



www.holyword.net

Today's Focus

“CELEBRATION OF ASCENSION”

MAY 17, 2026

Welcome! Holy Word is a community of Christians experiencing life together in the grace and peace of Jesus. Here you will find a family culture, easy access to Bible teaching at all levels, community connection, personable staff, and the unity of our belief and mission. Whether you are a first time guest, a seeker, skeptic or lost soul, or a long time Christian, we invite you to get to know us. Come as you are!

+++++++

Connection Cards: Welcome to all our guests and members this morning. We'd like to get to know you better. To help us, please fill out the connection card inside your worship folder. Prayer requests and feedback are also welcome. Place the card in the offering plates or hand it to an usher after the service. God bless your week!

+++++++

Children in Worship: We love kids in church and we love families worshipping together. To enhance the children's worship experience, we have a kids sermon during the service. We encourage parents to work through the service folder with their children to help them follow along. We have orange busy bags in the nursery available for the children. If your child needs a break from the service, feel free to use the Nursery (in the church lobby), hallways or fellowship hall, all are equipped with sound from the service

Welcome & Invocation

Hymn: A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing | Blue Hymnal 472



1 A hymn of glo - ry let us sing! New songs through-
4 "You see him now, as - cend - ing high up to the
5 Be now our joy on earth, O Lord, and be our



out the world shall ring: Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
por - tals of the sky." Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
fu - ture great re - ward. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!



Christ, by a road be - fore un - trod, as - cends un -
"Here - af - ter Je - sus you shall see re - turn - ing
Then, throned with you for - ev - er, we shall praise your



to the throne of God. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
in great maj - es - ty." Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
name e - ter - nal - ly. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Confession and Forgiveness

Leader: Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

Group: Blessed are they whose sin the Lord does not count against them.

Leader: Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

**Group: Almighty and merciful Father,
we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep.
We have followed what we have devised and desired in
our hearts.
We have offended you and sinned against your holy law.
We have done those things that we should not have
done, and we have not done those things that we
should have done.
Have mercy on us, Lord!
Spare us, forgive us, and restore us,
according to your promises in Christ Jesus.**

Leader: God, our merciful Father, has forgiven all our sins. He sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer and Savior. Jesus paid the penalty for our guilt by his death on the cross and freed us from death by his resurrection from the grave. We have peace with God now and forever.

Group: Amen.

Hymn: A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing | Blue Hymnal 472

6 O ris - en Christ, as - cend - ed Lord, all praise to
you let earth ac - cord. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
You are, while end - less a - ges run, with Fa - ther
and with Spir - it one. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Text: The Venerable Bede, 673–735, abr.; tr. Composite. © Public domain
Tune: Geistliche Kirchengesäng, Köln, 1623. © Public domain

First Reading

Acts 1:1-11

¹In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach ²until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. ³After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. ⁴On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. ⁵For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

⁶Then they gathered around him and asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"

⁷He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

⁹After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

¹⁰They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. ¹¹"Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."

Gospel Reading

Luke 24:44-53

⁴⁴He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms."

⁴⁵Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. ⁴⁶He told them, "This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

⁵⁰When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. ⁵¹While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. ⁵²Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. ⁵³And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.

Children's Message

Young worshipers are invited to the front of the church for a Bible message just for them.

Holy Word Children's Recitation

Matthew 28:19-20

¹⁹"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Hymn: On Eagle's Wings

Children sing the verse 1 and Congregation sings verses 2&3.

Children: ♪ *You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord,
who abide in his shadow for life,
say to the Lord: "My refuge, my rock in whom I trust!"*

*And he will raise you up on eagle's wings,
bear you on the breath of dawn,
make you to shine like the sun,
and hold you in the palm of his hand.*

All: ♪



2 Snares of the fowl - er will nev - er cap - ture you, And
3 For to his an - gels he's giv - en a com - mand To



fam - ine will bring you no fear; Un - der his wings your
guard you in all of your ways; Up - on their hands they will



ref - uge, His faith - ful - ness your shield.
bear you up, Lest you dash your foot a - gainst a stone.

Refrain



And he will raise you up on ea - gles' wings, Bear you on the



breath of dawn, Make you to shine like the sun, And



hold you in the palm of his hand.

Text: Michael Jonas, b. 1951, abr., alt. © 1979 New Dawn Music (admin. OCP Publications). All rights reserved.

Tune: Michael Jonas, b. 1951, alt. © 1979 New Dawn Music (admin. OCP Publications). All rights reserved.

