Welcome to Shepherd of the Desert Evangelical Lutheran Church

Sun City, AZ

The Great Platte River Archway Monument

Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 15, 2026

Mission Statement

"To be a congregation that puts the Love of Christ into action from one generation to another and from our community to our world".

✠ Please stand in body or spirit.

Preludes

Words of Welcome

✠ Confession and Forgiveness

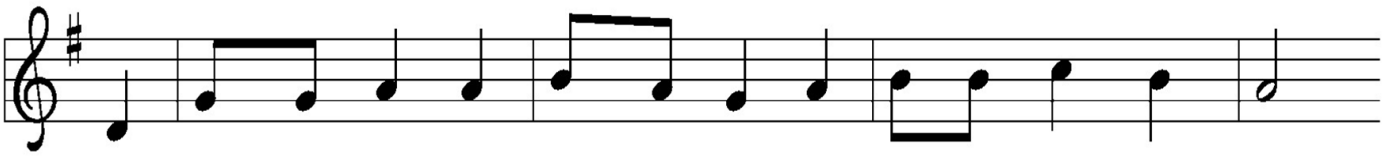
P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,
who looks upon us in compassion, forgives our sin, and heals our lives. **Amen.**

P Holy and gracious God,

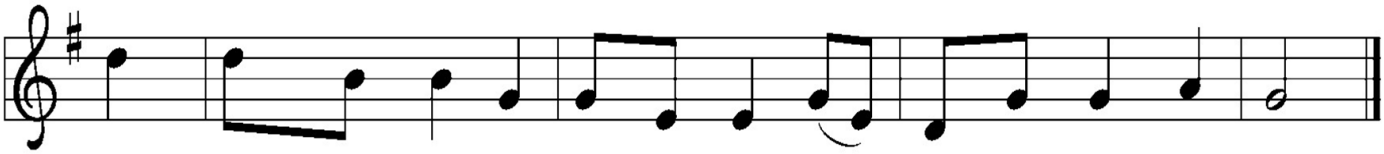
C we confess that we have sinned against you this day. Some of our sin we know— the thoughts and words and deeds of which we are ashamed— but some is known only to you. In the name of Jesus Christ we ask forgiveness. Deliver and restore us, that we may rest in peace. Amen.

P By the mercy of God we are united with Jesus Christ, in whom we are forgiven.
We rest now in the peace of Christ and rise each morning to serve. **Amen.**

✠ Gathering Hymn Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing ELW # 886



1 Oh, for a thou-sand tongues to sing my great Re-deem-er's praise,
2 My gra-cious Mas-ter and my God, as-sist me to pro-claim,
3 The name of Je-sus charms our fears and bids our sor-rows cease,
4 He speaks, and lis-t'ning to his voice, new life the dead re-ceive;



the glo-ries of my God and king, the tri-umphs of his grace!
to spread through all the earth a-broad the hon-ors of your name.
sings mu-sic in the sin-ner's ears, brings life and health and peace.
the mourn-ful, bro-ken hearts re-joice, the hum-ble poor be-lieve.

5 Look unto him, your Savior own,
O fallen human race!
Look and be saved through faith alone,
be justified by grace!

6 To God all glory, praise, and love
be now and ever giv'n
by saints below and saints above,
the church in earth and heav'n.

╬ Prayer of the Day

A The Lord be with you.
C And also with you.

Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen

First Reading: 1 Samuel 16:1-13

Pew Bible

L The word of the Lord
C Thanks be to God

The Psalm: Psalm 23

Pew Bible

1 The LORD | is my shepherd;
I shall not | be in want.
2 **The LORD makes me lie down | in green pastures**
and leads me be- | side still waters.
3 You restore my | soul, O LORD,
and guide me along right pathways | for your name's sake.
4 **Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall | fear no evil;**
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they | comfort me.
5 You prepare a table before me in the presence | of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is | running over.
6 **Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days | of my life,**
and I will dwell in the house of the | LORD forever.

