

Nativity of Our Lord:
Christmas Eve & Christmas Day
Candlelight Service of Holy Communion
December 24th & 25th 2024



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

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"*



*Thank You to all who shared
poinsettias to decorate our sanctuary.*



Offered By...

Judy Yates
Amy Griffith
Jerry & Pat Pokrandt
Judy Briggs
Kim Barnes
Cynthia Olson
Rev. Paul & Mary Nordeen
Sheila Conn
Nancy Hempy
Kathie Ross
Jan Rolfe
Susie Johnson
Chuck & Susie Johnson
Linda Cook
Dan & Mary Daniels
Minnie Rasmussen
Joanne Gollatz
Mary Lund
Larry & Paulette Thorson
Judy & Jerry McClurg
Rev. Bruce & Marylyn Ayers

In Honor or Memory Of...

Hugh (Huffy) Yates
Harry & Ceil Heatherly
Gloria Dansereau
Ed Aho
Aunts & Uncles
George & Dora Olson
The Natonick & Nordeen Families
Charles Conn, My Mother and Dad
Harriet Potter
Chris Ross, Richard & Audrey Hayes
Faith & Family
My Sister, Nancy
Our Parents
David Cook
Our Parents
Family
John & Esther Everly
Ingra Olson
Joe & Irna Waldhalm



✠ Please stand as you are able when noted.

Prelude

Words of Welcome Pastor John Maroni

✠ Confession and Forgiveness

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, creator of the stars of night, companion at the evening table, breath over the deep waters.

C **Amen.**

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
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 in the morning to serve.

C **Amen.**

✠ Gathering Hymn

O Come, All Ye Faithful ELW 283

1 O come, all ye faithful joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come and behold him, born the king of angels:

Refrain

O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!

3 Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God in the highest: *Refrain*

4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n!

Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing: *Refrain*

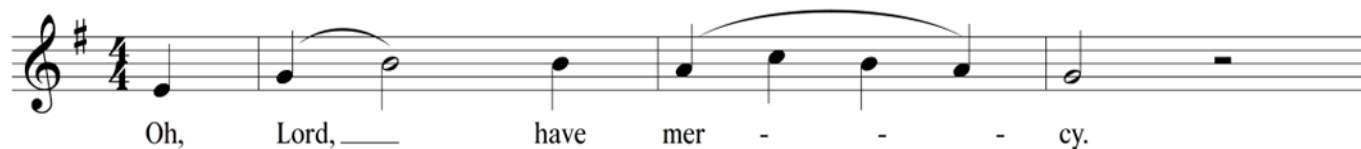
‡ Greeting

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

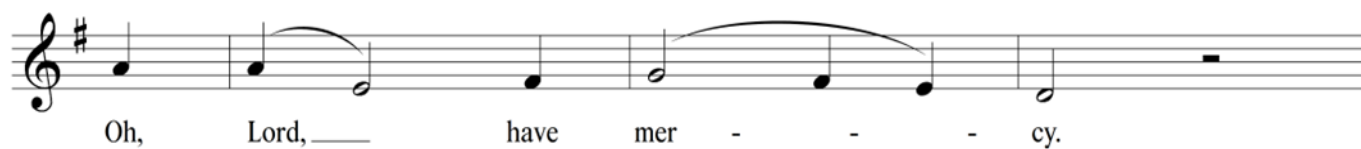
AM: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



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



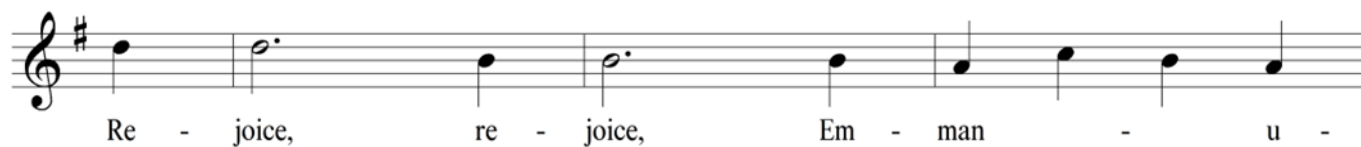
AM: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



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



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



1 Angels we have heard on high,
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply,
echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain

Gloria in excelsis Deo;
gloria in excelsis Deo.

