

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



Second Week in Lent
March 1, 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.**

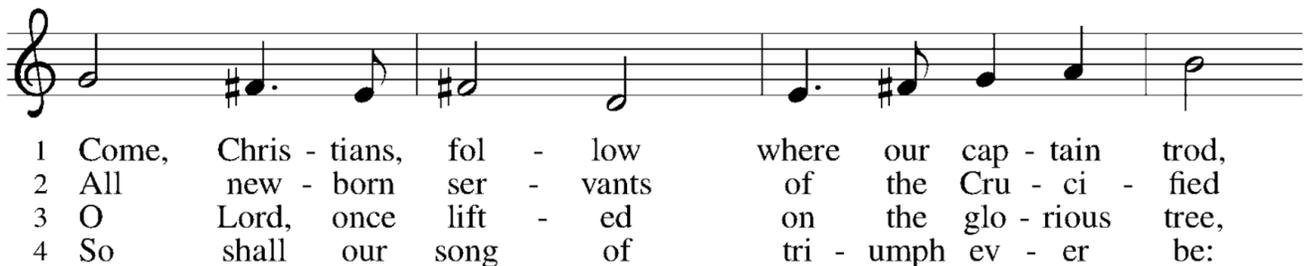
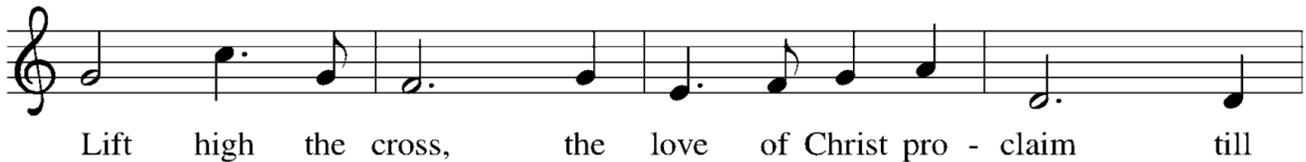
P Holy and gracious God,

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.

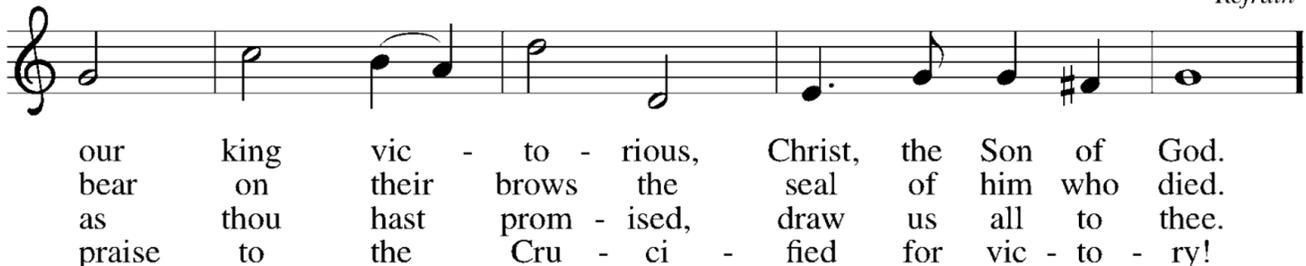
P By the mercy of God we are united with Jesus Christ, in whom we are forgiven.
We rest now in the peace of Christ and rise each morning to serve. **Amen.**

✠ Gathering Hymn Lift High the Cross

ELW # 660



Refrain



† Prayer of the Day

A The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world 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 12:1-4a

Pew Bible

L The word of the Lord

C Thanks be to God

The Psalm: Psalm 121

Pew Bible

¹ I lift up my eyes | to the hills;

from where is my | help to come?

² **My help comes | from the LORD,**
the maker of heav- | en and earth.

³ The LORD will not let your | foot be moved
nor will the one who watches over you | fall asleep.