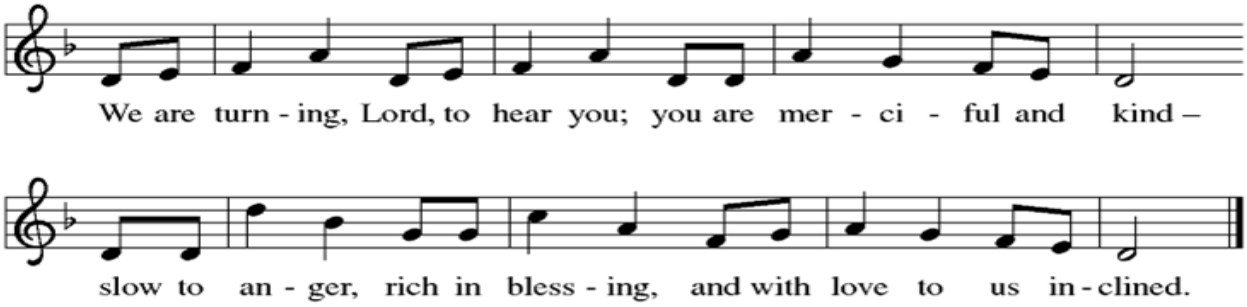
Second Reading: Ephesians 5:8-14

Pew Bible

L The word of the Lord
C Thanks be to God

╬ Gospel Acclamation

Setting 10



Gospel: John 9:1-41

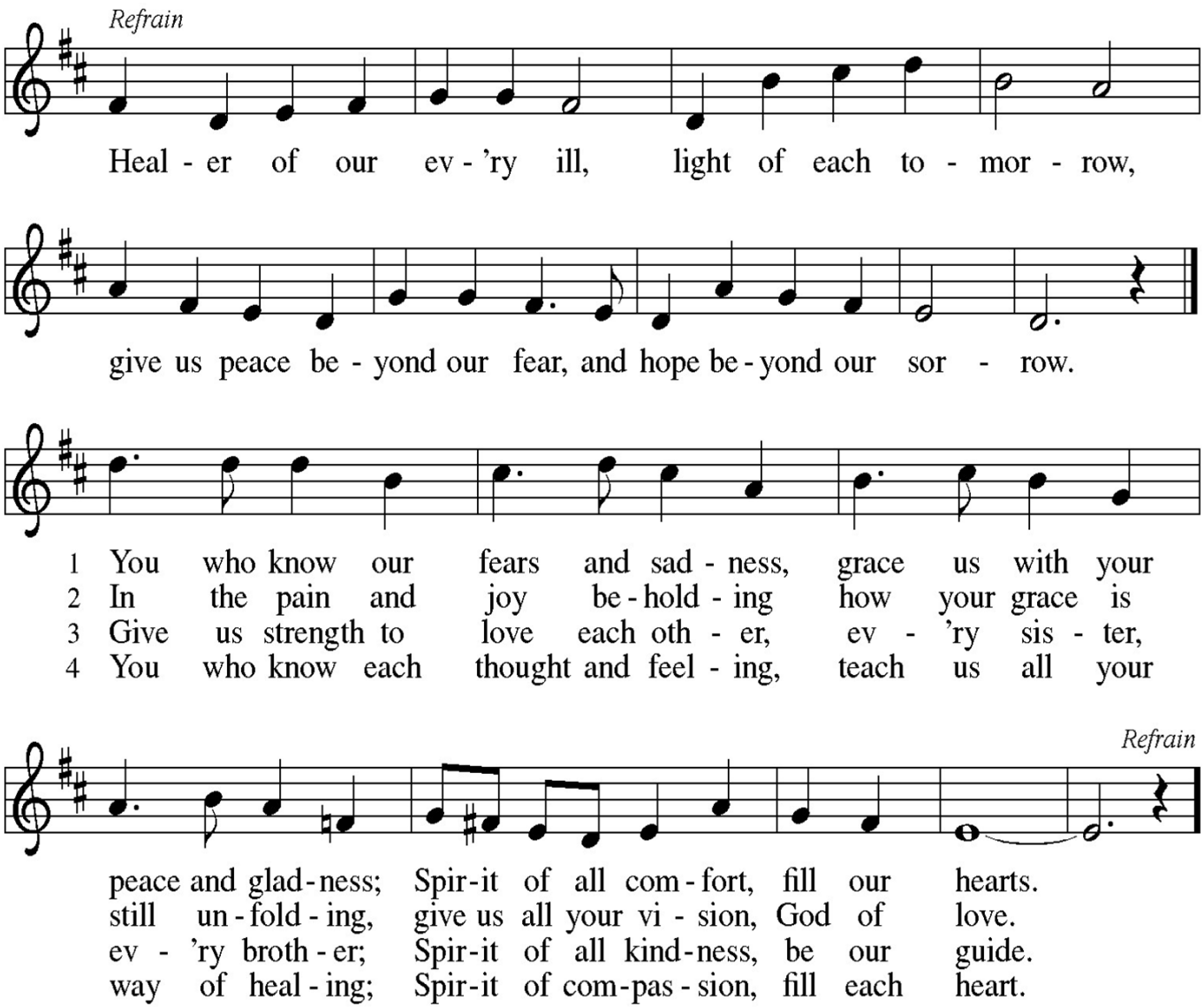
Pew Bible

P The Gospel of Our Lord
C Thanks be to God

Message

╬ Hymn of the Day Healer of Our Every Ill

ELW # 612



╬ Nicene Creed

A With the whole church let us confess our faith

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 the Gathered Community

Each petition ends with:

A Hear us, O God,

C Your mercy is great.

