

# Welcome to Shepherd of the Desert Evangelical Lutheran Church



Fourth Weekend after Epiphany

January 31, February 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 Pastor John Maroni

## ¶ Confession and Forgiveness

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

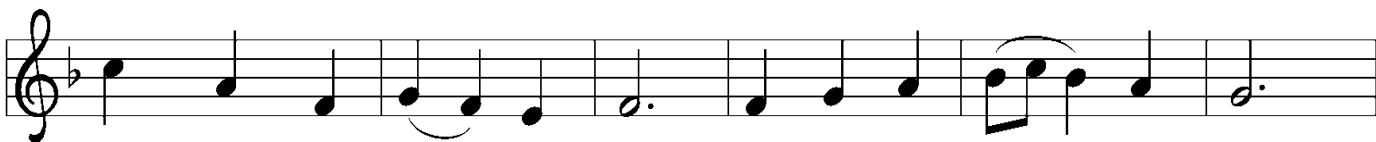
C all hearts are open, to you all desires known. We come to you, confessing our sins. Forgive us in your mercy, and remember us in your love. Show us your ways; teach us your paths; and lead us in justice and truth, for the sake of your goodness in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

P By water and the Holy Spirit God gives you a new birth, and through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, God forgives you all your sins. The God of mercy and might strengthen you in all goodness and keep you in eternal life.

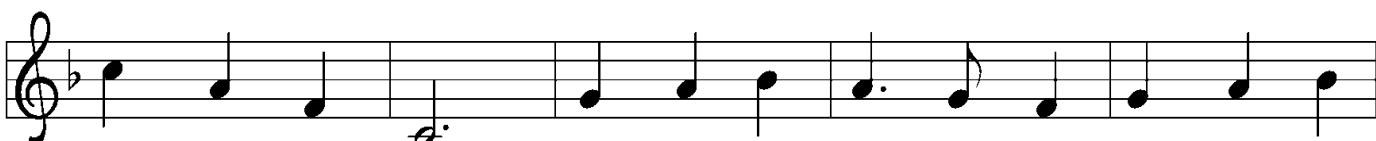
C Amen.

## ¶ Gathering Hymn God, Whose Almighty Word

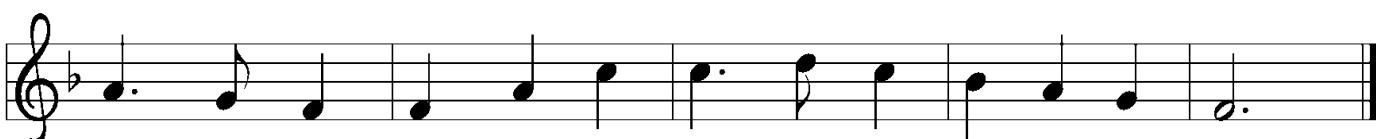
ELW #673



1 God, whose al - might - y word cha - os and dark - ness heard  
2 Christ, who once came to bring, on your re - deem - ing wing,  
3 Spir - it of truth and love, life - giv - ing, ho - ly dove,  
4 Ho - ly and bless - ed three, glo - ri - ous Trin - i - ty,



and took their flight: hear us, we hum - bly pray, and where the  
heal - ing and sight; health to the trou - bled mind, sight where il -  
speed forth your flight; move on the wa - ter's face bear - ing the  
Wis - dom, Love, Might: bound-less as o - cean's tide, roll - ing in



gos - pel day sheds not its glo - rious ray, let there be light.  
lu - sions blind; oh, now to hu - man-kind let there be light.  
lamp of grace, and in earth's dark - est place let there be light.  
full - est pride, through the earth, far and wide, let there be light.

## II Prayer of the Day

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

Holy God, you confound the world's wisdom in giving your kingdom to the lowly and the pure in heart. Give us such a hunger and thirst for justice, and perseverance in striving for peace, that in our words and deeds the world may see the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen

### First Reading: Micah 6:1-8

Pew Bible

L The word of the Lord  
C Thanks be to God

### The Psalm: Psalm 15

Pew Bible

<sup>1</sup> LORD, who may dwell in your tabernacle?  
Who may abide upon your holy hill?  
<sup>2</sup> Those who lead a blameless life and do what is right,  
who speak the truth from their heart;  
<sup>3</sup> they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil to their friends;  
they do not cast discredit upon a neighbor.  
<sup>4</sup> In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who fear the LORD.  
They have sworn upon their health and do not take back their word.  
<sup>5</sup> They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes against the innocent.  
Those who do these things shall never be overthrown.

### Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

Pew Bible

L The word of the Lord  
C Thanks be to God

## Gospel Acclamation

Setting 8 pg. 188

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

## Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12

Pew Bible

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

## Message

### Hymn of the Day Blest Are They

ELW #728

1. Blest are they, the poor in spirit; theirs is the kingdom of God.  
Blest are they, full of sorrow, they shall be consoled.

Refrain:  
Rejoice and be glad!  
Blessed are you; holy are you!  
Rejoice and be glad!  
Yours is the Kingdom of God!

2. Blest are they, the lowly ones; they shall inherit the earth.  
Blest are they, who hunger and thirst; they shall have their fill.  
(Refrain)

3. Blest are they who show mercy; mercy shall be theirs.  
Blest are they, the pure of heart; they shall see God!  
(Refrain)

4. Blest are they who seek peace; they are the children of God.  
Blest are they who suffer in faith, the glory of God is theirs.  
(Refrain)

5. Blest are you who suffer hate all because of me.  
Rejoice and be glad, yours is the kingdom, shine for all to see.  
(Refrain)

## 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 Merciful God,

C **receive 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

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 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.

Remembering, therefore, his acts of healing, his body given up, and his victory over death, we await that day when all the peoples of the earth will come to the river to enjoy the tree of life.

Send your Spirit upon us and this meal: as grains scattered on the hillside become one bread, so let your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth, that all may be fed with the Bread of life, your Son. Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

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

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 Let us pray. Radiant God, we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ.

In the sacrament of his body and blood you have drawn us to your heart. Send us from this table with delight, that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love, and bear witness to all we have seen and heard, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

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.

**† Sending Hymn** God of Grace and of Glory

ELW #798

1 God of grace and God of glo-ry, on your peo-ple  
 2 Lo! The hosts of e - vil round us scorn the Christ, as -  
 3 Cure your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to  
 4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils

pour your pow'r; crown your an - cient chur - ch's sto - ry;  
 sail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us  
 your con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness,  
 we de - plore; let the gift of your sal - va - tion

bring its bud to glo-rious flow'r. Grant us wis-dom, grant us cour-age  
 free our hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis-dom, grant us cour-age  
 rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis-dom, grant us cour-age,  
 be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis-dom, grant us cour-age,

for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.  
 for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.  
 lest we miss your king-dom's goal, lest we miss your king-dom's goal.  
 serv - ing you whom we a - dore, serv - ing you whom we a - dore.

**† 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 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 Feb. 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.

**Paint Night February 11th 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.

**Tea Tasting with Sherry Shenkman** Come and try different types of teas and how they pair with chocolate. **February 16th at 11:00 am** in the Founders Room. Make sure to sign up so we can plan for you!

**Ash Wednesday February 18th at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary.**

**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!

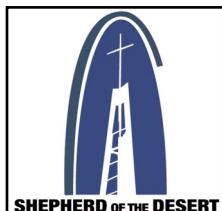
**Mission of the Month - February - Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest.**

They respond to Arizona's changing needs by compassionately offering quality services and resources that contribute to a stronger heathier Arizona for all people.



Juanita Diaz  
Kim Simons

2/04  
2/08



**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)