⁴ **Behold, the keep- | er of Israel**
will neither slum- | ber nor sleep;

⁵ the LORD watches | over you;
the LORD is your shade at | your right hand;

⁶ **the sun will not strike | you by day,**
nor the | moon by night.

⁷ The LORD will preserve you | from all evil
and will | keep your life.

⁸ **The LORD will watch over your going out and your | coming in,**
from this time forth for- | evermore.

Second Reading: Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

Pew Bible

L The word of the Lord

C Thanks be to God



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 - clined.

Gospel: John 3:1-17

Pew Bible

P The Gospel of Our Lord

C Thanks be to God

Message

‡ Hymn of the Day Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross

ELW # 660



1 Je - sus, keep me near the cross, there's a pre - cious foun - tain;
2 Near the cross, a trem - bling soul, love and mer - cy found me;
3 Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes be - fore me;
4 Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hop - ing, trust - ing ev - er,



free to all, a heal - ing stream flows from Cal - v'ry's moun - tain.
there the bright and morn - ing star sheds its beams a - round me.
help me walk from day to day with its shad - ow o'er me.
till I reach the gold - en strand just be - yond the riv - er.

Refrain



In the cross, in the cross be my glo - ry ev - er;



till my ran - somed soul shall find rest be - yond the riv - er.

‡ 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

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of
your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

‡ 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

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

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



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

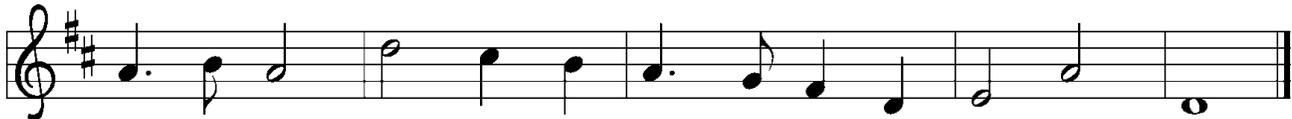
P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and † give you peace.
C Amen.



1 My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Cal - va - ry,
2 May thy rich grace im - part strength to my faint - ing heart,
3 While life's dark maze I tread and griefs a - round me spread,
4 When ends life's tran - sient dream, when death's cold, sul - len stream



Sav - ior di - vine! Now hear me while I pray, take all my
my zeal in - spire; as thou hast died for me, oh, may my
be thou my guide; bid dark-ness turn to day, wipe sor-row's
shall o'er me roll; blest Sav - ior, then, in love fear and dis -



guilt a - way, oh, let me from this day be whol - ly thine!
love to thee pure, warm, and change-less be, a liv - ing fire!
tears a - way, nor let me ev - er stray from thee a - side.
trust re-move; oh, bear me safe a - bove, a ran - somed soul!

✠ Dismissal

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

Postlude

Shepherd of the Desert Announcements

Midweek Lenten March 4th. Soup Supper starts at 6 p.m. This week we will have a Pastor Wanda French from the Native American Urban Ministry in downtown Phoenix. One of our recipients of Mission of the Month.

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.

Paint Night March 10th at 5:30 p.m. Please make sure to sign up so we can plan on snacks and supplies. Bring a beverage there is snacks provided.

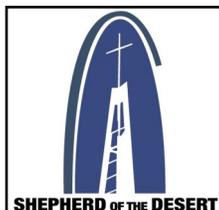
Ladies Book Club Wednesday at 9:00 a.m. The Book they are reading is The Story of Ruth by Liz Curtis Higgs. The cost is \$5.00. Please reach out to Nancy Fisher if you need a book.

St. Patrick's Day Party We are Serving a traditional corned beef and cabbage meal. Food, games, and music, its going to be lots of fun! Make sure to invite a friend or family member! Also make sure to sign up either in the Narthex or you can call the church office.

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.



George Natonick	3/01
Jane Hansen	3/01
Linda Ingraham	3/02
Nina Ehlers	3/05



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 **Email:** Office - Kristen Wood Secretary: secretarysod1@gmail.com