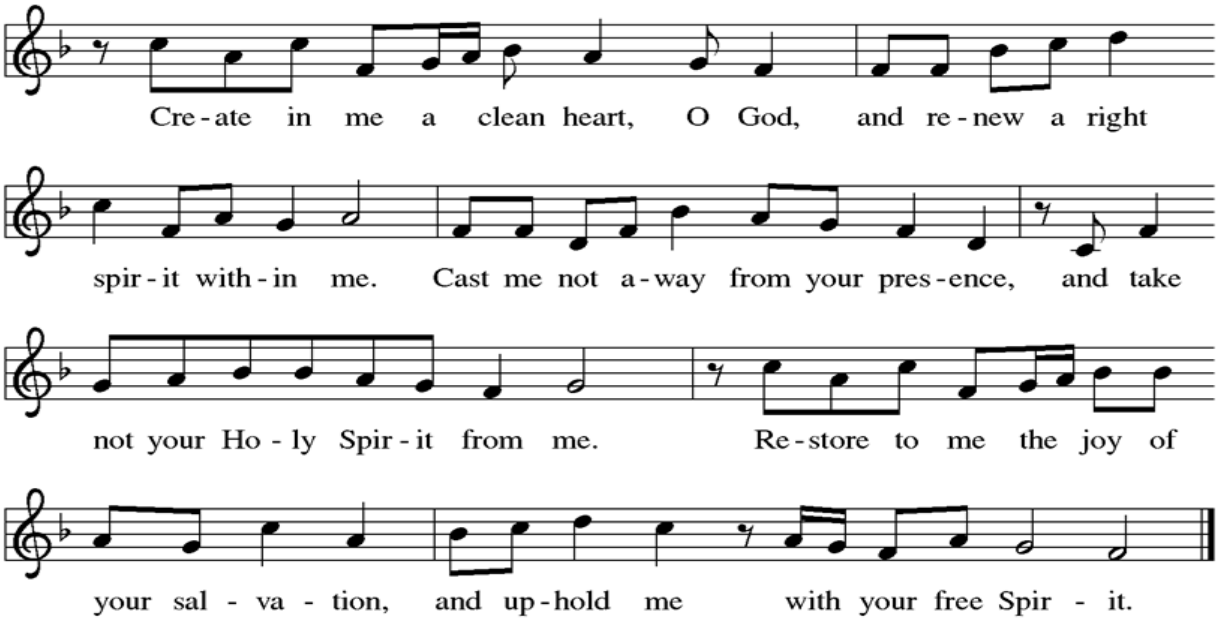
A Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C Amen.

