

Shepherd of the Desert Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Welcome to Worship  
December 21,22, 2024



Gospel: Luke 1:39-45 (46-55)  
Pastor: John Maroni  
Message: Friend's Journeying  
Together: Elizabeth's Greeting and  
Mary's Response

Shepherd of the Desert 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 as you are able when noted.

## Prelude

## Words of Welcome

## ✠ Prayer of Preparation

P Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen.**

P Gracious God,

C **you reveal your Son to us in word and sacrament. Open our hearts to receive him now. As the scriptures are proclaimed and the meal is shared, grant us to see and know the presence of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

✠ Gathering Hymn O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

ELW 257 vv. 1, 2, & 4

## ✠ Lighting the Advent Wreath: Advent 4

P We praise you, O God, for this wheel of time that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the candles on this wreath, open our eyes to see your presence in the lowly ones of this earth. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may sing of your advent among us in the Word made flesh. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.

C **Amen.**

*Light four candles.*



C: Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing.

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954  
Music: Yiddish Folk Tune

TIF IN VELDEL  
10796

## ‡ Greeting

**P** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C** **And also with you.**

## ‡ Kyrie

A: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



C: Oh, Lord, \_\_\_\_\_ have mer - - - cy.

A: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



C: Oh, Lord, \_\_\_\_\_ have mer - - - cy.

A: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



C: Oh, Lord, \_\_\_\_\_ have mer - - - cy.

A: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.



C: Oh, Lord, \_\_\_\_\_ have mer \_\_\_\_\_ cy.

A: Help, save, comfort, and defend us gracious Lord.



C: A - - - - - men.

## ‡ Prayer of the Day

**A** Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

## First Reading: Micah 5:2-5a

*The prophet Micah, having pronounced judgment upon Judah, speaks of a future shepherd-king who, like David, will come from the small town of Bethlehem.*

<sup>2</sup> But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,

who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me  
one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.

<sup>3</sup> Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth;  
then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel.

<sup>4</sup> And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD,  
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.

And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth;

<sup>5a</sup> and he shall be the one of peace.

L The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm: Luke 1:46b-55



You, Lord, have lift-ed up the low - ly.

<sup>46b</sup> My soul proclaims the greatness | of the Lord,

<sup>47</sup> my spirit rejoices in | God my Savior,

<sup>48</sup> for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your | lowly servant.

From this day all generations will | call me blessed:

<sup>49</sup> you, the Almighty, have done great | things for me  
and holy | is your name.

<sup>50</sup> You have mercy on | those who fear you,  
from generation to | generation. **R**

<sup>51</sup> You have shown strength | with your arm  
and scattered the proud in | their conceit,

<sup>52</sup> casting down the mighty | from their thrones  
and lifting | up the lowly. **R**

<sup>53</sup> You have filled the hungry | with good things  
and sent the rich | away empty.

<sup>54</sup> You have come to the aid of your | servant Israel,  
to remember the prom- | ise of mercy,

<sup>55</sup> the promise made | to our forebears,  
to Abraham and his chil- | dren forever.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the |Ho-ly Spirit,

as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without | end. A-men **R**

## **Second Reading: Hebrews 10:5-10**

*The author of Hebrews uses the image of religious sacrifice to convey the significance of Christ's coming.*

<sup>5</sup> Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; <sup>6</sup> in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure.

<sup>7</sup> Then I said, 'See, God, I have come to do your will, O God' (in the scroll of the book it is written of me)."

<sup>8</sup> When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), <sup>9</sup> then he added, "See, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. <sup>10</sup> And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

L The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## **† Gospel Acclamation**



1. A: Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia.  
2. C: Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia.

## **† Gospel: Luke 1:39-45 [46-55]**

*Elizabeth, John's mother, and Mary, the mother of Jesus, are two women filled with the Holy Spirit and with faith.*

<sup>39</sup> In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, <sup>40</sup> where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup> When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit <sup>42</sup> and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. <sup>43</sup> And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? <sup>44</sup> For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup> And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

<sup>46</sup> And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord,

<sup>47</sup> and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

<sup>48</sup> for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

<sup>49</sup> for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

<sup>50</sup> His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.

<sup>51</sup> He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

<sup>52</sup> He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly;

<sup>53</sup> he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.

<sup>54</sup> He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,

<sup>55</sup> according to the promise he made to our ancestors,

to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

P The Gospel of our Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

**Message** Friend's Journeying Together: Elizabeth's Greeting and Mary's Response

‡ 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 Lord, in your mercy,

C **receive our prayer.**

P Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C **Amen.**

Sharing the Peace

Anthem

‡ Offertory

As saints of old their first - fruits brought of or - chard, flock, and field  
to God, the giv - er of all good, the source of bount - teous yield,  
so we to - day first - fruits would bring, the wealth of this good land,  
of farm and mar - ket, shop and home, of mind and heart and hand.

## ⚔ Offering Prayer

P O Mighty One,

**C you have done great things for us, and holy is your name. Bless all we offer you—our selves, our time, and our possessions—that through us your grace and favor may be made known to all the world; for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer. Amen**

## ⚔ Prayer at the Table

P The Lord be with you.

