

Welcome to Shepherd of the Desert Evangelical Lutheran Church



Third Week of Advent
December 14, 2025

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 Pastor John Maroni

✠ 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.

✠ Gathering Hymn Look East

ELW 248



1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing
2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is
3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the
4 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new



of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,
plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,
bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er,
life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming



trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look
that in course the flow'r may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look
bright as sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look
with the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look



east, and sing to - day— Love, the Guest, is on the way.
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Rose, is on the way.
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Star, is on the way.
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Lord, is on the way.

‡ Prayer of the Day

A The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; 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 35:1-10

Pew Bible

L The word of the Lord

C **Thanks be to God**

The Psalm: Psalm 146:5-10

Pew Bible

⁵ Happy are they who have the God of Jacob | for their help,
whose hope is in the | LORD their God;

⁶ **who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that | is in them;**
who keeps promis- | es forever;

⁷ who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to | those who hunger.
The LORD sets the | captive free.

⁸ **The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up those who | are bowed down;**
the LORD | loves the righteous.

⁹ The LORD cares | for the stranger;
the LORD sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way | of the wicked.

¹⁰ **The LORD shall | reign forever,**
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. | Hallelujah!

Second Reading: James 5:7-10

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 11:2-11

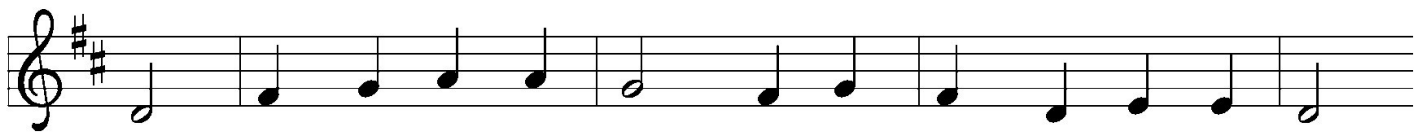
Pew Bible

P The Gospel of Our Lord
C Thanks be to God

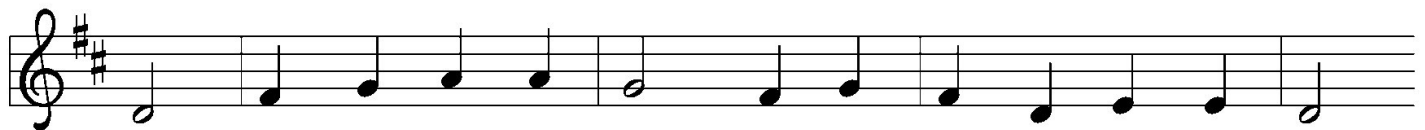
Message

Hymn of the Day O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

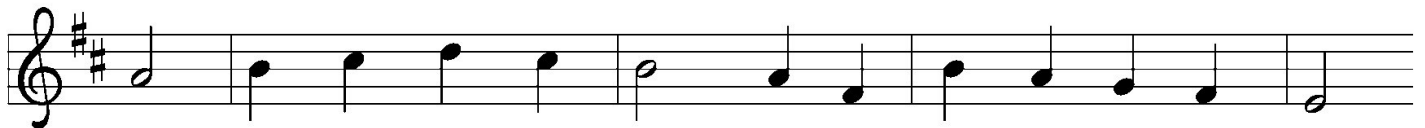
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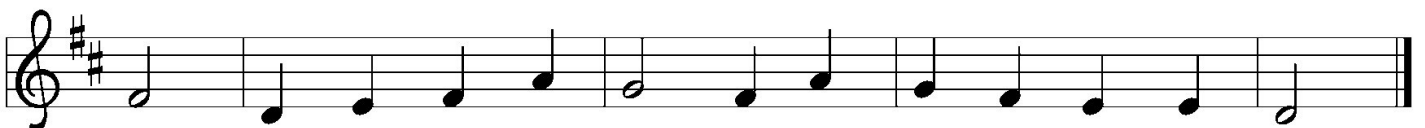
1 O Lord, how shall I meet you, how wel - come you a - right?
2 I lay in fet - ters, groan - ing; you came to set me free.
3 Love caused your in - car - na - tion; love brought you down to me.
4 Re - joice, then, you sad - heart - ed, who sit in deep - est gloom,



Your peo - ple long to greet you, my hope, my heart's de - light!
I stood, my shame be - moan - ing; you came to hon - or me.
Your thirst for my sal - va - tion pro - cured my lib - er - ty.
who mourn your joys de - part - ed and trem - ble at your doom.



Oh, kin - dle, Lord most ho - ly, your lamp with - in my breast
A glo - rious crown you give me, a trea - sure safe on high
Oh, love be - yond all tell - ing, that led you to em - brace
All hail the Lord's ap - pear - ing! O glo - rious Sun, now come,



to do in spir - it low - ly all that may please you best.
that will not fail or leave me as earth - ly rich - es fly.
in love, all love ex - cel - ling, our lost and fall - en race.
send forth your beams so cheer - ing and guide us safe - ly home.

†† 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 God of grace,
- C** hear our prayer.
- 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

"The Next Time He Comes"

Shepherd's Choir

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.

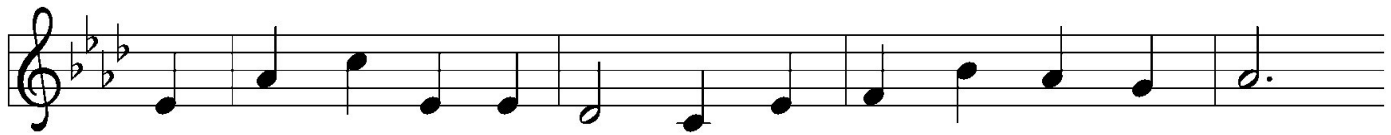
C Amen

Sending of Communion to the Homebound and Ventana Winds

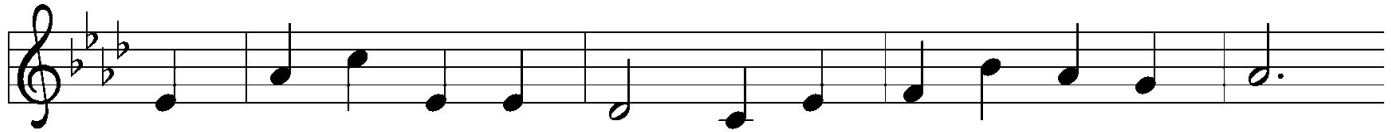
✠ Blessing

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 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;
- 2 The watch-ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the bride-groom near;
- 3 The saints, who here in pa - tience their cross and suf - f'rings bore,
- 4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.
 go forth as he ap - proach - es with al - le - lu - ias clear.
 shall live and reign for - ev - er when sor - row is no more.
 a - rise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this be - night-ed sphere.



The bride-groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw - ing nigh.
 The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand.
 A - round the throne of glo - ry the Lamb they shall be - hold;
 With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see



Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid - night comes the cry.
 A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the bride-groom is at hand.
 in tri - umph cast be - fore him their di - a - dems of gold.
 the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free!

⌌ **Dismissal**

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

Postlude

Shepherd of the Desert Announcements

Christmas Services

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 4:00 pm.

Christmas Day Service at 10:00 am.

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.**

Choir Rehearsals Come and join Kevin DeYager, our Sunday Organist, as we rehearse choir music for the upcoming services. The next rehearsal is Dec. 16th 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.

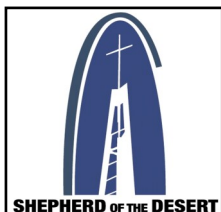


Linda Jones

12/13

Gerald Dittmer

12/17



Senior Pastor: Rev. John Maroni

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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