╬ Share the Peace

Offering Music

╬ Offertory **ELW 186**

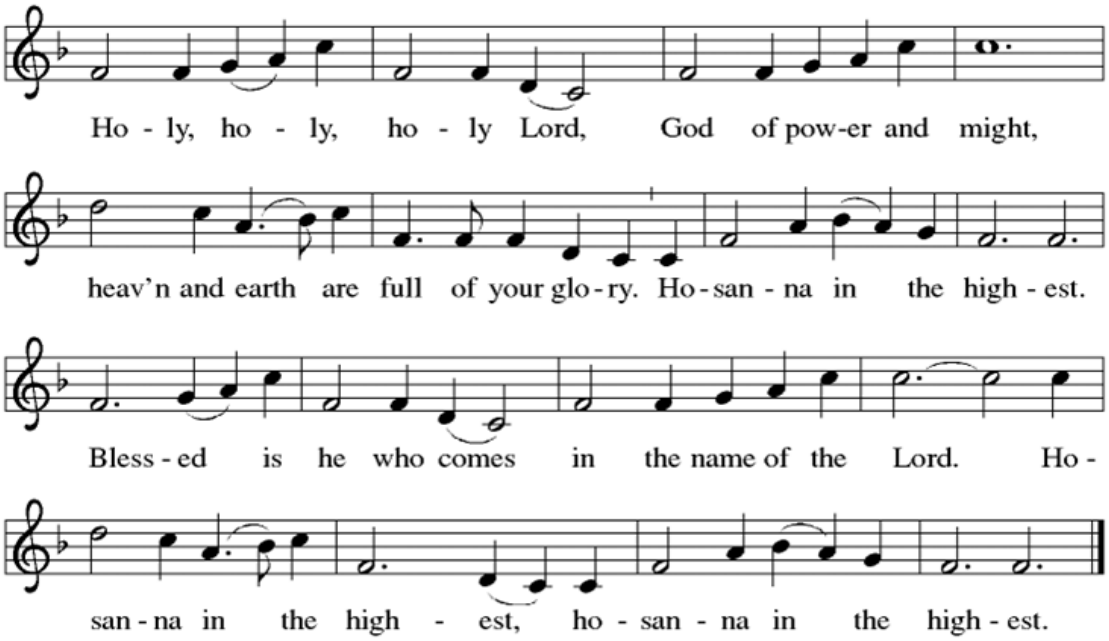


╬ Prayer at the Table

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.

P It is indeed right and salutary . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

╬ Holy, Holy, Holy **Setting 10**



P Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age. All creation sings your praise. Sun, moon, and stars reflect your glory. Mountains, lakes, and forests declare your wonders. With saints through the ages we ponder the mystery of Christ's dying and rising.

In the night in which he was betrayed . . . . Do this for the remembrance of me.

With hearts full of memories and hopes, we break this bread and share this cup, remembering the death and resurrection of Christ, and his promise to be with us always. At this table make us your body. Form us to be people of justice and peace. Fill us with gratitude and generosity that we may bear the fruit of love in word and deed.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

C Amen

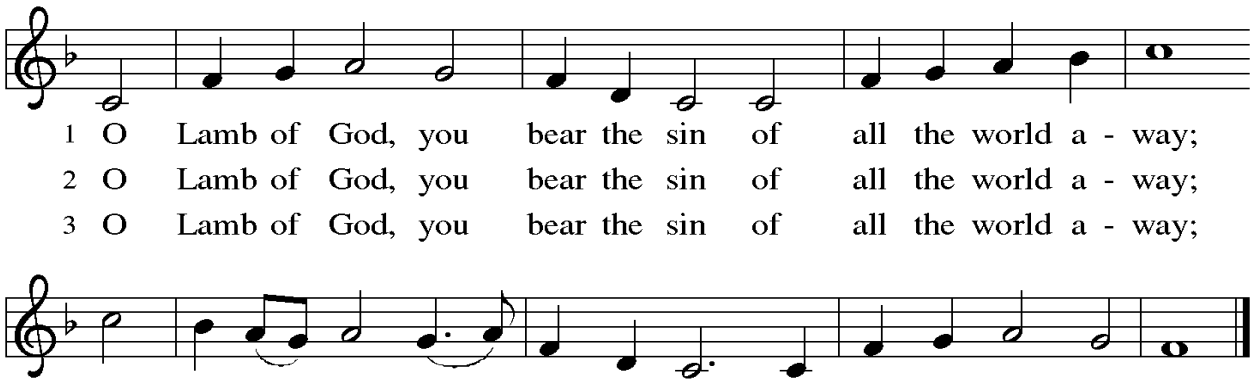
Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

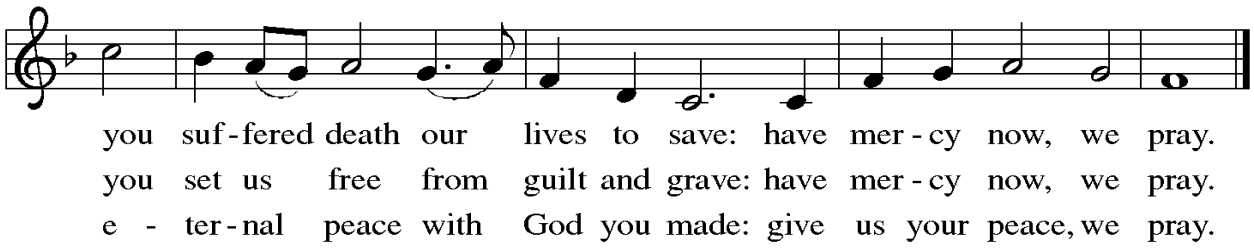
Invitation to Communion

P There's a place for everyone at the table. All are welcome here.

╬ Lamb of God

Setting 10





Special Music

╬ Post-Communion Blessing

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C Amen

╬ Post Communion Prayer and Sending of Communion

A God of our salvation, we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey.

Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ's body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation. As we have been nourished, we now ask you to bless those who go forth to share your word and sacrament with our sisters and brothers who are homebound.

