# FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH A Congregation of the ELCA

28200 Portsmouth Drive, Sun City, CA 92586 \* (951) 679-1518 Email: faithlutheranmenifee@gmail.com

**Guest Pastor: Pr. Ken Anderson** 

OFFICE HOURS: Tues & Thurs 8:30 - 5:00; Fri 8:30 - 12:30

Worship Plan for Sunday, August 17, 2025\* Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

**WELCOME TO FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH,** where grace and love abound. While we wait and prepare for a new pastor, we invite you to participate fully in the vibrant life of the congregation, and to join us in prayer as we continue to serve God and God's people during this time of transition.

**OUR MISSION STATEMENT:** Enriching lives through faith and God's grace.

**MEMBERS & GUESTS**: Please fill out a worship attendance card found in the pew racks. Prayer requests may be included on the reverse side for one Sunday or bulletin publication.

**INVITATION TO BAPTISM**: We would like to extend to you the blessing of Baptism and encourage you to contact the church office to be baptized.

#### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION:**

Christ is truly present through the power of God's Holy Spirit. We invite everyone to come forward and be renewed in the covenant God made with us in our baptism. All are gladly invited and welcome. If, in coming forward, you choose not to receive the Sacrament, we ask you to fold your hands over your chest so you may receive a pastoral blessing. The Sacrament will be brought to those unable to come forward to the altar (notify an usher). Available upon request: gluten-, wheat-, corn-, dairy-, and soy-free wafers.

**CHILDREN'S COMMUNION:** Families are encouraged to come to the rail together during the distribution. Children may receive Communion or a special blessing from the Pastor.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL:** Sunday School for children of all ages is immediately following the Children's Chat.

**CELL PHONES:** Please silence your cell phones before Worship.

Following worship, ALL are invited to join us for refreshments in the Fellowship Hall.

## Introduction to the day

The word of God is a refining fire. Jesus is the great divide in human history. He invites our undivided attention and devotion. Today in worship we are surrounded by a great "cloud of witnesses." In the word and in holy communion we are invited yet again to look to Jesus, "the pioneer and perfecter of our faith."

# **GOSPEL MESSAGE: It's So Confusing**

Entering someone else's conversation halfway through can be disorienting. You don't know the context, and you're confused about the background, so you can't really make heads or tails of what's being discussed. Today's gospel reading is kind of like that experience. It's so confusing to hear Jesus talk like this!

But if we're honest with ourselves, we know our world is already full of the divisions Jesus describes. Political divisions have only deepened. Religious divisions cause people to talk over one another. We encounter racial divisions that we're afraid to talk about or even acknowledge, and economic divisions that isolate people according to status and means. Yes, our world is already full of divisions. And what about the tone of this gospel reading? Jesus' sayings are so provocative! With the kind of rhetoric being thrown around in our world today, do we need more alarming words?

When we look closely at the reading and pay attention to the context, we can get a better idea of what exactly Jesus is proposing in these inflammatory sayings. Notice the divisions he mentions here: divisions within families. In the context of the ancient world, the family was the central unit of connection and the source of your identity. The family told you who you were and how you could (or could not) operate.

It is into that kind of ordering, the foundation of identity, that Jesus brings disruption. His point is that in the kingdom of God, whether you were born into wealth or poverty, a family of prestige or one of pandemonium, you are God's beloved child. The message of God in Christ breaks up the social boxes and social games of this world, erasing the dividing lines we already set up for ourselves.

In the death and resurrection of Christ, we're all united in God's family, enjoying a new ordering of identity that breaks down what divides us.

## Please stand for the Processional

## PROCESSIONAL: Lift High the Cross (ELW 660)

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#### **AM: WELCOME**

Welcome to Faith Lutheran Church where grace and love abound! A special welcome to those of you here for the first time, to those joining us online, and to our guest pastor, Pr. Ken Anderson. During this season of Pentecost, we celebrate all the ways in which the Holy Spirit moves us and empowers us to strengthen our relationships with our generous God and with our neighbors locally and globally. As our search for a permanent pastor moves forward, so does our ministry together. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to participate in all that goes on here at Faith.

#### **AM: ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The altar flowers were provided by Ray and Pat Olson celebrating their wedding anniversary, and by Sandra Miller celebrating Jillian's birthday.

There is a New Member class today immediately following the worship service. If you are interested in becoming a member of Faith, come and join us! New Member Sunday will be August 24th!

