

Holy Spirit Lutheran Church

21st Sunday After Pentecost

October 18, 2026



In today's first reading God uses the Gentile ruler Cyrus to accomplish divine purposes. When the Pharisees try to trap Jesus, he tells them to give the emperor what belongs to him and to God what belongs to God. To gather for worship reminds us that our ultimate allegiance is to God rather than to any earthly authority. Created in the image of God, we offer our entire selves in the service of God and for the sake of the world.

Holy Spirit Lutheran Church
2205 Old Liberty Road, Eldersburg, MD 21784.
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HSLC Website- www.hslceldersburgmd.org
Rev. Joe Lettrich, Supply 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. Alternatively, if you wish to step out of the sanctuary with your child, we have set up a quiet room which streams our service, all the way down the hallway, past the bathrooms, in the last room on your left.

We stream our worship service on a private zoom link and publicly on Facebook, for the sake of those who cannot be with us in person.

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: In the name of the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God, and of one another.
(We pause for reflection)

P: Loving God,

C: When we have wandered and are lost, we pray that you find us and help us find our way home. When we cannot quench our thirst, when we want that which is harmful to ourselves or others, satisfy us with your love and grace. When we need forgiveness, shower us with your unending mercy. Receive this prayer, and the prayers of our hearts.

P: It's been said that sin is to God's mercy, like a hot coal is to the sea. 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: *You Servants of God* – LBW (Green) – 252.

You Servants of God



1 You ser-vants of God, your mas-ter pro-claim, and pub-lish a -
 2 Our God rules on high, al - might-y to save; and still he is
 3 Sal - va - tion to God who sits on the throne! Let all cry a -
 4 Then let us a - dore and give him his right, all glo - ry and



broad his won - der - ful name; the name, all - vic - to - rious, of
 nigh, his pres - ence we have. The great con - gre - ga - tion his
 loud and hon - or the Son. The prais - es of Je - sus the
 pow'r and wis - dom and might, all hon - or and bless-ing, with



Je - sus ex - tol; his king-dom is glo-rious and rules o - ver all!
 tri-umph shall sing, as - crib - ing sal - va - tion to Je - sus, our king!
 an - gels pro-claim, fall down on their fac - es, and wor-ship the Lamb.
 an - gels a - bove, and thanks nev - er ceas-ing, and in - fin - ite love!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.

Music: LYONS, Johann M, Haydn, 1737–1806, adapt.

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 *Congregation sings together: refrain, verse and the refrain again.*

Refrain

Congregation:

Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion,
all of cre - a - tion sings for joy
to the God of life and love and
free - dom: praise and glo - ry for ev -
er - more!

Verse 1

Congregation or Congregation 1:

1. Now is the feast of the Lamb once
slain, whose blood has freed and u -
nit-ed us to be one great peo - ple of
God. *to Refrain*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. Sovereign God, raise your throne in our hearts. Created by you, let us live in your image; created for you, let us act for your glory; redeemed by you, let us give you what is yours, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **C: Amen.**

Please be seated

FIRST READING: Isaiah 45:1-7

¹ Thus says the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have grasped to subdue nations before him and to strip kings of their robes, to open doors before him—and the gates shall not be closed:

² I will go before you and level the mountains; I will break in pieces the doors of bronze and cut through the bars of iron;

³ I will give you the treasures of darkness and riches hidden in secret places, so that you may know that it is I, the LORD, the God of Israel, who call you by your name.

⁴ For the sake of my servant Jacob and Israel my chosen, I call you by your name; I give you a title, though you do not know me.

⁵ I am the LORD, and there is no other; besides me there is no god.

I am you, though you do not know me,

⁶ so that they may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is no one besides me; I am the LORD, and there is no other.

⁷ I form light and create darkness, I make weal and create woe; I the LORD do all these things.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 96:1-9 [10-13]

¹ Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth.

² **Sing to the LORD, bless the name of the LORD; proclaim God's salvation from day to day.**

³ Declare God's glory among the nations and God's wonders among all peoples.

⁴ **For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised, more to be feared than all gods.**

⁵ As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; but you, O

LORD, have made the heavens.

⁶ Majesty and magnificence are in your presence; power and splendor are in your sanctuary.

⁷ Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD honor and power.

⁸ Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the holy name; bring offerings and enter the courts of the LORD.

⁹ Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness; tremble before the LORD, all the earth.

[**¹⁰ Tell it out among the nations: "The LORD is king! The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved will judge the peoples with equity."**

¹¹ Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that is therein.

¹² Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your coming, O LORD, for you come to judge the earth.

¹³ You will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with your truth.

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

¹ Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

Grace to you and peace.