In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those to whom we bring this communion, that together—as one body—we may all feast upon your abundant love made known in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

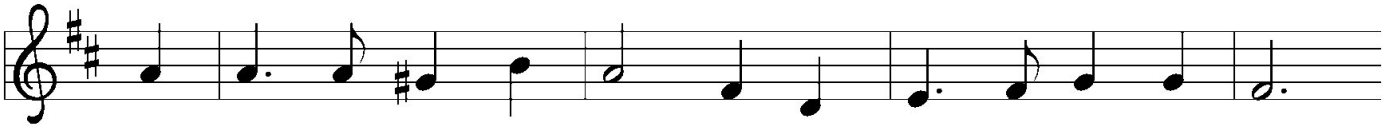
C Amen.

╬ Blessing

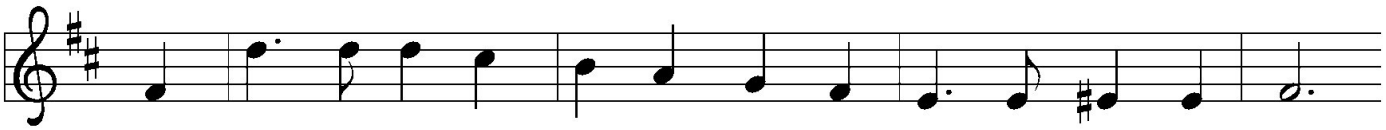
P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C Amen.

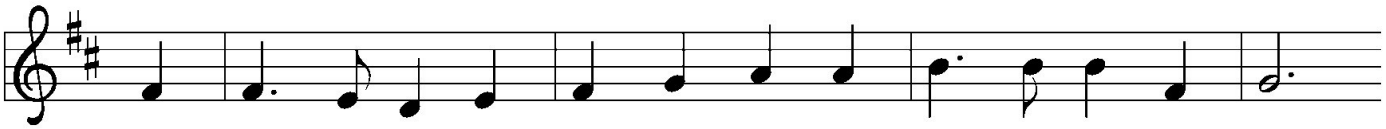
╬ **Sending Hymn** Beneath the Cross of Jesus ELW # 338



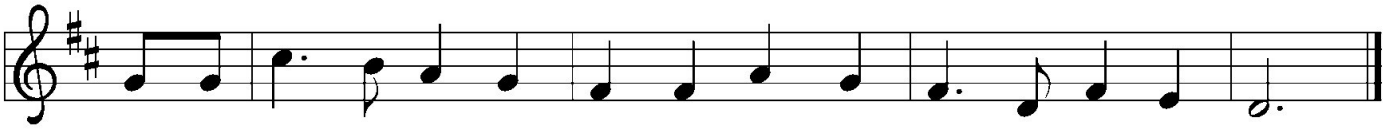
1 Be - neath the cross of Je - sus I long to take my stand;
2 Up - on the cross of Je - sus, my eye at times can see
3 I take, O cross, your shad - ow for my a - bid - ing place;



the shad - ow of a might - y rock with - in a wea - ry land,
the ver - y dy - ing form of one who suf - fered there for me.
I ask no oth - er sun - shine than the sun - shine of his face;



a home with - in a wil - der - ness, a rest up - on the way,
And from my con - trite heart, with tears, two won - ders I con - fess:
con - tent to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss,



from the burn - ing of the noon - tide heat and bur - dens of the day.
the . . . won - der of his glo - rious love and my un - wor - thi - ness.
my . . . sin - ful self my on - ly shame, my glo - ry all, the cross.

╬ **Dismissal**

A Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Shepherd of the Desert Announcements

Midweek Lenten March 18th. Soup Supper starts at 6 p.m. This week we will have a representative from Pan De Vida. The Lutheran Spanish church is Surprise.

Flowers for Easter Flower envelopes for Easter are available. We will be taking the orders until March 29th. Make sure to note on the envelope clearly who you would like to honor. Thank you!

Monday Morning Bible Study 10:00 a.m. in the Founders Room. Remember to bring your Bible and a beverage. We will be reading the lessons for the upcoming weekend services.

Choir Rehearsals Come and join Kevin DeYager, our Sunday Organist, as we rehearse choir music for the upcoming services. The next rehearsal is Tuesday March 17th in the Sanctuary at 2:00 p.m.

Ladies Book Club Wednesday at 9:00 a.m. The Book they are reading is The Story of Ruth by Liz Curtis Higgs. The cost is $5.00. Please reach out to Nancy Fisher if you need a book.

Mission of the Month - March - Lutheran Seminary Students. The Grand Canyon Synod Provides scholarships for students who are pursuing ordination through the Synod's Seminary Scholarship Fund.

Dwayne Gjoraas	3/18
Nancy LeVander	3/18

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Website: www.sdaz.org **Email**: Office - Kristen Wood Secretary: secretarysod1@gmail.com