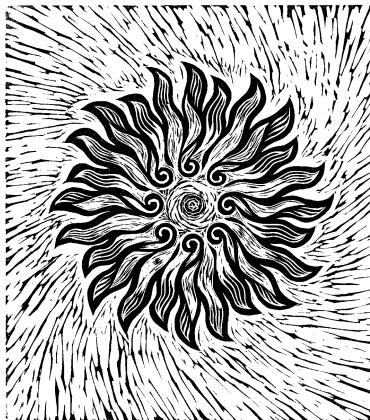


Holy Spirit Lutheran Church

Epiphany of Our Lord

January 4, 2026

Pastor Tom Kaye



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.

WELCOMING MUSIC

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

Let us prepare our hearts and minds for worship.

CONFESSiON AND FORGIVENESS

Please rise, in body or spirit.

P: We gather this day as we live each of our days, In the name of the Father, and of the \div Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: When Jesus was born, he came into a world filled with poverty, and violence, and fear. He lived among people who did not always walk their walk perfectly. Which is to say, Jesus was no stranger to sin, consequently, our sin comes as no surprise to Him. His love and mercy should come as no surprise to us. Therefore, let us make our confession before God and one another. (A brief pause for reflection)

P: Gracious God,

C: Our Wonderful Counselor, the Almighty God, we come to you to confess. We know that sometimes we are happily distracted by parties and twinkling lights, and sometimes we are happily curled up in the solitude and warmth of our homes. In our distraction, we do not heed the cries of the world. We turn a blind eye to suffering and need and grief. Forgive us, forgive us, and more than that, turn us around to see all your children, with the truth of their lives, that we would set aside our distractions and answer your call to go out, to heal, to help, to proclaim good news and joy. Through Christ we pray. 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 Jesus 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 \div Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **C: Amen**

GATHERING HYMN: *Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies – LBW (Green)*

– 265

Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies



1 Christ, whose glo - ry fills the skies, Christ, the true and on - ly light,
2 Dark and cheer-less is the morn un - ac - com - pa - nied by thee;
3 Vis - it then this soul of mine, pierce the gloom of sin and grief;



Sun of righ - teous - ness, a - rise, tri - umph o'er the shades of night;
joy-less is the day's re - turn, till thy mer - cy's beams I see,
fill me, ra - dian - cy di - vine, scat - ter all my un - be - lief;



Day - spring from on high, be near; Day - star, in my heart ap - pear.
till they in - ward light im - part, glad my eyes, and warm my heart.
more and more thy - self dis - play, shin - ing to the per - fect day.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788

Music: RATISBON, J. G. Werner, *Choralbuch*, 1815

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.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Assisting minister



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

All



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.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



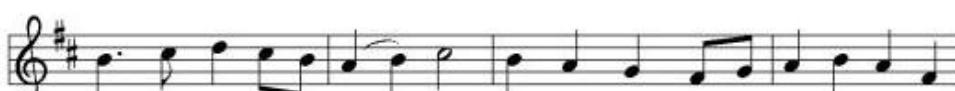
you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, 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: Isaiah 60:1-6

¹ Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. ² For darkness shall cover the earth and thick darkness the peoples, but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. ³ Nations shall come to your light and kings to the brightness of your dawn. ⁴ Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together; they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried in their nurses' arms. ⁵ Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you; the wealth of the nations shall come to you. ⁶ A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

¹ Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to the king's son;

² that he may rule your people righteously and the poor with justice;

³ that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, and the hills, in righteousness.

⁴ Let him defend the needy among the people, rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.

⁵ May he live as long as the sun and moon endure, from one

generation to another.

⁶ Let him come down like rain upon the mown field, like showers that water the earth.

⁷ In his time may the righteous flourish; and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.

¹⁰ May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles pay tribute, and the kings of Sheba and Seba offer gifts.

¹¹ May all kings bow down before him, and all the nations do him service.

¹² For the king delivers the poor who cry out in distress, the oppressed, and those who have no helper.

¹³ He has compassion on the lowly and poor, and preserves the lives of the needy.

¹⁴ From oppression and violence he redeems their lives, and precious is their blood in his sight.

SECOND READING: Ephesians 3:1-12

¹ This is the reason that I, Paul, am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you gentiles, ² for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you ³ and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, ⁴ a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. ⁵ In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: ⁶ that is, the gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

⁷ Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power.

⁸ Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ ⁹ and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things, ¹⁰ so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to

the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.¹¹ This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord,¹² in whom we have access in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

C Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al- le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL: Matthew 2:1-12

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

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹ In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem,² asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage.”³ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him,⁴ and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born.⁵ They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶ ‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah,
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.’ ”

⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared.⁸ Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.”⁹ When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it

stopped over the place where the child was.¹⁰ When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy.¹¹ On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.¹² And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

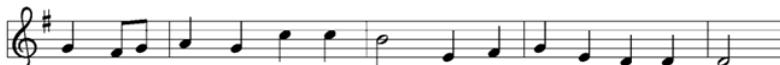
CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON

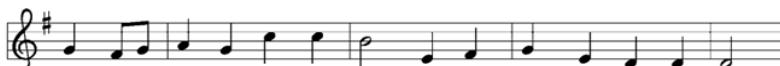
Please rise, in body or spirit, as we lift our hearts and voices together in song.

HYMN OF THE DAY: As With Gladness Men of Old – LBW (Green) – 84, vers 1, 3, & 4.