2 Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
which inspire your heav'nly song? *Refrain*

Prayer of the Day

A Let us pray.

All-powerful and unseen God, the coming of your light into our world has brightened weary hearts with peace. Call us out of darkness, and empower us to proclaim the birth of 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: Isaiah 9:6-7

⁶For a child has been born for us, a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.

He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

L The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm 97:

The Lord is King, the nations rejoice.



The Lord is King, the nations rejoice;
let all God's people be glad.
The heavens proclaim the justice of God.
Glory has filled the land. **R**

God has shown great love for the just,
Guarding the faithful from harm.
Trust in the Lord, who sets us free,
Rejoice in the pow'r of God. **R**

A light shines forth, a dawn for the just,
Joy for the upright of heart.
Rejoice in the Lord, all who believe,
Give glory and thanks to God. **R**

Second Reading: Titus 3:4-7

When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

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 2:1-7

God's greatest gift comes as a baby in a manger. Angels announce the "good news of great joy" and proclaim God's blessing of peace.

¹ In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴ Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David.

⁵ He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

P The Gospel of our Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon | Heard the Bells on Christmas Day

‡ Hymn of the Day | Heard the Bells on Christmas Day

I Heard The Bells On Christmas Day

CHRISTMAS

Words: Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, 1864.

Music: 'Waltham (Calkin)' John B. Calkin, 1872. Setting: "The Book of Common Praise", 1885.
copyright: public domain. This score is a part of the Open Hymnal Project, 2006 Revision.

♩ = 100

1. I heard the bells on Christ - - mas day Their
2. And thought how, as the day had come, The
3. Till ring - - ing, sing - ing on its way The
4. And in des - pair I bowed my head "There
5. Then pealed the bells more loud and deep: "God

old fa - - mil - iar car - - ols play, And wild and sweet
bel - fies of all Christ - en - dom Had rolled a - long
world re - volved from night to day, A voice, a chime,
is no peace on earth," I said, "For hate is strong
is not dead, nor doth He sleep; The wrong shall fail,

the words re - peat Of peace on earth, good will to men.
th'un - - bro - ken song Of peace on earth, good will to men.
a chant sub - lime Of peace on earth, good will to men.
and mocks the song Of peace on earth, good will to men."
the right pre - vail With peace on earth, good will to men."

‡ Nicene Creed

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 Intercession

Each petition ends:

A God of Grace,

C receive our prayer.

Sharing of the Peace

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

Anthem*Away in the Manger*

Shepherd's Chancel Choir

‡ The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our savior Jesus Christ. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory, that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of Heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

‡ Holy, Holy, Holy**Setting 8**

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

With thanksgiving we remember our Lord Jesus Christ: “in the night in which he was betrayed, he 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.

† Lord's Prayer

P Jesus 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.

Invitation to Communion

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

† Lamb of God

Setting 8

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
 mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
 world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
 world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

Communion Music *O Holy Night*

Communion Hymn *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent* ELW 490

‡ Post Communion Blessing

- A Let us pray.
Merciful God, we thank you for Jesus, who is our heavenly food. Strengthened by this goodness,
send us forth to announce your peace, comfort the afflicted, and share the good news of great joy.
- C **Amen.**

‡ Candlelight Hymn

Silent Night, Holy Night ELW 281

1. Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace,
sleep in heavenly peace.

2. Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar,
heav'nly hosts sing, alleluia!
Christ, the Savior, is born!
Christ, the Savior, is born!

3. Silent night, holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from your holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth, Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

Blessing

- P The God of love,
Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
lavish you with grace,
illumine your path,
and increase your joy,
today and always.
- C **Amen.**

Dismissal

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

Postlude

Shepherd of the Desert Announcements

Monday Morning Bible Study No Bible study Monday the Dec. 30th. Bible Study will resume Jan. 6th. Continuing with Leviticus chapter 14.

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.

Paint Night Jan. 10th at 5:30pm Please sign up in the narthex so we can plan for supplies. Please bring your own drink(s) to sip on while painting. Snacks will be provided.

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.



*Join us tomorrow morning for Christmas Day Service
December 25th at 9:30am.*

Shepherd of the Desert Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Senior Pastor: Rev. John Maroni

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

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

Website: www.sdaz.org Email: Church Office - Kristen Wood Secretary: secretarysod1@gmail.com