Used by permission: OneLicense no. 735427

The Ascended Jesus

¹⁵For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people, ¹⁶I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. ¹⁷I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. ¹⁸I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, ¹⁹and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength ²⁰he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, ²¹far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. ²²And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, ²³which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

+++++++

Sermon study questions for Connect Group discussion, & for personal reflection:

1. Where do people in our culture look to for power, security, or hope?
2. How does the ascended Jesus give us real power, security, and hope?
3. What do you notice about Paul's prayer that we can incorporate into our own prayer life?

Sermon notes:

Profession of Faith — Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Commissioning of the Youth In Christ Mission Team

Prayer of the Church and Lord's Prayer

**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.**

Our Gift of Thanks

"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." (2 Corinthians 9:7)

During this time we collect financial offerings as gifts for the work of God at Holy Word. We will pass around the offering plates at this time. Anyone may also give online at www.holyword.net.

For your convenience, you may also scan the image printed here with your phone. This QR code will take you directly to the church offering website. Please include your contact information if you would like to receive a statement of giving receipt.



Blessing

Hymn: Hail the Day That Sees Him Rise | Blue Hymnal 474



1 Hail the day that sees him rise to his
2 There the glo - rious tri - umph waits; lift your
3 See, the heav'n its Lord re - ceives, yet he
6 There we shall with him re - main, part - ners



throne a - bove the skies! Christ, the Lamb for
heads, e - ter - nal gates! He has con - quered
loves the earth he leaves; though re - turn - ing
in his end - less reign, there his face un -



sin - ners giv'n, re - as - cends his na - tive heav'n.
death and sin; take the King of glo - ry in!
to his throne, still he calls the world his own.
cloud - ed see, live with him e - ter - nal - ly.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, abr., alt.

Tune: Pierre de Corbeille, d. 1221; adapt. Richard Redhead, 1820–1901

Text and tune: Public domain

Acknowledgments

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide.

Liturgical and musical settings of Scripture based on text from The Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide.

Software distributed in partnership with Northwestern Publishing House. Created by Christian Worship: Service Builder © 2026 Concordia Publishing House.

Holy Word Happenings



Annual Splash Day: Following the worship service today Holy Word is hosting our annual outdoor party for our members and our families from our Holy Word Early Learning Center! With a church picnic feel, we encourage everyone to come enjoy fellowship, food, inflatable slides and games. We hope you can join us for this fun-filled celebration!

+++++



PreSchool Graduation: It's graduation season, and our Holy Word Early Learning Center preschoolers are graduating to move on to Kindergarten! You are all invited to join us this Thursday, May 21, at 6:30pm as we celebrate the growth and success of these little ones during their time at HWELC! The graduation will take place in the Holy Word sanctuary. We would love for our Holy Word family to share in the celebration!

+++++

Pastor Patterson Delivers a Special Sermon on May 31

Using the unique gifts God has given him, Pastor Patterson has accepted a call to join the team of WELS Ministry Recruiters. Sunday, May 31 marks a special occasion as he leads our church in worship on his last day as senior pastor of Holy Word. We thank God for his 34 years of faithful service to our congregation, schools and missions. There will be an opportunity to share words of encouragement, express gratitude, and leave a card at an appreciation table. Your presence and kind words will be a blessing.



Youth in Christ Mission Trip 2026:

Our Holy Word teen group is excited to be returning to the Fort Apache Reservation in Arizona for their annual mission trip, May 30 to June 7. If you would like to virtually tag along, we will be posting updates from our trip on our Youth in Christ Facebook and Instagram pages: www.facebook.com/youthinchristatx and www.instagram.com/youthinchristatx/. Thank you for all your prayers and support!

Save the Date! — Mini Men's Retreat — June 27

- **When:** 9am-Noon on June 27th
- **Where:** Holy Word Fellowship Hall
- **Who:** All men of the congregation are invited
- **Why:** Men of God gather together to encourage and strengthen each other to be the kind of men God has called us to be.
- **Cost??** Nope. It is free.
- **Food??** Yes, we will have a great breakfast spread.



Men's Retreat 2026



HWELC Happenings: Enjoy some Holy Word Early Learning Center updates in our weekly newsletter by scanning this QR code.



