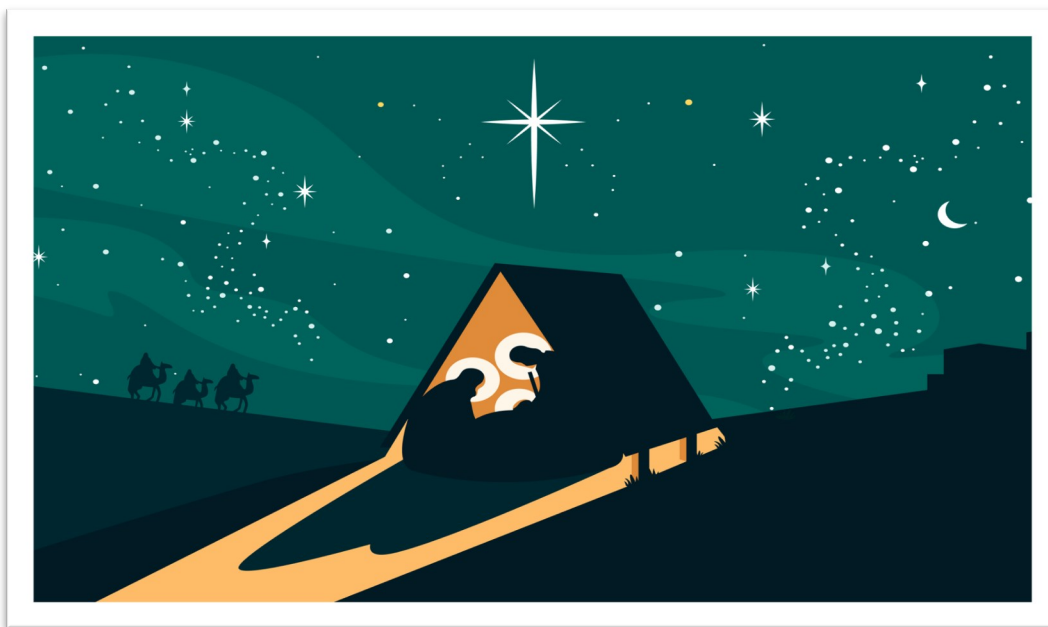


Welcome to Shepherd of the Desert  
Evangelical Lutheran Church  
First Sunday of Christmas  
December 28, 2025



⌄ Please stand in body or spirit.

Preludes

Words of Welcome Pastor Pat Reed

⌄ Confession and Forgiveness

P In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. Gracious God,

C **have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

C **Amen**

P God judges us not as we deserve, but according to God's own righteousness. You are freed and forgiven, saved by grace, and ready to welcome the Savior.

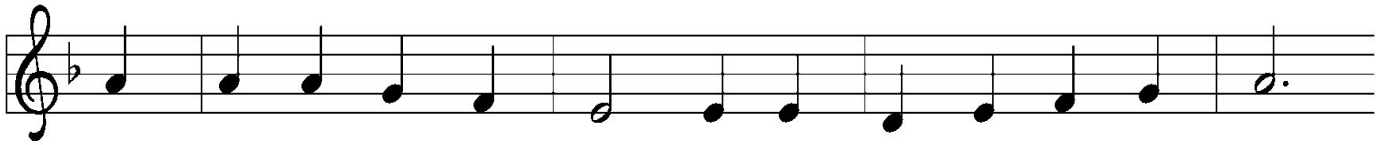
C **Amen.**



O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!  
For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove  
How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!  
O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;  
while mor-tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won-d'ring love.  
So God im-parts to hu - man hearts the bless-ings of his heav'n.  
cast out our sin, and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.



yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light.  
O morn-ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,  
No ear may hear his com - ing; but, in this world of sin,  
We hear the Christ-mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;



The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.  
and prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!  
where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.  
oh, come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Im - man - u - el!

## **‡ Prayer of the Day**

A The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

O Lord God, you know that we cannot place our trust in our own powers. As you protected the infant Jesus, so defend us and all the needy from harm and adversity, through 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: Isaiah 63:7-9**

Pew Bible

L The word of the Lord

C **Thanks be to God**

## **The Psalm: Psalm 148**

Pew Bible

<sup>1</sup> Hallelujah! Praise the LORD | from the heavens;  
praise God | in the heights.

<sup>2</sup> **Praise the LORD, | all you angels;  
sing praise, all you | hosts of heaven.**

<sup>3</sup> Praise the LORD, | sun and moon;  
sing praise, all you | shining stars.

