**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. Shane Freiberg**

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

***Worship Plan for Sunday, May 18, 2025******\* Fifth Sunday of Easter***

**Introduction to the day**

Easter initiates a new day. It anticipates a new heaven and a new earth. The risen Christ is making all things new. In the mystery of holy baptism God has made new people of us. Today Jesus invites us to see everyone in a new light—through the lens of love.

**GOSPEL MESSAGE: The Deceptive Simplicity of Love**

As the Gospel of John portrays Jesus, the rabbi often speaks in cryptic terms, and his teachings in today’s reading are no exception. “The Son of Man has been glorified”? “Where I am going, you cannot come”? (John 13:31, 33). The disciples must have heard Jesus’ instructions about love with a sigh of relief—finally, clear words. They are given a new commandment, to love one another, just as Jesus has loved them. All they must do is love each other, and everyone will know they’re Jesus’ disciples.

One wonders how long it took before the disciples realized just how complicated this was going to be. If we’re honest, we have to ask, Have we figured it out in the past 2,000-plus years? After all, Jesus’ love often mystifies us. Whom does he love? The leper. The tax collector. The outcast. The rich young man. The person living with addiction. The collections agent. The teen who just tagged your wall with spray paint. The wealthy CEO.

Suddenly, this loving doesn’t look so easy.

The context of this week’s passage makes it clear that Jesus isn’t averse to speaking truth in love. Just before today’s exchange, Jesus signals to Judas that he knows what he’s up to. Just after, he cautions overeager Peter that despite his best intentions, he too will betray Jesus. Love isn’t syrupy and bland, slathered across our world in rosy hues that cover up injustice or hard times.

Love is a commitment. Love extends outward from Jesus, through us, to bring everyone whom Jesus loves into the communion of saints. That means Judas, and Peter, and the graffiti tagger, and the CEO—and you. Us. Every person, in every pew, and every child of God who couldn’t identify a pew if they skinned their shin on one.

Each of our communities is a little different. Our everyday “each others” are different too. But the good news is, “each other” always includes everyone—even us.

***Please stand for the Processional***

**Processional: *Lift High the Cross* (ELW 660, v. 1, 2)**

**AM: Welcome**

He is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Welcome to Faith Lutheran Church where God’s love and grace are celebrated and extended to all. A special welcome to those of you here for the first time, to those joining us online, and to our guest pastor, Pr. Shane Freiberg.

As we await and prepare for a permanent pastor, our ministry to and for God’s people continues full steam ahead, here in this place, and beyond our doors. We invite each of you to consider and pray about the ways in which our generous God has gifted you, and how you might put those gifts to use here at Faith. Then jump aboard for a fulfilling, uplifting ride with your sisters and brothers in Christ! ALL are welcome!!

**AM: ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The altar flowers were provided by the Kents celebrating Steve's dad's birthday.

*Grace, Not Judgement -The Woman at the Well*

After meeting a Samaritan woman at Jacob's well, in this week’s Thursday evening, 7:00 P.M. Zoom lesson, we see how Jesus broke social and religious barriers through a conversation that changed the woman’s life. Contact Pastor Ken at hopegiver@aol.com for log in information.

For the month of May, we are collecting pasta, grocery bags, and empty egg cartons for the Community Cupboard. Please place donations in the basket in the foyer.

Your Outreach Committee is collecting items quarterly to take to MilVet for their care packages to deployed troops. This month we’ve been asking for disposable razors and instant coffee, and have so far collected 255 disposable razors and 273 single servings of instant coffee, as well as 4 $10 Target gift cards and several toiletries. Stay tuned for our next opportunity to contribute starting in July. See Kathy Kent with questions.

Tickets for the WELCA Luncheon Fundraiser on June 21 are now on sale. Get yours today for you, your family, friends and neighbors! Invite everyone and don’t miss the fun and supporting a good cause!

WELCA can use some gift cards for the gift baskets for the Luncheon Fundraiser.  All gift baskets, individual items and gift cards are due June 1.  See Candy Pellechio if you have any questions.

Christmas in July is coming! Our patriotic giving tree will be in the Narthex from Memorial Day through July 4th. Please help our military and veterans, if you are able, by purchasing gift cards. The greatest needs (in order of priority) are gift cards for Uber, gasoline, groceries and Target. The Sunday School kids made the “thank you” ornaments!

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 385**

Please stand as you are willing and able.

**Gathering Song:*Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing!* (ELW 385)**

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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 Lord God, you teach us that without love, our actions gain nothing. Pour into our hearts your most excellent gift of love, that, made alive by your Spirit, we may know goodness and peace, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

**Amen.**

**Children's Chat**

**P: Word**

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

**Lector: First Reading:** Acts 11:1-18

1 Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. 2 So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, 3 saying, “Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?” 4 Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, 5 “I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. 6 As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. 7 I also heard a voice saying to me, ‘Get up, Peter; kill and eat.’ 8 But I replied, ‘By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.’ 9 But a second time the voice answered from heaven, ‘What God has made clean, you must not call profane.’ 10 This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. 11 At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. 12 The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man’s house. 13 He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, ‘Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; 14 he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.’ 15 And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. 16 And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, ‘John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’ 17 If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?” 18 When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, “Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life.”