May 4 – May 8



HOLY WORD ANNIVERSARY:

Tom and Denise Hebson	05/17/97
Joe and Donna Wempe	05/19/84
Steve and Beth Wright	05/19/73
Nathan and Melisa Steinke	05/22/99



HOLY WORD BIRTHDAYS:

Tammi Besch	05/17
Jonathan Baumler	05/18
Lou Catozzi	05/19
Casey Howard	05/19
Harper Hughes	05/19
Steve Wright	05/21
Scarlett Hufford	05/22

THIS WEEK AT HOLY WORD

MONDAY

6:00 pm Church Leadership Meeting (Conference Room)

TUESDAY

10:00 am Women's Online Bible Study (Online)

6:00 pm Women's Bible Study (Gebert)

WEDNESDAY

6:30 am Men's Bible Breakfast (Jim's Restaurant)

7:00 pm Hymn Sing (Sanctuary)

7:00 pm Youth in Christ (Fellowship Hall)

7:00 pm Men's Evening Bible Study (Conference Room)

THURSDAY

6:30 pm HWELC Pre-School Graduation (Sanctuary)

FRIDAY

10:30 am Friday South Austin Bible Study (Siirila's house)

SATURDAY

11:00 am Youth in the Middle (Typhoon Texas)

SUNDAY

9:30 am Worship & Communion

11:00 am Adult Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)

Young Professionals Bible Study (Conference Room)

Moms the Word (Portable)

Teen Bible Study (Classrooms)

Kids Bible Study (Classrooms)

10:00 am Worship (Hope Fellowship in Jarrell)

Meditations: Get your daily dose of God's Word with *Meditations*, a personal and inspiring devotional booklet offering a brief yet thought-provoking Bible study every day. Each quarterly issue is clearly written with daily Bible verses, devotions, and prayers. Pick up your free copy of the May 31 – Aug 29 edition today on the table in the hallway.



Teen & Youth Summer Camps

We are excited to invite you to our week-long camps engaging in a range of activities, from group discussions and Bible studies to swimming and camp fires, all designed to help us have fun while growing our relationships together and with Jesus. Limited spots available – Register Today!

Teen Camp (going into 9th-12th grades) - June 14-19, 2026

Youth Camp (going into 5th-8th grades) - June 21-26, 2026

For more **Information** and to **Register** scan the QR code or goto www.campshilohretreat.org



OPTIMIZING HOLY WORD LUTHERAN CHURCH
VISIBILITY ON GOOGLE SEARCH

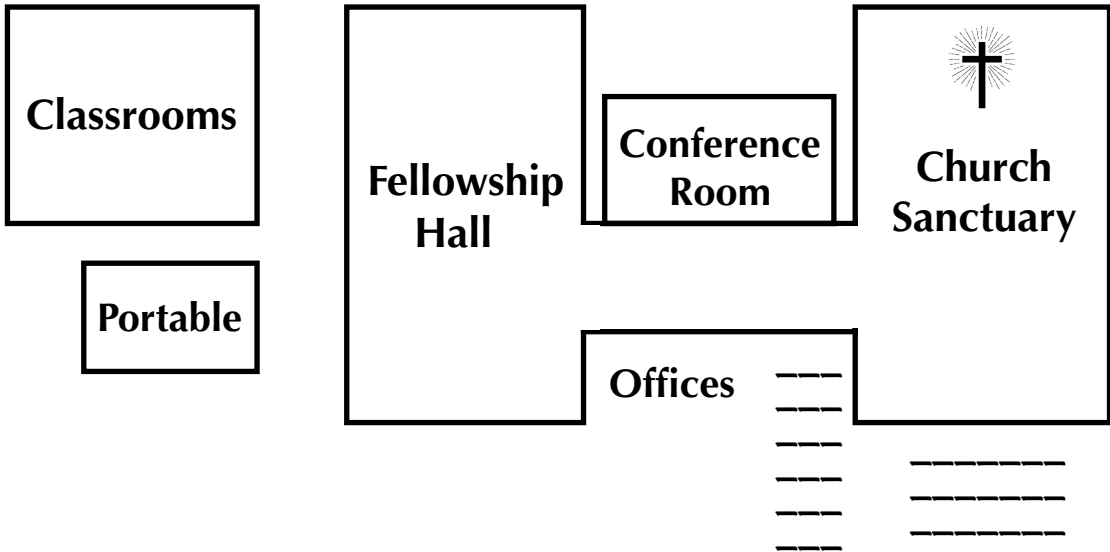


LEAVE A REVIEW
ON GOOGLE MAPS



SCAN ME

Holy Word Campus Map



- **Young Professionals Bible Study — Conference Room**
- **Adult Bible Study — Fellowship Hall**
- **Moms in the Word — Classrooms**
- **Teen Bible Study — Portable**
- **Catechism Class — Classrooms**
- **Kids Bible Study — Classrooms**