<sup>4</sup> **Praise the LORD, heav- | en of heavens,  
and you waters a- | bove the heavens.**

<sup>5</sup> Let them praise the name | of the LORD,  
who commanded, and they | were created,

<sup>6</sup> **who made them stand fast forev- | er and ever,  
giving them a law that shall not | pass away.**

<sup>7</sup> Praise the LORD | from the earth,  
you sea monsters | and all deeps;

<sup>8</sup> **fire and hail, | snow and fog,  
tempestuous wind, do- | ing God's will;**

<sup>9</sup> mountains | and all hills,  
fruit trees | and all cedars;

<sup>10</sup> **wild beasts | and all cattle,  
creeping things and | flying birds;**

<sup>11</sup> sovereigns of the earth | and all peoples,  
princes and all rulers | of the world;

<sup>12</sup> **young | men and maidens,  
old and | young together.**

<sup>13</sup> Let them praise the name | of the LORD,  
whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over | earth and heaven.

<sup>14</sup> **The LORD has raised up strength for the people and praise for all | faithful servants,  
the children of Israel, a people who are near the LORD. | Hallelujah!**

## **Second Reading: Hebrews 2:10-18**

Pew Bible

L The word of the Lord

C **Thanks be to God**

**Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?  
You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.  
Alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia.  
Alleluia, alleluia.**

**Gospel: Matthew 2:13-23**

Pew Bible

**P The Gospel of Our Lord  
C Thanks be to God**

**Message**

**Hymn of the Day What Child Is This**

ELW 296



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar - y's lap is sleep - ing?  
2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?  
3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas - ant, king, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep - ing?  
Good Chris-tian, fear; for sin-ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.  
The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en-throne him.



This, this is Christ the king, whom shep-herds guard and an - gels sing;  
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;  
Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!  
hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!  
joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

## **†† Apostles Creed**

- A With the whole church let us confess our faith.
- C I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.  
I 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.  
I 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 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**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise him, all creatures here below;  
praise him above, ye heav'nly host;  
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

‡ 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 8 Pg. 190

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

P We praise you for the heart of Jesus, so filled with your love for this earth.

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.

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 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.

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

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

### 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

A God our host, at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness. Send us forth, eager to share the feast, welcome the stranger, and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus.

C Amen

### Sending of Communion to the Homebound and Ventana Winds

### ✠ 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 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born king;  
2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,  
3 Hail the heav'n - born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righ - teous - ness!



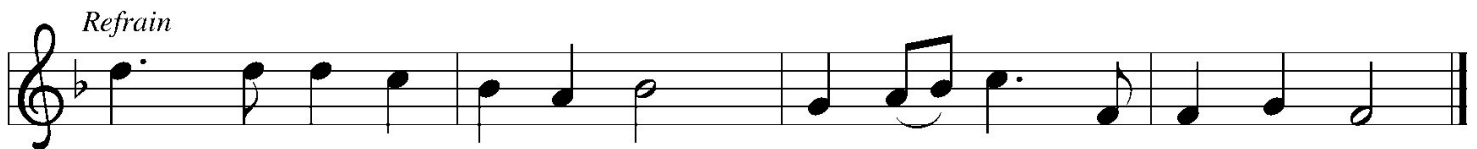
peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled."  
late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.  
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.



Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;  
Veiled in flesh the God - head see! Hail, in - car - nate de - i - ty!  
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,



with an - gel - ic hosts pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"  
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!  
born to raise each child of earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.



*Refrain*

Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king!"

⌌ **Dismissal**

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

**Postlude**



# Shepherd of the Desert Announcements

**Monday Morning Bible Study** 10:00 a.m. in the Conference Room. Remember to bring your Bible and a beverage. We will be reading the lessons for the upcoming weekend services. **We will not have Bible study Dec. 29th. Bible study will resume Jan. 5th.**

**Ladies Book Club** Begins again Wednesday Jan. 7th at 9:00 a.m. in the Founders Room. The book is The Story of Ruth by Liz Higgs the cost is \$5.00. If you would like to come and need a book please contact Nancy Fisher.

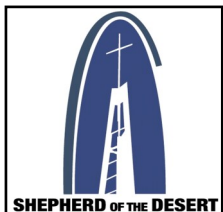
**Choir Rehearsals** Come and join Kevin DeYager, our Sunday Organist, as we rehearse choir music for the upcoming services. The next rehearsal is Jan.13th in the Sanctuary at 2:00 p.m.

**December Mission of the Month** In December, special offerings designated "Mission of the Month" will go toward **Eve's Place Community Services** a Mobile Advocacy Program for victims for domestic, sexual and teen dating abuse, that provides services in various locations throughout Arizona, California, and New Mexico.



Paulette Thorson

12/31



**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 McClentic (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)