communion Assistant	John F.	Laura B.
Lector	TBD	TBD
Altar Care	TBD	Lorraine M.
Fellowship/Coffee	TBD	TBD

VBS at HSLC
July 27-31 6-8:30 pm



Step through the mist into Rainforest Falls, overflowing with wild waterfalls, towering trees and colorful creatures. Beneath a canopy of chattering birds and howling monkeys, kids plunge into a life-long adventure, discovering the nature of God, and exploring what it means to be rooted in relationship with their creator, a safe place in life's storms. Through music, science/stem, games, crafts, snacks, bible stories and more we will explore the amazing, wonderful, surprising nature of GOD! **Pre-k, 4- 6th grade signs up for the "traditional" VBS experience, Middle and High School Students are welcome to sign up as youth volunteers! Age 2 (sign up as nursery) and Prek-3 yr old's are invited to participate with a family member/caregiver in any of our activities.** A special discovery area will be available so that our youngest participants can experience God's love with all their senses, and get an introduction to VBS in an age-appropriate way. While the discovery area will be open to families for the entire VBS time, leaders will be available to help guide families in using the room to discover a relationship with God and our wonderful world. <https://vbspro.events/p/173981> Website: hslceldersburgmd.org Email us at: hslc.eldersburg@comcast.net.

