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 31, 2025 * Twelfth 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

Invited and inviting—that is the nature of the church. By God's grace in holy baptism we have a place at Christ's banquet table. When, by the power of that same Spirit, humility and mutual love continue among us, the church can be more inviting still.

GOSPEL MESSAGE: Did You Get the Invitation?

Choosing the invitation design for an important event can be nerve-wracking. But deciding whom to invite? Whittling down the list of desired attendees can be even more difficult than choosing the invitation itself. So much stress.

In today's gospel reading, Jesus uses a dinner party as a teaching opportunity. In the ancient world, being invited to such an occasion was an honor, but figuring out where to sit once you arrived required a whole other stress-inducing decision. How embarrassing it would be to choose a place of prominence, only to discover you're not that important and have to move down the table. How disappointing it would be to invite someone to your party but not receive an invitation to their next gathering. (Is that why you invited them, anyway?) So many of these social games we continue to play.

You might say that Jesus takes the stress out of party-planning because he encourages us to take an honest and humble view of it all: the view from God's vantage point. In the realm of God, the last in the eyes of the world are first, and the first, last.

In the kingdom of God, roles are reversed, orders are disrupted, and convention is thrown out the window so all may know the grace, peace, and love of God. The divine Host throws amazing parties and desires everyone, especially those overlooked by the party-throwers and powerbrokers of the world, to have a chance to enjoy them.

Today's gospel reading reminds us that at God's table, everyone is invited and no one goes away empty. The party is freely offered and not a setting for social games. The table has no head and no foot but, rather, is a cloud of witnesses gathered around the life of the Crucified and Risen One.

The eucharist is the prime example of this feast. Did you get the invitation? Because you're invited!

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 the Puccios celebrating 20 years since the day they met, and by Marlene Rosselli, in memory of her brother, Larry's birthday.

Pr. Ken was ill and not able to lead the Bible Study this past Thursday, so it was rescheduled to this Thursday, the 4th. The regular schedule resumes on the 11th.

This Saturday, the 6th is Donation Drop Off Day! From 9-12 you may drop off unneeded blankets, eye glasses and shoes!

For the month of August, we have been collecting canned fruit for the Community Cupboard. To date, we have collected 76 cans. For September, we will be collecting canned spaghetti sauce and diced tomatoes, grocery bags, and empty egg cartons. Please place donations in the wire basket in the foyer.

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 Day is next Sunday, 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. Please place your donations in the box in the Narthex.

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 693

Please stand as you are willing and able.

GATHERING SONG: Come, Ye Thankful People, Come (ELW 693)

Public Domain: Sources: Text: Henry Alford, 1810-1871, alt.; Music: George J. Elvey, 1816-1893

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, you resist those who are proud and give grace to those who are humble. Give us the humility of your Son, that we may embody the generosity of 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

The emphasis today is on humbleness and modesty in the presence of those who are in high positions of authority (kings and rulers, and by implication, the Lord God). The Gospel presents this in the context of a marriage feast, continuing the idea of our first lesson that it is wise to humble oneself rather than to be humbled and humiliated by other people. This is another brief proverb about human pride which Jesus may have used in His better-known saying in Luke 14:7-11.

LECTOR: FIRST READING: Proverbs 25:6-7a

⁶ Do not put yourself forward in the king's presence or stand in the place of the great, ^{7a} for it is better to be told, "Come up here," than to be put lower in the presence of a noble.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM INTRODUCTION

This Psalm says, "O how happy" is the person who reveres the Lord. Such a person will be prosperous, righteous, respected, unafraid, generous, and remembered forever. This psalm resonates with both the emphasis on the just rewards of the righteous and the prophetic tradition of social justice. The generosity of the rich toward the more vulnerable of society reiterates the righteousness and reward motif. All too easily, one can slip into the reverse attitude that, because one is rich, one may consider oneself righteous.

LECTOR: PSALMODY: Psalm 112

- ¹ Hallelujah! Happy are they who fear the LORD and have great delight in God's commandments!
- ² Their descendants will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed.
- ³ Wealth and riches will be in their house, and their righteousness will last forever.
- ⁴ Light shines in the darkness for the upright; the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.
- ⁵ It is good for them to be generous in lending and to manage their affairs with justice.
- ⁶ For they will never be shaken; the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.
- ⁷They will not be afraid of any evil rumors; their heart is steadfast, trusting in the LORD.
- ⁸ Their heart is established and will not shrink, until they see their desire upon their enemies.
- ⁹ They have given freely to the poor, and their righteousness stands fast forever; they will hold up their head with honor.
- ¹⁰ The wicked will see it and be angry; they will gnash their teeth and pine away; the desires of the wicked will perish.

 Amen.