As with Gladness Men of Old



1 As with glad - ness men of old did the guid-ing star be - hold;
2 As with joy - ful steps they sped, Sav - ior, to thy low - ly bed,
3 As they of - fered gifts most rare at thy cra - dle, rude and bare,
4 Ho - ly Je - sus, ev - 'ry day keep us in the nar - row way;
5 In the heav'n-ly coun - try bright need they no cre - a - ted light;



as with joy they hailed its light, lead - ing on - ward, beam-ing bright;
there to bend the knee be - fore thee, whom heav'n and earth a - dore;
so may we with ho - ly joy, pure and free from sin's al - loy,
and when earth-ly things are past, bring our ran - somed souls at last
thou its light, its joy, its crown, thou its sun which goes not down;



so, most gra - cious Lord, may we ev - er - more be led by thec.
so may we with will - ing feet ev - er seek thy mer - cy seat.
all our cost - lies trea - sures bring, Christ, to thee, our heav'n-ly king.
where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glo - ry hide.
there for - ev - er may we sing al - le - lu - ias to our king.

Text: William C. Dix, 1837–1898, alt.
Music: DIX, Conrad Kocher, 1786–1872

NICENE CREED

A: Lets 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: Empowered by the news of Christ's birth, let us pray boldly for the church, creation, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

A: Repairer of the breach, you separate us from our sin and unite us with one another. Heal the animosity in our hearts, and bind us together in love. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Author of life, you sent your spirit over the waters, your breath into your children, and guiding stars across the sky. Awaken us to the plight of the planet and send us to care for your creation. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Light that leads the way, you make yourself known to the nations. Illuminate just paths and guide leaders in the church and the world in your holy will (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Voice of the silenced, you cast the mighty from their thrones and fill the hungry with good things. Grant those in need the courage to demand equality and those with abundance the wisdom to share. Respond to any who call out in need this day (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Proclaimer of promises, you raise up prophets and messengers in the places we least expect. Equip us to listen well to those who bring both good news and painful truths. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: Redeemer of the saints, you gift us with many people throughout our lives who point the way to you. We give you thanks for the recently departed and all who have loved us (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: With the joy of Christ's birth in our hearts, we commend our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your boundless mercy and eternal love; 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.

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, hslcedersburgmd.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 Eldersburg.

Please rise, in body or spirit.

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. Loving God, We follow the Magi in giving you gifts, praying that as you receive our acts of offering, you would shine the light of Christ in our hearts to lead us in lives which serve you more deeply. **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. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory, that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. 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,
 Lord God of pow'r and might, heav- en and earth are
 full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
 Bless - ed, bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the
 Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCARISTIC PRAYER & WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation.

Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.

Blessed are you for your promise to your people.

Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.

Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.

Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,

the Word made flesh.

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: Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal.
May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your hope.
Bring the gift of peace on earth.

C: Come, Holy Spirit.

P: All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate,
Power of the Most High, one God, 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: Come and taste the Joy of God! This is the table, not of the Church, but
of the Lord. Come, because it is the Lord who invites you. It is his will that
those who want him should meet him here. **C: Amen. Please be seated.**

COMMUNION HYMN



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world;
have mer-cy on us, have mer-cy on us, have mer-cy.

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world;

have mer-cy on us, have mer-cy on us, have mer-cy.

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; grant us peace.

Please come forward at the direction of the ushers. After all have communed, please rise, in body or spirit.

COMMUNION BLESSING

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

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

A: Let us pray. Radiant God, with our eyes we have seen your salvation, and in this meal we have feasted on your grace. May your Word take flesh in us, that we may be your holy people, revealing your glory made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **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. Love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; and 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: *Bright and Glorious is the Sky – LBW (Green) – 75, vers 1, 5, & 6.*

Bright and Glorious Is the Sky



1 Bright and glo - rious is the sky, ra - diant are the
 2 On that ho - ly Christ-mas night through the dark - ness
 3 Sa - ges from the East a - far, when they saw this
 4 Him they found in Beth - le - hem, yet he wore no



heavy - ens high where the gold - en stars are shin - ing.
 beamed a light; all the stars a - bove were pal - ing,
 won - drous star, went to find the king of na - tions
 di - a - dem; they but saw a maid - en low - ly



All their rays to earth in - clin - ing beck - on us to
 all their lus - ter slow - ly fail - ing as the Christ-mas
 and to of - fer their ob - la - tions un - to him as
 with an in - fant pure and ho - ly rest - ing in her



heav'n a - bove, beck - on us to heav'n a - bove.
 star drew nigh, as the Christ-mas star drew nigh.
 Lord and King, un - to him as Lord and King.
 lov - ing arms, rest - ing in her lov - ing arms.

5 Guided by the star, they found him whose praise the ages sound.
 We too have a star to guide us which forever will provide us with the light to find our Lord, with the light to find our Lord.

6 As a star, God's holy word leads us to our King and Lord; brightly from its sacred pages shall this light throughout the ages shine upon our path of life, shine upon our path of life.

Text: Nikolai F. S. Grundtvig, 1783–1872; tr. *Service Book and Hymnal*, 1958, alt.

Music: DEJLIG ER DEN HIMMEL BLAA, Danish, 1830

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DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

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.**

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ACTIVITIES AT HOLY SPIRIT LUTHERAN CHURCH:

Sunday (01/04) 9:30 am – Sunday School
11:00 am –Worship w/Holy Communion

Sunday (01/11) 9:30 am – Sunday School
11:00 am – Worship w/Holy Communion

Please contact Vicar Tom via call/text at 443-841-9634, or by email at HSLC.pastor@comcast.net if you would like to meet, have any questions, or for any pastoral emergencies. **Volunteers**

	THIS WEEK	NEXT WEEK (1-11-2026)
Greeters	TBD	TBD
Ushers	Dave L John F.	Luke F. Henry K.
Acolyte	Abby Pa.	Maryann F.
Assisting Minister	Lily K.	Laura B.
Communion Assistant	Krissy K.	Laura B.
Lector	Megan F.	Cara K.
Altar Care	Linda L.	Krissy K.