

**FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**A Congregation of the ELCA**

28200 Portsmouth Drive, Sun City, CA 92586 \* (951) 679-1518

Email: [faithlutheranmenifee@gmail.com](mailto: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 25, 2025\* Sixth Sunday of Easter***

**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:** We invite all who are baptized and believe in the real presence of Jesus to participate in Communion. 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.

**LIVE STREAMING:** Please be aware that our services are live-streamed and recorded. By entering the sanctuary and premises, you acknowledge that you may be visible on the live stream and in recordings.

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

## **Introduction to the day**

Visions abound in the readings for the sixth Sunday of Easter. Paul has a vision about what to do. John has a vision of what will be. Jesus provides visions of peace that surpasses human understanding and power beyond human imagination.

## **GOSPEL MESSAGE: Graduating in Faith**

This is a season of celebration—in the church, to be sure, but also in the lives of families who eagerly anticipate graduation ceremonies. Graduations can happen at any time of life, either in the formal sense or in the many informal ways humans commemorate transitions into new phases of life. For many of us, however, May and June are Graduation Central, with all the excited hoopla that implies.

When a child graduates from a school or program, parents face the bittersweet transition of letting go. The high school senior may leave home for college, the military, or independent employment; the college graduate may head off toward the myriad adventures of adulthood. Even the newly minted preschool alum eagerly anticipates the broader fields of big-kid school and greater independence.

Amid the excitement, pride, fear, and uncertainty, those who have cared for these loved ones—parents, mentors, teachers, and others—hope their voices will travel with the grads. Remember, child, what we have taught you. Remember who you are. Remember *whose* you are.

How fitting, then, that at this time of year the church reminds itself that God feels the same way about us. God wants the voice of the Spirit to travel with us. God sends us the Advocate—one who will stay with us even when Jesus physically returns to his Parent. In baptism, we have graduated into lives in Christ that may take us to unpredictable places. In this world of uncertainty, however, we trust that, as Jesus assures us, we need not be troubled or afraid. The One who reminds us who we are, and *whose* we are, is always with us.

***Please stand for the Processional***

**PROCESSIONAL: *Lift High the Cross* (ELW 660, vs. 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 Tom and Judy Brosz, celebrating their anniversary.

Today is the last day of Sunday School until August. Have a great summer!

For the month of May, we are collecting pasta, grocery bags, and empty egg cartons for the Community Cupboard. Please place donations in the wire basket in the foyer. So far in May we have collected 58 boxes of pasta.

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 here! Our patriotic giving tree is now up in the Narthex 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 669**

Please stand as you are willing and able.

**GATHERING SONG: *Rise Up, O Saints of God!* (ELW 669)**

Text © Norman O. Forness, admin. Augsburg Fortress

## **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.

**Bountiful God, you gather your people into your realm, and you promise us food from your tree of life. Nourish us with your word, that empowered by your Spirit we may love one another and the world you have made, through 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 16:9-15**

<sup>9</sup> During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." <sup>10</sup> When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them. <sup>11</sup> We set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, <sup>12</sup> and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days. <sup>13</sup> On the sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. <sup>14</sup> A certain woman named Lydia, a worshiper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. <sup>15</sup> When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home." And she prevailed upon us.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**AM: PSALMODY: Psalm 67**

<sup>1</sup> May God be merciful to us and bless us; may the light of God's face shine upon us.

<sup>2</sup> **Let your way be known upon earth, your saving health among all nations.**

<sup>3</sup> Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

<sup>4</sup> **Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity and guide all the nations on earth.**

<sup>5</sup> Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

<sup>6</sup> **The earth has brought forth its increase; God, our own God, has blessed us.**

<sup>7</sup> May God give us blessing, and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe.

**Amen.**

**LECTOR: SECOND READING: Revelation 21:10, 22—22:5**

<sup>10</sup> And in the spirit [one of the angels] carried me away to a great, high mountain and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God.