² We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly ³ remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴ For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, ⁵ because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake. ⁶ And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy from the Holy Spirit, ⁷ so that you became an example to all the

believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. ⁸ For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. ⁹ For they report about us what kind of welcome we had among you and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God ¹⁰ and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Please rise, in body or spirit.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *Congregation sings acclamation once.*

Congregation:

Al-le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we

go? You have the words of e - ter - nal

life. Al - le - lu - ia! *Optional Repeat*

HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 22:15-22

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-second chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord

¹⁵ The Pharisees went and plotted to entrap [Jesus] in what he said.

¹⁶ So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, “Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one, for you do not regard people with partiality. ¹⁷ Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not?” ¹⁸ But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, “Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites?

¹⁹ Show me the coin used for the tax.” And they brought him a

denarius. ²⁰ Then he said to them, “Whose head is this and whose title?” ²¹ They answered, “Caesar’s.” Then he said to them, “Give therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s and to God the things that are God’s.” ²² When they heard this, they were amazed, and they left him and went away.

P: The Gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated

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: *We Give Thee but Thine Own – LBW (Green) – 410.*

We Give Thee but Thine Own



1	We	give	thee	but	thine	own,	what - e'er	the	gift	may	be;
2	May	we	thy	boun -	ties	thus	as	stew -	ards	true	re -
3	Hearts	still	are	bruised	and	dead,	and	homes	are	bare	cold,
4	To	com -	fort	and	to	bless,	to	find	a	balm	woe,



all	that	we	have	is	thine	a -	lone,	a	trust,	O	Lord,	from	thee.
and	glad -	ly,	as	thou	bless -	est	us,	to	thee	our	first -	fruits	give.
and	lamb	s	for	whom	the	Shep -	herd	bled	are	stray -	ing	from	the
to	tend	those	lost	in	lone -	li -	ness,	is	an -	gels'	work	be -	low.

5 The captive to release,
the lost to God to bring,
to teach the way of life and peace—
it is a Christlike thing.

6 And we believe thy word,
though dim our faith may be:
whate'er we do for thine, O Lord,
we do it unto thee.

Text: William W. How, 1823–1897, alt.

Music: HEATH, Mason and Webb, *Cantica Lauda*, 1850

APOSTLES' CREED

A: Lets 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: Seeking the Spirit of God who makes all things new, we pray for the church and the world.

A brief silence.

A: Living and true God, you inspire us to share the message of the gospel. Give your spirit of love to seminarians and those beginning their lives in ordained ministry (*local seminarians or newly called ministers may be named*). Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: We give you thanks for the majesty of our oceans. Protect the abundant life within them and sustain all those who work to preserve them. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: We seek your wisdom in all things. Direct all who hold positions of authority around the world, that they act with compassion, seeking the good of all. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: We pray for all people who work in dangerous or degrading environments. Grant them safety and courage, and heal all those who are injured, sick, or suffering (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: We ask your blessing on those who do the quiet, unseen work of the church (*congregational ministries may be named*). Encourage them in their work of faith and labor of love. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: We thank you for our ancestors who have been called home to you (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Trusting in your boundless grace, O God, we lift up these spoken prayers and those in our hearts; 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.

Please be seated

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- *Congregation sings together once.*



As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were
gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread;
so may all your peo-ple from all the ends of earth be
gath-ered in - to one in you.

OFFERING PRAYER

P: Let us pray, God of creation, you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always.

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 are you, God of pow - er and
might; Heav - en and earth are filled with your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est!
Bless - ed is the One who comes in your name. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est!

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: 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, 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: Amen and amen!

C: Amen and 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

Congregation: *Congregation or Assistant:*

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
you break the chains of ha - tred the and
world: have mer - cy on us, mer - cy on us,
fear:

Final Stanza

Congregation or Assistant:

mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you
take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace,
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.

POST-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. Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray. **C: Amen.**

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.**

Take My Life, That I May Be



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5 Take my will and make it thine;
it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is thine own;
it shall be thy royal throne.

6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour
at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself, and I will be
ever, only, all for thee.

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ACTIVITIES AT HOLY SPIRIT LUTHERAN CHURCH:

Sunday (10/18) 10:30 am – Fellowship
11:00am - Worship w/Holy Communion
Sunday (10/25) 9:30 am – Sunday School
10:30 am – Fellowship
11:00am - Worship w/Holy Communion
12:30 pm - Fall Festival – Trunk or Treat

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

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.

Volunteers

	<i>This Week (10/18/2026)</i>	<i>Next Week (10/25/2026)</i>
Greeters	TBD	TBD
Ushers	TBD	Rusty L. Luke F.
Acolyte	TBD	Kira L.
Assisting Minister	TBD	TBD
Communion Assistant	TBD	John F.
Lector	Lisa H.	Lisa H.
Altar care	Holly deB.	TBD
Fellowship/Coffee	Longs	Novak