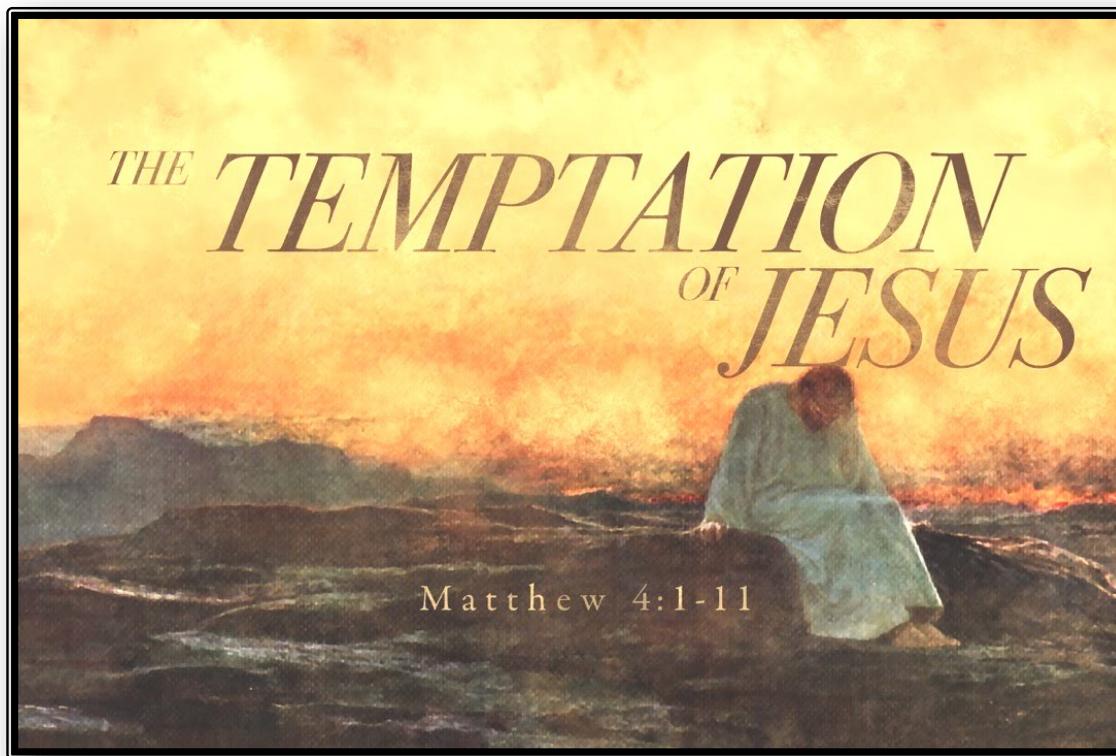


Welcome to Shepherd of the Desert  
Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Sun City, AZ



First Week in Lent  
February 21,22, 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.**

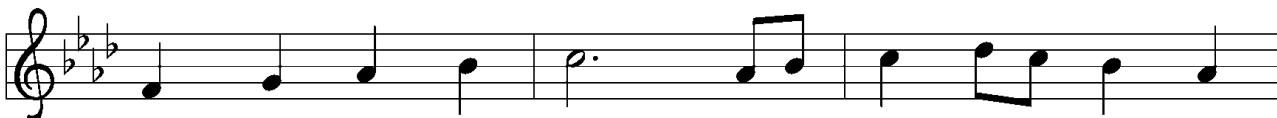
P By the mercy of God we are united with Jesus Christ, in whom we are forgiven.  
We rest now in the peace of Christ and rise each morning to serve. **Amen.**

### ¶ Gathering Hymn O, Lord throughout These Forty Days

ELW # 318



1 O Lord, through - out these for - ty days you  
2 You strove with Sa - tan, and you won; your  
3 Though parched and hun - gry, yet you prayed and  
4 Be with us through this sea - son, Lord, and



prayed and kept the fast; in - spire re - pen - tance  
faith - ful - ness en - dured; lend us your nerve, your  
fixed your mind a - bove; so teach us to de -  
all our earth - ly days, that when the fi - nal



for our sin, and free us from our past.  
skill and trust in God's e - ter - nal word.  
ny our - selves that we may know God's love.  
Eas - ter dawns, we join in heav - en's praise.

