

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, July 20, 2025 * Sixth 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. We are currently on summer break.

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

Perhaps the church, at its best, is “all ears.” God urges the faithful, again and again, to “listen up!”—to heed the word that gives life. So it was with Abraham and Sarah, Mary and Martha, and the early church at Colossae. So it is today as we join the assembly to hear the word of God, the word of life.

GOSPEL MESSAGE: Paying Attention in a Distracted World

Our attention is a valuable thing, and what we pay attention to matters. The tech industry employs more than 12 million people in the United States and generates over 10 percent of the total US GDP. While we might think their innovative apps, devices, and software are the industry’s biggest money-makers, the truth is that human attention is the real cash cow. The attention economy knows how valuable our attention really is, and social media and tech companies work hard to glean as much of it as possible, mostly for advertisers, setting the stage for overwhelming distraction.

Martha, after inviting Jesus into her home, becomes distracted by her many tasks. She has her attention diverted from the presence and preaching of Jesus right in front of her. The experience of distraction is certainly one we can relate to, especially living in an attention economy. Like Martha, we can have our attention diverted at a moment’s notice by seemingly endless and urgent checklists, projects, social media, and more. And like Martha, we can become so ensnared by our distractions that we simply accept them as priorities despite the better parts in front of us.

But Jesus speaks a word of grace to Martha and to us, reminding us that worry and distraction need not consume us. That the saving love of Jesus casts out all fear and sets us free to pay attention to the kingdom of God breaking in all around us. With the assurance of God’s love, we can embrace a posture of attention, setting down needless distractions in favor of “the better part” (Luke 10:42), the presence of God in our daily lives. We can devote our valuable attention to a conversation with our neighbor, to prayer and spiritual practice, to the beauty of table fellowship, and to being fully present in worship. Most importantly, we can pay attention to the love of God, which raises us to new life every day.

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. Shane Freiberg. 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 Ehrigs, giving thanks for everything.

Come over to Faith this Wednesday, the 23rd at 6:30 for our next ice cream social!

Grace, Not Judgment – Peter's Question About Forgiveness

Peter asks Jesus about the extent of forgiveness and gets a surprising answer. Jesus teaches us that there are no limits to God's grace and capacity to forgive. Jesus demonstrated that true forgiveness isn't about keeping score but about maintaining a consistently gracious heart. Contact Pastor Ken at hopegiver@aol.com for log in information on how to join this Thursday evening, 7:00 P.M. Bible study.

New Member classes are now scheduled for August 10th and 17th immediately following the worship service. New Member Sunday will be August 24th. Please sign up in the Narthex.

For the month of July, we are collecting canned fruit, grocery bags, and empty egg cartons for the Community Cupboard. Please place donations in the wire basket in the foyer. So far this month, we have collected 48 cans of fruit.

We have started our next quarterly collection for MilVet. We are collecting protein bars and powdered drink mixes.

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 597

Please stand as you are willing and able.

GATHERING SONG: *My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less* (ELW 597)

Public Domain: Sources: Text: Edward Mote, 1797-1874, alt.; Music: John B. Dykes, 1823-1876; Tune Name: Melita

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.

**Eternal God, you draw near to us in Christ, and you make yourself our guest. Amid the cares of our lives, make us attentive to your presence, that we may treasure your word above all else, through 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 story tells of God appearing to Abraham in the guise of three travelers to promise that Abraham and Sarah would, despite being in their later years, have a son. This anecdote presents a description of God interacting with man in a way that is common with other ancient religious literature. Abraham's hospitality also follows the traditional custom of tribal societies. Such hospitality usually resulted in a blessing.

LECTOR: FIRST READING: Genesis 18:1-10a

¹ The LORD appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. ² He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them and bowed down to the ground. ³ He said, "My lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass by your servant. ⁴ Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. ⁵ Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant." So they said, "Do as you have said." ⁶ And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah and said, "Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead

it, and make cakes.” ⁷ Abraham ran to the herd and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. ⁸ Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared and set it before them, and he stood by them under the tree while they ate. ⁹ They said to him, “Where is your wife Sarah?” And he said, “There, in the tent.” ^{10a} Then one said, “I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son.”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM INTRODUCTION

Scholarship points to a time after Israel's return from exile when religious leaders sought to instruct the populace in the ancient tradition of the covenant law as the inspiration for this psalm.

Behind it may lie a more ancient tradition: the practice of approaching an oracle, place of worship where someone could obtain a prophecy from a priest. This would guide the suppliant in making a decision or throw light on the meaning of some calamity. Or the suppliant might ask for an interpretation of a sacred law as to his/her duty in a new situation much in the manner that people today consult psychics to get answers to questions.

AM: PSALMODY: Psalm 15

¹ LORD, who may dwell in your tabernacle? Who may abide upon your holy hill?

² **Those who lead a blameless life and do what is right, who speak the truth from their heart;**

³ they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil to their friends; they do not cast discredit upon a neighbor.

⁴ **In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who fear the LORD. They have sworn upon their health and do not take back their word.**

⁵ They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes against the innocent. Those who do these things shall never be overthrown.