SECOND LESSON INTRODUCTION

Among the many admonitions in this text are the requirements of providing hospitality for strangers and care for those who are afflicted. Each of these

admonitions is said to be especially important because of our faith in Jesus, who is the same person yesterday, today, and forever. It is through Jesus that we offer up our sacrifice of praise to God and share our resources with those who are in need.

It is clear that for Christians then and now ethical behavior is rooted in faith. Our relationship with Christ helps us to behave as we should toward one another. Because we believe in the unchangeable Christ, we behave in certain disciplined ways that others may not share. We do so confidently with the help of God and following the example of those who shared this faith with us. Such a life may involve sacrifice, but we think of such sacrifice as an act of worship to God.

LECTOR: SECOND READING: Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

¹ Let mutual affection continue. ² Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. ³ Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them, those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. ⁴ Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterers. ⁵ Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have, for he himself has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you." ⁶ So we can say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can anyone do to me?" ¬ Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. § Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. ¹⁵ Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. ¹⁶ Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to 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

Once again, the gospel message is presented in such a way as to comfort the afflicted and to afflict the comfortable.

Party time! Jesus had been invited to the home of a leading Pharisee for the sabbath meal. Then He nearly broke up the party by healing a man afflicted with dropsy. To add to that offense, He put the other guests on the spot and gave them a scolding that certainly must have shamed some, if not all of them. Then He recalled how they had been vying for the places of honor, presumably closest to the host or guest of honor. Luke does not tell us if Jesus was that honored guest. One can imagine some of the guests trying to win His favor by sitting close to Him so they could engage Him in a more intimate conversation. As the parable He told them indicates, He scorned their fawning behavior (vss.8-11).

P: GOSPEL: Luke 14:1, 7-14

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the Sabbath, they were watching him closely. 7 When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. 8 "When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host, ⁹ and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, 'Give this person your place,' and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. ¹⁰ But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher'; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. 11 For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted." ¹² He said also to the one who had invited him, "When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers and sisters or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. ¹³ But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. ¹⁴ And you will be blessed because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON: "The Humble and The Exalted" by Pr. Ken Anderson

AM: PLEASE TURN TO HYMN 650

Please stand as you are willing and able.

HYMN OF THE DAY: In Christ There Is No East or West (ELW 650)

Public Domain; Sources: Text: John Oxenham, 1852-1941, alt.; Music: African American spiritual; adapt. Harry T. Burleigh, 1866-1949

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.

For the leaders of the church, we pray. Inspire deacons, pastors, Sunday school teachers, and Christian education directors with a passion for speaking the word of God. Equip all the baptized to share your word of grace. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

For the well-being of creation, we pray. Sustain farm workers and all who labor in fields and vineyards to grow the food we eat. Revive plains and pastures, and provide for the cattle and creatures who rely on the land for their sustenance. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

For the leaders of towns, cities, provinces, states, and nations, we pray. Guide them to enact equitable laws and policies for all. On this Labor Day weekend, make us mindful of workers whose labor often goes unnoticed. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

For the lowly and those who are ignored, we pray. Provide for the needs of vulnerable communities, those who are unemployed, burdened by debt, or struggle to make ends meet. Accompany all who need reassurance of your loving presence, 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; the Loughboro/Holmes family; 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. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

For the hospitality ministries of this congregation, we pray. Give ushers and greeters a spirit of welcome for visitors, and bless the work of those who feed and nourish us. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

For all the saints who from their labors rest, we give thanks. With them, we offer our sacrifice of praise to you, O God, the same yesterday and today and forever. 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.

Other petitions.... 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: Just a Closer Walk with Thee (ELW 697)

Public Domain; Sources: Text: North American traditional; Music: North American traditional

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.

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.

Amen.

P: PLEASE TURN TO HYMN 742

Please stand as you are willing and able.

SENDING SONG: What a Friend We Have in Jesus (ELW 742)

Public Domain; Sources: Text: Joseph Scriven, 1820-1886; Music: Charles C. Converse, 1832-1918

AM: DISMISSAL

Rooted in God's grace,

we joyfully witness and serve!

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

Monday, the 1st: Labor Day

Tuesday, the 2nd: Worship & Music meets at 10:00

Thursday, the 4th: Snip 'N Stitch meets at 9:00; Pr. Ken's Zoom Bible Study begins

at 7:00 (rescheduled from last week)

Friday, the 5th: Al-Anon meets at 10:30

Saturday, the 6th: Donation Drop Off is open from 9:00 - 12:00

Sunday, the 7th: Worship begins at 9:30 with Pr. Rex, and it's God's Work Our

Hands Sunday

THOSE WHO SERVED TODAY: ASSISTING MINISTER: Steve

LECTOR: Kathy

COMMUNION SERVER: Kandie

POWER POINT: Mike

USHER: Annie

ATTENDANCE: Judy A.

GREETER: Jean

ALTAR GUILD: Marlene and Kay

SOUND: Marlene

LIVE STREAM: Madeline

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