## Prayer of the Day

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

Lord God, our strength, the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the devil and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and restore us through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen

## First Reading: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

Pew Bible

L The word of the Lord  
C Thanks be to God

## The Psalm: Psalm 32

Pew Bible

<sup>1</sup> Happy are they whose transgressions I are forgiven,  
and whose sin is I put away!

<sup>2</sup> Happy are they to whom the LORD im- I puts no guilt,  
and in whose spirit there I is no guile!

<sup>3</sup> While I held my tongue, my bones with- I ered away,  
because of my groaning I all day long.

<sup>4</sup> For your hand was heavy upon me I day and night;  
my moisture was dried up as in the I heat of summer.

<sup>5</sup> Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not con- I ceal my guilt.  
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD." Then you forgave me the guilt I of my sin.

<sup>6</sup> Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in I time of trouble;  
when the great waters overflow, they I shall not reach them.

<sup>7</sup> You are my hiding-place; you preserve I me from trouble;  
you surround me with shouts I of deliverance.

<sup>8</sup> "I will instruct you and teach you in the way that I you should go;  
I will guide you I with my eye.

<sup>9</sup> Do not be like horse or mule, which have no I understanding;  
who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will I not stay near you."

<sup>10</sup> Great are the tribulations I of the wicked;  
but mercy embraces those who trust I in the LORD.

<sup>11</sup> Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice I in the LORD;  
shout for joy, all who are I true of heart.

## Second Reading: Romans 5:12-19

Pew Bible

L The word of the Lord  
C Thanks be to God

### Gospel Acclamation

Setting 10



We are turn - ing, Lord, to hear you; you are mer - ci - ful and kind -



slow to an - ger, rich in bless - ing, and with love to us in - clin ed.

## Gospel: Matthew 4:1-11

Pew Bible

P The Gospel of Our Lord  
C Thanks be to God

### Message

### Hymn of the Day Bless Now, O God, the Journey

ELW # 326



1 Bless now, O God, the jour - ney that all your peo - ple make,  
2 Bless so - journ - ers and pil - grims who share this wind - ing way;  
3 Di - vine e - ter - nal lov - er, you meet us on the road.



the path through noise and si - lence, the way of give and take.  
your hope burns through the ter - rors, your love sus-tains the day.  
We wait for lands of prom - ise where milk and hon - ey flow,



The trail is found in des - ert and winds the moun - tain round,  
We yearn for ho - ly free - dom while of - ten we are bound;  
but wait - ing not for plac - es, you meet us all a - round.



then leads be - side still wa - ters, the road where faith is found.  
to - geth - er we are seek - ing the road where faith is found.  
Our cov - e - nant is writ - ten on roads, as faith is found.

## ¶ 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

>Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Re-store to me the joy of your salvation, and up-hold me with your free Spirit.

## 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

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heav'n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