Amen.

SECOND LESSON INTRODUCTION

Christ is the image of the invisible God. By dividing the passage into three paragraphs, we can see that the first speaks of the pre-existent, human, crucified

and resurrected Christ. The second speaks of the reconciliation God effected through Christ. The third presents the vision of what God is doing in creating this new humanity.

Just as creation came into being through Christ, Paul claims in vs.16, so also all creation and not just the human race will be recreated through being reconciled to God through Christ's life, death and resurrection (vs. 20). That includes all of us who, like the Colossians, were once estranged from God. (vss. 21-22)

LECTOR: SECOND READING: Colossians 1:15-28

¹⁵ [Christ Jesus] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation,¹⁶ for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷ He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. ¹⁹ For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰ and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross. ²¹ And you who were once estranged and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, ²² he has now reconciled in his fleshly body through death, so as to present you holy and blameless and irreproachable before him, ²³ provided that you continue securely established and steadfast in the faith, without shifting from the hope promised by the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven. I, Paul, became a minister of this gospel. ²⁴ I am now rejoicing in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am completing what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church. ²⁵ I became its minister according to God's commission that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, ²⁶ the mystery that has been hidden throughout the ages and generations but has now been revealed to his saints. ²⁷ To them God chose to make known how great among the gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. ²⁸ It is he whom we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone in all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ.

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

We could summarize this account in the life of Jesus by saying, “Martha frets; Mary listens”, or is that an oversimplification of the story? Jesus does seem to rebuke Martha for her task-driven anxiety and to praise Mary for sitting at his feet listening to what He said. This has been the traditional interpretation which some people have pushed to the extreme by claiming that faith and contemplative spirituality are better than works and active service. It is unlikely that Jesus meant to draw such a distinction. Life for Jesus had a much greater balance of both prayer and action, worship and work. He spent his days teaching and healing, but also frequently withdrew to a quiet place for prayer and contemplation of the presence of God in stillness and silence.

P: GOSPEL: Luke 10:38-42

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

³⁸ Now as [Jesus and his disciples] went on their way, he entered a certain village where a woman named Martha welcomed him. ³⁹ She had a sister named Mary, who sat at Jesus’s feet and listened to what he was saying. ⁴⁰ But Martha was distracted by her many tasks, so she came to him and asked, “Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her, then, to help me.” ⁴¹ But the Lord answered her, “Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things, ⁴² but few things are needed—indeed only one. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: *In Christ Alone* (Adrienne Liesching)

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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

In solidarity with all creation, we join our voice to the voice of the whole church and pray for the needs of the world.

Inspire your church, like Sarah and Mary, to listen with eager longing for your words of life. Equip biblical interpreters and teachers with faithful discernment, that your word may be more fully known. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Every creature under heaven has been promised the hope of the gospel. From that promise, generate in humankind an eagerness to protect and care for creation. Bring healing to the earth with your words of life. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Peel away the distractions, worries, and fears of all who govern the nations of the world. May your word of love and life dispel all other voices. Provide gracious hospitality in places where hostile forces hold sway. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Speak your word of comfort to any who suffer pain, illness, grief, depression, or despair, especially Monte Anderson; Ian Berger; Arnette Calkins; Sandy Chandler; Vicki Crow; Eleanor Diaz; Joni Gray; Doris Hays; Sarge Hunter; 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; 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. Bring honor to any who experience slander and evil intent or are discredited by others. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Enliven and uphold all siblings in Christ who strive to provide hospitality and safe spaces where everyone, without exception, can receive and be transformed by your word of life. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

For Abraham, Sarah, Hagar, Mary, Martha, and all the saints who attended to your word, we give thanks. Open our ears to your voice until that day when we realize the promise of the gospel with all creation. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Trusting in your lovingkindness, we place our prayer and hope in you, in the name of Jesus Christ.

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: *Walk in the Light* (ARETHA FRANKLIN)

Text written by Aretha Franklin

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. 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.

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 840

Please stand as you are willing and able.

SENDING SONG: *Now Thank We All Our God (ELW 840)*

Public Domain: Sources: Text: Martin Rinkhart, 1586-1649; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878; Music: Johann Crüger, 1598-1662; Tune Name: Nun danket alle Gott (isometric)

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

Wednesday, the 23rd: the Finance team meets at 1:00; the Ice Cream Social begins at 6:30

Thursday, the 24th: Pr. Ken's Zoom Bible Study begins at 7:00

Friday, the 25th: Al-Anon meets at 10:30

Sunday, the 27th: Worship begins at 9:30 with Pr. Ken Anderson

THOSE WHO SERVED TODAY:

ASSISTING MINISTER: Roderick Sinclair

LECTOR: Pat Adams

COMMUNION SERVER: Diane M.

POWER POINT: Madeline

USHER: Judy Appel

ATTENDANCE: Pat Olson

GREETER: Jean

ALTAR GUILD: Marlene and Kay

SOUND: Marlene Rosselli

LIVE STREAM: Steve Kent

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