On Saturday, the 23rd, there will be a memorial service for Eileen Parker, who had been a visitor at Faith over the years. The service will start at 1:00 and everyone is invited for the service and for lunch afterwards.

For the month of August, we are collecting canned fruit again, grocery bags, and empty egg cartons for the Community Cupboard. So far, we have collected 43 cans. Please place donations in the wire basket in the foyer.

Thank you to all who participated in our quarterly collection for MilVet. We collected 149 protein bars and 272 powdered drink mixes.

We are in need of people to volunteer and be trained to run our sound and video system. Please contact Steve or Mars if you're willing to serve in this way!

God's Work Our Hands Sunday is on September 7th. The items needed are toothbrushes, toothpaste (travel size), disposable razors, shaving cream (3.7 oz),

peanut butter crackers, granola bars, ankle socks (black), deodorant (men's) and slide closure gallon Zip Lock bags.

Pr. Ken Puccio has written introductions to all of the lessons. We encourage you to pick up a bulletin and read them, or read them online.

For more information and a complete monthly calendar, contact the church office.

#### P: SILENCE

Let us take a moment of silence to quiet our hearts and minds and prepare for worship.

#### P: GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

#### P: GREETING

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

## And also with you.

This is the day that the Lord has made,

let us rejoice and be glad in it!

#### **AM: PLEASE TURN TO HYMN 733**

Please stand as you are willing and able.

## **GATHERING SONG:** Great Is Thy Faithfulness (ELW 733)

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#### P: CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

#### Amen.

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

#### Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.** 

#### P: PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God, judge eternal, you love justice and hate oppression, and you call us to share your zeal for truth. Give us courage to take our stand with all victims of bloodshed and greed, and, following your servants and prophets, to look to the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

#### **CHILDREN'S CHAT**

#### P: WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

#### FIRST LESSON INTRODUCTION

This lesson, a reprimand for preachers who have spoken to the people, begins with a word of warning to false shepherds who have not cared for God's flock. These prophets speak but they do not speak God's message. They speak their own message and so they can expect God's wrath and judgment.

This passage recalls the television and radio evangelists and prophets into which one can tune almost any day of the week. Their broadcasts and their message

have more to do with a political agenda or making a profit from their audience than proclaiming the good news of God's love in Christ.

#### **LECTOR: FIRST READING:** Jeremiah 23:23-29

<sup>23</sup> Am I a God nearby, says the LORD, and not a God far off? <sup>24</sup> Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot see them? says the LORD. Do I not fill heaven and earth? says the LORD. <sup>25</sup> I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in my name, saying, "I have dreamed! I have dreamed!" <sup>26</sup> How long? Will the hearts of the prophets ever turn back—those who prophesy lies and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart? <sup>27</sup> They plan to make my people forget my name by their dreams that they tell one another, just as their ancestors forgot my name for Baal. <sup>28</sup> Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let the one who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat? says the LORD. <sup>29</sup> Is not my word like fire, says the LORD, and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

#### **PSALM INTRODUCTION**

The terms "divine council" and "the gods" as "sons of the Most High" are expressions of the religious situation of the ancient Near East during the earlier centuries of Israelite development. At that time, each family, community, tribe, nation, or empire, in many instances, had its own god. In this system there was one personal God for each group and each group generally thought that its deity was the best for it. The existence of other "gods" for other groups was not denied. Israel claimed that Adonai, its Lord, was God, and that Adonai was Number One. You can see this expression each week when the printed text refers to God as LORD, With all small capital letters.

## **LECTOR: PSALMODY:** Psalm 82

- <sup>1</sup>God stands to charge the divine council assembled, giving judgment in the midst of the gods:
- <sup>2</sup> "How long will you judge unjustly, and show favor to the wicked?
- <sup>3</sup> Save the weak and the orphan; defend the humble and needy;
- <sup>4</sup> rescue the weak and the poor; deliver them from the power of the wicked.

- <sup>5</sup> They do not know, neither do they understand; they wander about in darkness; all the foundations of the earth are shaken.
- <sup>6</sup> Now I say to you, 'You are gods, and all of you children of the Most High;
- <sup>7</sup> nevertheless, you shall die like mortals, and fall like any prince.'"
- <sup>8</sup> Arise, O God, and rule the earth, for you shall take all nations for your own. Amen.