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**

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

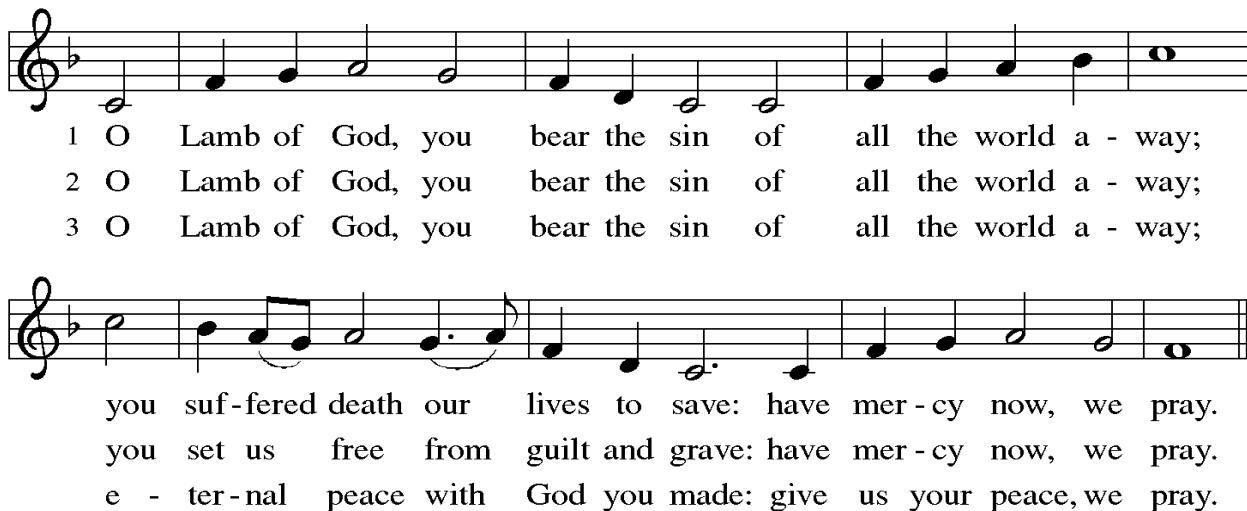
**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from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



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;

you suf - fered death our lives to save: have mer - cy now, we pray.  
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer - cy now, we pray.  
e - ter - nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

## 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.

1 Guide me ev - er, great Re - deem - er, pil - grim through this  
 2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain where the heal - ing  
 3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious

bar - ren land. I am weak, but you are might - y; hold me  
 wa - ters flow; let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me  
 fears sub - side; death of death and hell's de - struc - tion, land me

with your pow'r - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,  
 all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - 'rer, strong de - liv - 'rer,  
 safe on Ca - naan's side. Songs and prais - es, songs and prais - es

feed me now and ev - er - more, feed me now and ev - er - more.  
 shield me with your might - y arm, shield me with your might - y arm.  
 I will raise for - ev - er - more, I will raise for - ev - er - more.

**¶** Dismissal

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

Postlude

# Shepherd of the Desert Announcements

**Midweek Lenten** Feb.25th. Soup Supper starts at 6 p.m. This week we will have a representative from Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest. One of our recipients of Mission of the Month.

**Organ Stop Pizza Outing Sunday Feb. 22nd.** We are going to Organ Stop! We will meet at the church to carpool. You can also meet us there if you would like to drive on your own. We will leave the church at 2 pm. Make sure to sign up so we can plan on rides if needed. Join us for a fun outing!

**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 3rd 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.

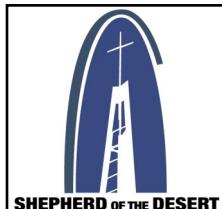
**Game Night** February 27th at 6:00 p.m. in the Founders Room. We will have Trivia Night for this Game Night. Snacks provided but bring a beverage of your choice.

**Pancake Breakfast** February 28th 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. in Walton Hall. The price is right FREE!!! This is a free breakfast for the community and S.O.D.

**Mission of the Month - February - Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest.** They respond to Arizona's changing needs by compassionately offering quality services and resources that contribute to a stronger healthier Arizona for all people.



Dan Smith	2/23
Kay Moline	2/28



**Senior Pastor:** Rev. John Maroni

**Church Address:** 11025 N 111th Ave. Sun City, AZ 85351 **Phone:** 623-933-1359

**Musicians:** (Sunday) Kevin DeYager (Saturday) Linda McClentnic (1&3) Tony Lake (2&4)

**Website:** [www.sdaz.org](http://www.sdaz.org) **Email:** Office - Kristen Wood Secretary: [secretarysod1@gmail.com](mailto:secretarysod1@gmail.com)