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**AM: Psalmody:** Psalm 148

1 Hallelujah! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise God in the heights.

2 **Praise the Lord, all you angels; sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.**

3 Praise the Lord, sun and moon; sing praise, all you shining stars.

4 **Praise the Lord, heaven of heavens, and you waters above the heavens.**

5 Let them praise the name of the Lord, who commanded, and they were created,

6 **who made them stand fast forever and ever, giving them a law that shall not pass away.**

7 Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps;

8 **fire and hail, snow and fog, tempestuous wind, doing God’s will;**

9 mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars;

10 **wild beasts and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds;**

11 sovereigns of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the world;

12 **young men and maidens, old and young together.**

13 Let them praise the name of the Lord, whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over earth and heaven.

14 **The Lord has raised up strength for the people and praise for all faithful servants, the children of Israel, a people who are near the Lord. Hallelujah!**

**Amen.**

**Lector: Second Reading:** Revelation 21:1-6

1 I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. 2 And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; 4 he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.” 5 And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.” 6 Then he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.”

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.**

**P: Gospel:** John 13:31-35

The holy gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

31 When he had gone out, Jesus said, “Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. 32 If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. 33 Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come.’ 34 I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. 35 By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon**

**AM: Please turn to hymn 619**

Please stand as you are willing and able.

**Hymn of the Day:*I Know that My Redeemer Lives!* (ELW 619, v. 1-4)**

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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**

God of resurrection and new life, we come before you in prayer for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

Fill the church with the spirit of your redeeming love. Make us steadfast in our proclamation of your grace for all people without exceptions, especially those often overlooked in our communities. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Awaken joy in the beauty and abundance of your creation. Show us the wonder of your presence from the smallest flower to the tallest tree. Recommit us to preservation of wild places. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Instruct all world leaders to protect the most vulnerable among us. Guide those in power toward equitable and just economic policies, so that all might have sufficient resources to live safely and with dignity. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Pour out your love on all in need of care: those mourning losses, enduring trauma, experiencing broken relationships, yearning for companionship, or facing illness, especially Lynn Bennett; Judy Brosz and family; Arnette Calkins; Sandy Chandler; Vicki Crow; Eleanor Diaz; Doris Hays; Sarge Hunter; Patsy Loughboro; Donna McCain; Jean Miles; Sandra Miller; Thordis Moe; Carol Morris; Michael Myers; Esther Neumen; Ray Paxton; Marilyn Rieti; Amy Sinclair; Joyce Stromberg; 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. Wipe away every tear. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Abide with all who are victims of racism, especially people who are doubly marginalized because of gender, sexuality, or ability. Destroy all forms of systemic oppression, and renew our commitment to healing the wounds of our collective body in this community and beyond. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We give thanks for all the saints whose lives bear witness to your redeeming love. Guide us by their example, until we join them in your eternal home. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We commend these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting that you are always with us; in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

**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:*Blessed Be Your Name* (Matt Redman)**

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**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, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. 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) (ELW p. 153)**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of pow’r and might: Heav’n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. 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 commune the bread first, turn over the vessel and then carefully open the grape juice. A gluten-free option is available upon request. Please deposit empty cups in the provided baskets on your way back to your seat.

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:**

***One Bread, One Body* (ELW 496)**

Text: John Foley, SJ, b. 1939

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***Here Is Bread* (ELW 483)**

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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.

**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 836**

Please stand as you are willing and able.

**Sending Song:*Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee* (ELW 836)**

Copyright Holder: Public Domain; Sources: Text: Henry Van Dyke, 1852-1922; Music: Ludwig van Beethoven 1770-1827 adapt.

**AM: Dismissal**

Go in peace. Share the good news.

**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 20th: 4 Plus 1 Group meets at 10:00; the Fellowship Team meets at 2:00

Wednesday, the 21st: Food with Friends starts at 5:00 with a taco bar; Menifee Reads! Book Club meets at 7:00

Thursday, the 22nd: Finance Team meets at 1:00; Menifee Reads! Book Club meets at 2:00; Pr. Ken's Zoom Bible Study starts at 7:00

Friday, the 23rd: Al-Anon meets at 10:30; Transition Team meets at 1:00

Sunday, the 25th: Worship begins at 9:30 with Pr. Shane

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**THOSE SERVING TODAY**

**ASSISTING MINISTER:** Joanne McGavran

**LECTOR:** Candy Pellechio

**MEDIA CREW:** Mike McGavran, Steve Kent, Marlene Rosselli

**USHER:** Gina Howe

**ATTENDANCE:** Shirley Houghton

**GREETER:** Dave Fisher

**ALTAR GUILD:** Debbie Ehrig, Marlene Rosselli

**PRAYER CONCERNS AND REQUESTS**

**FAITH MEMBERS:** Lynn Bennett; Judy Brosz and family; Arnette Calkins; Sandy Chandler; Vicki Crow; Eleanor Diaz; Doris Hays; Sarge Hunter; Patsy Loughboro; Jean Miles; Sandra Miller; Thordis Moe; Carol Morris; Esther Neumen; Marilyn Rieti; Amy Sinclair; Joyce Stromberg; Diana Ward; Darren; the homebound; the emergency responders; those grieving and those anticipating surgery/tests.

**FRIENDS & RELATIVES OF MEMBERS:** Donna McCain; Michael Myers; Ray Paxton.

**FRIENDS & FAMILY IN MILITARY SERVICE:** Pr. Shane Freiburg; Ryan Wenman (Moes’ grandson); Austin Olson (Olsons’ grandson) and all families involved with the military.