#### SECOND LESSON INTRODUCTION

It was by faith that the pre-Israelites had been able to cross the Red Sea on dry land, had conquered the promised land, ruled over it, endured defeat, and horrible suffering. The courageous Israelites were fully commended for their faith and endurance. The roll call of heroes and heroines of faith covers the history of Israel. The implications of this long citation of faithfulness in the face of difficulty shows that this life has a goal, an inspiration, a handicap, a means, an example, and a presence. The "cloud of witnesses" reference is a sport term. Imagine you are on an Olympic track field in ancient Greece. Thousands of people in the stands are cheering for you, urging you on. Many commentators believe that the Letter to the Hebrews was addressed to a church facing imminent persecution and possible martyrdom, with a faithfulness that endured unto death.

## **LECTOR: SECOND READING:** Hebrews 11:29—12:2

<sup>29</sup> By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned. <sup>30</sup> By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days. <sup>31</sup> By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace. <sup>32</sup> And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets, <sup>33</sup> who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, <sup>34</sup> quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. <sup>35</sup> Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. <sup>36</sup> Others suffered mocking and flogging and even chains and imprisonment. <sup>37</sup> They were stoned to death; they were sawn in two; they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented <sup>38</sup> of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in

deserts and mountains and in caves and holes in the ground. <sup>39</sup> Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, <sup>40</sup> since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from us, be made perfect. <sup>12:1</sup> Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, <sup>2</sup> looking to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand for the gospel

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 151)**

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

#### **GOSPEL INTRODUCTION**

With all the divisiveness present in society these days, it seems like the last thing we need is a gospel text that seemingly encourages more division.

Jews of the first century, were considered as "dead" by their families for becoming a Christian, expelled from their synagogues, and threatened with persecution by the Romans. In some instances, it is still true today, with families holding funerals for family members who have become Christians. It would have been natural for these early Christians to try and keep a low profile and "get along" with others. Jesus' words about fractured families may have spoken poignantly to Luke's original audiences who themselves might have included members who were estranged from kin because of their commitment to Jesus Christ.

P: GOSPEL: Luke 12:49-56

The holy gospel according to Luke.

# Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] <sup>49</sup> "I have come to cast fire upon the earth, and how I wish it were already ablaze! <sup>50</sup> I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what constraint

I am under until it is completed! <sup>51</sup> Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! <sup>52</sup> From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; <sup>53</sup> they will be divided: father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law." <sup>54</sup> He also said to the crowds, "When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, 'It is going to rain,' and so it happens. <sup>55</sup> And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, 'There will be scorching heat,' and it happens. <sup>56</sup> You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?"

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

**SERMON:** Running the Race

#### **AM: PLEASE TURN TO HYMN 765**

Please stand as you are willing and able.

# HYMN OF THE DAY: Lord of All Hopefulness (ELW 765)

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## **AM: APOSTLE'S CREED**

We continue as we confess our faith using the words of the Apostle's Creed.

## **CREED**

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.

# Please be seated for the Prayers of Intercession

## PASTOR AND ASSISTING MINISTER: PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Let us pray for the church, the creation, and the whole people of God, for God is near.

Raise up faithful leaders for your church around the world. Inspire global missionaries with a spirit of accompaniment, as they walk alongside our partners in the gospel in solidarity, interdependence, and mutuality. Hear us, O God.

## Your mercy is great.

Safeguard rivers and lakes from pollution. Sustain the work of conservationists, policy makers, and advocacy groups seeking to protect fresh water sources. Hear us, O God.

## Your mercy is great.

Bridge divisions across partisan lines. Strengthen cooperative efforts among lawmakers who enact policies that protect our neighbors who are most vulnerable. Hear us, O God.

## Your mercy is great.

Embrace all who suffer in isolation: for those who are incarcerated or detained, those who are fleeing from unsafe environments, and those who are sick or homebound, especially Monte and McKardee Anderson; Ian Berger; Arnette Calkins; Sandy Chandler; Vicki Crow; Eleanor Diaz; Nancy Dokken; Joni Gray; Doris Hays; Sarge Hunter; Don Little; Patsy Loughboro; Donna McCain; Jean Miles; Sandra Miller; Thordis Moe; Carol Morris; Michael Myers; Esther Neumen; Candy Pellechio; Marva Posey; Marilyn Rieti; Amy Sinclair; Joyce Stromberg; Kay Thomas; Diana Ward; the homebound; the emergency responders; and those grieving and anticipating surgery or tests. At this time, we also pray for those we name aloud or silently in our hearts. Reassure them of your care in all times and places. Hear us, O God.