<sup>22</sup> I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. <sup>23</sup> And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb. <sup>24</sup> The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. <sup>25</sup> Its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. <sup>26</sup> People will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. <sup>27</sup> But nothing unclean will enter it, nor anyone who practices abomination or falsehood, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life. <sup>22:1</sup> Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb <sup>2</sup> through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. <sup>3</sup> Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; <sup>4</sup> they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. <sup>5</sup> And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

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 14:23-29

The holy gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>23</sup> Jesus answered [Judas (not Iscariot),] “Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. <sup>24</sup> Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; and the word that you hear is not mine, but is from the Father who sent me. <sup>25</sup> “I have said these things to you while I am still with you. <sup>26</sup> But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. <sup>27</sup> Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. <sup>28</sup> You heard me say to you, ‘I am going away, and I am coming to you.’ If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. <sup>29</sup> And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **SERMON**

**AM: PLEASE TURN TO HYMN 256**

Please stand as you are willing and able.

**HYMN OF THE DAY: *Comfort, Comfort Now My People* (ELW 256)**

Copyright Holder: Public Domain Sources: Text: Johann G. Olearius, 1635-1711; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt. Music: *Trente quatre pseauxes de David*, Geneva, 1551

**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 join us in a moment of silence and prayer in memory of all who sacrificed their lives for all Americans.

***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.

Unite your people with communities of faith throughout the world. Further cooperation between people of different faith traditions and bless our non-Christian neighbors, that we learn and grow in deeper relationship. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Bless the earth with fresh water, clean air, and rich soil. Nurture growing crops and encourage communities developing sustainable farming practices. Help us to live in balance and harmony with your good creation. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Reconcile nations and communities suffering from violence and conflict. Protect refugees, asylum-seekers, and all who flee their homes seeking safety and security. Make all nations safe for both migrants and residents. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Sustain all who are in need, especially individuals and families struggling with trauma or addiction. Support caregivers, especially nurses, doctors, counselors, and social workers. Come alongside all who are ill or struggling, especially Lynn Bennett; Arnette Calkins; Sandy Chandler; Vicki Crow; Eleanor Diaz; Richard Diaz; Doris Hays; Darren Hinze; Sarge Hunter; Patsy Loughboro; Donna McCain; Jean Miles; Sandra Miller; Thordis Moe; Carol Morris; Michael Myers; Esther Neumen; Bea Olsen; 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. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**



This Memorial Day weekend, we remember all who have died in military service. Soothe loved ones who mourn, and strengthen support systems for veterans and their families. Bring peace among nations, that war and conflict around the world might cease. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We give you thanks for all your saints raised to new life in Christ. Gather us, with them, into the peace only you can give. 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.**

#### **AM: PLEASE TURN TO HYMN 887**

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

**MUSICAL OFFERING: *This Is My Song* (ELW 887)**

Text Sts. 1,2 © 1934, 1962, Lorenz Publishing Company. St. 3 © 1964 Lorenz Publishing Company. All rights reserved. Outside USA: Music © by Breitkopf & Härtel, Wiesbaden

**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

Text © 1978 John B. Foley, SJ and OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

### ***Here Is Bread* (ELW 483)**

Text and music © 1991 Make Way Music, admin. by Music Services in the Western Hemisphere (ASCAP). All rights reserved.

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

Text and music © 1984 Les Presses de Taizé, admin. GIA Publications Inc., agent. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. [www.giamusic.com](http://www.giamusic.com). 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

## **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 888**

Please stand as you are willing and able.

### **SENDING SONG: *O Beautiful for Spacious Skies: America the Beautiful* (ELW 888)**

Public Domain: Sources: Text: Katherine Bates, 1859-1929; Music: Samuel A. Ward, 1848-1903

## **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**

Monday, the 26th: Memorial Day

Wednesday, the 28th: Council meets at 1:00

Friday, the 30th: Stewardship meets at 10:00; Al-Anon meets at 10:30

Saturday, the 31st: the Synodical WELCA Board meets in the Fellowship Hall at 10:00

Sunday, June 1st: Worship begins at 9:30 with Pr. Rex Wignall

*Permission to stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, #M-402221 and CCLI License #11573116, #A-22384499. Images from sundaysandseasons.com used with permission from Augsburg Fortress.*

From sundaysandseasons.com. Copyright © 2025 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

Only two defining forces have ever offered to die for you;

***Jesus Christ***

***and***

***the American soldier.***

One died for your soul; the other died for your freedom.