**C And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

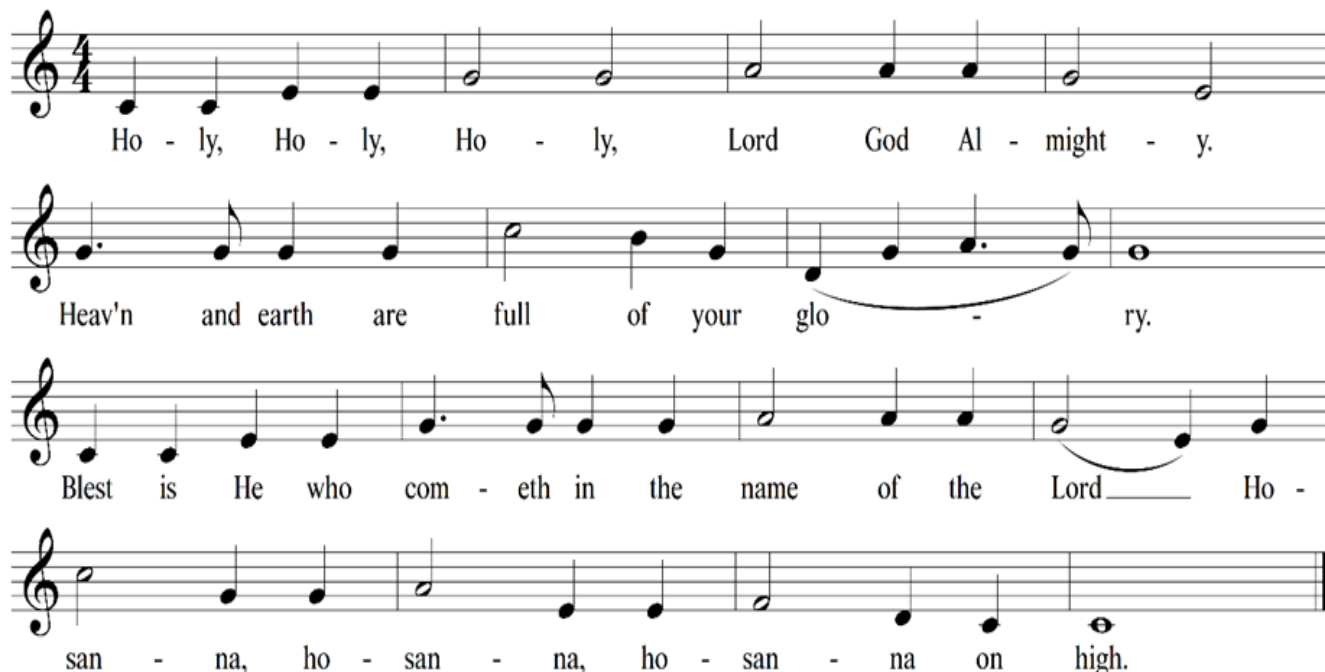
**C We lift them to the Lord.**

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 that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and ever-living God. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes again to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## ⚔ Sanctus (Holy, Holy Holy)



Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Lord God Al - might - y.  
Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
Blest is He who com - eth in the name of the Lord Ho -  
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na on high.

## ⚔ Jesus' Words of Institution

‡ Lord's Prayer

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

C **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.**

‡ Lamb of God



A: A - gnus De - i, qui tollis pec - ca - ta mun - di: mi - se - re - re no - bis.  
C: Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.



A - gnus De - i, qui tollis pec - ca - ta mun - di: mi - se - re - re no - bis.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.



A - gnus De - i, qui tollis pec - ca - ta mun - di: do - na no - bis pa - cem.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

Invitation to Communion

P There is a place for you at the table. You are welcome here.

Please let Pastor know if you would like to receive a gluten free wafer.



✠ Prayer after Communion

A Let us pray.

C **Pour out upon us the spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of those whom you have fed with one heavenly food; through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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.**

✠ Sending Hymn Joy to the World

✠ Dismissal

A Go in Peace. Serve the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God!**

Postlude



**Shepherd of the Desert Lutheran Church**  
**Christmas Services**  
*We welcome all who believe in the presence of Jesus  
to receive Holy Communion with us.*

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**  
**December 24, 2024 • 4:00 PM**  
*Service of Holy Communion*

**Christmas Day**  
**December 25, 2024 • 9:30 AM**  
*Service of Holy Communion*

11025 N. 111th Avenue • Sun City, Arizona 85351  
sdaz.org • 623-933-1359

Senior Pastor: Rev. John Maroni

Interim Musicians: Gary Rutherford (Sunday) Linda McClellan (Saturday)

Pastors in Residence: Rev. Art Goetz / Rev. Paul Nordeen / Rev. George Natonick / Rev. Phil Gustafson / Rev. Bruce Ayers

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

# SHEPHERD OF THE DESERT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church office closed Tuesday Dec. 24 and Wednesday Dec. 25

Church Office open Monday Dec. 23 8:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m. and

Thursday Dec. 26 8:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

**Game Night** Dec. 27th at 6:00 p.m. Game night in Founders Room. Bring a game or join in on a game. Snacks provided but bring a beverage of your choice.

**Pancake breakfast** Dec. 28th at 8:00 am-10:00 am. In Walton Hall. The Price is right FREE!!! This is a free breakfast for the community and S.O.D.

**Monday Morning Bible Study** Jay Matheson is leading discussions around poems for advent. **No Bible study Monday the 30th.**

**Sunday Morning Coffee Hour** Join us Sunday morning's in the Founders Room for fellowship, and coffee.

**December Mission of the Month- Shepherd's Shuttle Bus Ministry**  
In December, special offerings designated "Mission of the Month" will be used to offset the cost of having a shuttle bus ministry at Shepherd of the Desert. The shuttle provides a "Spirit Lift" to our members and friends, who cannot drive. But want to participate in church services and activities.



Rosalind Jones	12/22
Darla Lohr	12/24
Susan Launder	12/24
Henery Anderson	12/25
Renee Darling	12/28