# Your mercy is great.

Guide the leaders of this congregation. In these late summer weeks, inspire their planning for a new program year ahead. Kindle in us a spirit of collaboration and support for their work. Hear us, O God.

# Your mercy is great.

With thanksgiving, we remember the cloud of witnesses who surround us. By the example of their faith, enable us to run with perseverance the race set before us, until that day when we join their unending praise. Hear us, O God.

# Your mercy is great.

Almighty God, giver of all good gifts: Look on your Church with grace and guide the minds of those on the Call Committee who shall discern a pastor for this congregation, that we may receive a faithful servant who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Hear us, O God.

## Your mercy is great.

Confident in God's presence and promise, we entrust our prayers to the one who always receives them; through Jesus Christ, our wisdom and companion.

Amen.

#### P: PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

#### P: OFFERING

Let us remember at this time of Offering, that all we have and all we are given are gifts from God. Our offerings of time, talent and treasures are expressions of gratitude to God for all we have received. May we show abundant gratitude.

#### **AM: OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Please feel free to either listen to our musical offering or sing along

# MUSICAL OFFERING: How Can I Keep From Singing (sung by Augustana Alumni Choir)

Tune: HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING, 8 7 8 7 with refrain; Robert Lowry, 1826–1899; harm. by Robert J. Batastini, b.1942 Text: Robert Lowry, 1826–1899, alt.; tr. by Ronald F. Krisman, b.1946, © 2012, GIA Publications, Inc.; One License #M-402221

P: GREAT THANKSGIVING DIALOGUE (ELW p. 152)

The Lord be with you.

And also 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: PREFACE (ELW p. 153)

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. Fulfilling the promise of the resurrection, you pour out the fire of your Spirit, uniting in one body people of every nation and tongue. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (ALL SING)

Holy, holy, holy are you, God of pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are filled with your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in your name. Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

#### P: THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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 death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever.

#### Amen.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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.

#### P: INSTRUCTION FOR COMMUNION

As you are comfortable, you are invited to come forward to receive communion. All of God's children are welcome to Christ's table. Gather at the altar rail to receive the communion elements or if you wish to receive a blessing, please cross your arms over your chest. You may commune yourself once you've received the communion elements. Please hold out your hands to receive the bread from the Pastor. Then pick up a cup of red wine or white grape juice from the Communion Server. A gluten-free option is available upon request. Please deposit empty cups in the provided baskets/trays on your way back to your seat unless they are collected at the altar. If you would like communion brought to you at your seat, indicate by raising your hand for the Assisting Minister to see and they will bring communion to you.

#### P: INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

#### **DURING DISTRIBUTION:** Come to the Table

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# As the Grains of Wheat (ELW 465)

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## Eat This Bread: Jesus Christ, Bread of Life (ELW 472)

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## P: COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you. Amen.

#### P: COMMUNION DISMISSAL

AM: PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION Let us pray.

Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection, that we may show your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

Amen.

## P: BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

Amen.

#### P: PLEASE TURN TO HYMN 815

Please stand as you are willing and able.

SENDING SONG: I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light (ELW 815, vs. 1, 3)

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## **AM: DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

#### **AM: INVITATION**

We would like to invite guests and visitors to come and meet us in the narthex as you exit so that we can welcome you, and you can join us in the Fellowship Hall for cookies, coffee and conversation.

## THIS WEEK AT FAITH

Tuesday, the 19th: 4 Plus 1 Group meets at 10:00; the Fellowship Team meets at 2:00

Wednesday, the 20th: the Finance Team meets at 1:00; Food with Friends begins at 5:00; Menifee Reads! Book Club meets at 7:00

Thursday, the 21st: Snip 'N Stitch meets at 9:00; Menifee Reads! Book Club meets at 2:00; the WELCA Bible Study begins at 6:00

Friday, the 22nd: Al-Anon meets at 10:30

Saturday, the 23rd: Memorial Service for Eileen Parker begins at 1:00, followed by lunch.

Sunday, the 24th: Worship begins at 9:30 with Pr. Shane

THOSE WHO SERVED TODAY: ASSISTING MINISTER: Joanne

**LECTOR:** Bill

**COMMUNION SERVER:** Sandy

**POWER POINT: Mike** 

**USHER:** Judy A.

**ATTENDANCE:** Pat O.

**GREETER:** Jean

**ALTAR GUILD:** Kandie and Kay

**SOUND:** Marlene

LIVE STREAM: Steve

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