

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 Puccio

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

Worship Plan for Thursday, April 2, 2026 * Maundy Thursday

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.

Introduction to the day

This evening our Lenten observance comes to an end, and we gather with Christians around the world to celebrate the Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection. Tonight, we remember Christ's last meal with his disciples, but the central focus is his commandment that we live out the promise embodied in this meal. As Jesus washed his disciples' feet, so we are called to give and receive love in humble service to one another. Formed into a new body in Christ through this holy meal, we are transformed by the mercy we have received and carry it into the world. Departing worship in solemn silence, we anticipate the coming days.

GOSPEL MESSAGE: The Highest and the Lowest

The paradoxes of Holy Week continue during this supper scene. Jesus, the disciples' Lord and Teacher, the very Son of God, takes the posture of the lowest slave. Foot washing would be considered disgraceful for anyone other than the most menial servant. Despite this, Jesus, grounded in his identity as God's Son, serves his friends in this intimate, humble act.

John goes out of his way to emphasize both Jesus' divine confidence and the scandalous nature of his behavior. The highest exaltation and the most lowly servanthood stand in mysterious tension. Why must it be so? Only in this paradox can the full extent of divine love be revealed. God Almighty, in the flesh, serves. The one who should be attended by angels bends before those who will abandon and even betray him. There is no limit to how far Jesus will go to connect with us, no barrier that would prevent him from drawing near to us.

The use of water might remind you of baptism. In the sacraments, the God who transcends all of creation comes to you in earthly, physical elements: water, bread, and wine. Jesus reveals the divine identity: holy, glorious, and powerful enough to overcome sin and defeat death, but humble enough to use his might to redeem a world that rejects him. A mere human would not be strong enough to rescue us from sin, and a God who remains distant could not pay the cost of saving love. Jesus, human and divine, exalted and lowly, gives his life to us and for us on the cross.

This paradox not only gives us salvation; it invites us into a new way of life. We who need the washing of grace can live out that grace by washing the feet of others. We can serve. Knowing that Jesus has given all love to us, we can give that love away. This is the gift of our Lord and Teacher; may it be the path for our life together.

Please stand for the Processional

PROCESSIONAL Lift High the Cross

OneLicense Song# 59074; © 1974 Hope Publishing Company; Contributors: George W Kitchin, Sydney H Nicholson, Michael R Newbolt;
Tune: © 1974 Hope Publishing Company Text: © 1974 Hope Publishing Company; OneLicense# M-402221

AM: WELCOME

As we follow Christ from triumphal entry to the cross, each waypoint of the journey is marked by Jesus' compassion for those who would betray, mock, accuse, or do violence to Him. Though persecuted and beaten, Jesus the Son of God is not disgraced; instead, He asks forgiveness for those who put Him to death. We have walked the Lenten pathway these forty days, each of us invited through baptism to "let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus." We experience this holy week accompanying Jesus to the cross with both grief and thanksgiving in our hearts, trusting in God's redeeming love.

AM: ANNOUNCEMENTS

Good Friday worship service is tomorrow at 5:00.

This quarter Outreach is collecting protein or granola bars and body wash for MilVet.

For April, we are collecting pasta and sauce, grocery bags, and empty egg cartons.

You will find more information about what's happening at Faith in the Narthex.

GATHERING

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

AM: PLEASE TURN TO HYMN 347

Please stand as you are willing and able.

GATHERING HYMN: *Go to Dark Gethsemane* (ELW 347, vs. 1-3)

Public Domain; Sources: Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854; Music: Richard Redhead, 1820–1901

GREETING

P: 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.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Friends in Christ, in this Lenten season we have heard our Lord's call to struggle against sin, death, and the devil—all that keeps us from loving God and each other. This is the struggle to which we were called at baptism.

Within the community of the church, God never wearies of forgiving sin and giving the peace of reconciliation. On this night let us confess our sin against God and our neighbor, and enter the celebration of the great Three Days reconciled with God and with 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.

P: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ✝ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

Holy God, source of all love, on the night of his betrayal, Jesus gave us a new commandment, to love one another as he loves us. Write this commandment in our hearts, and give us the will to serve others as he was the servant of all, 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

WORD

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

FIRST LESSON INTRODUCTION

Both Israel's liberation from bondage in Egypt and Jesus' journey to the cross begin with a meal—a startlingly simple meal deeply concerned that all could participate. Provision is even made for the poor and for smaller households, which are

commanded to join with one's neighbor and share the sacrifice (verse 12). So, too, at Christ's table all are welcome.

This liturgy concludes with these words: "This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD; throughout your generations, you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance." Passover, then, is more than mere past event. It is a participatory event for the worshiping community throughout the ages, remembering and celebrating how God continues to work liberation. Still to this day, in Jewish liturgy of the Passover, they remember and celebrate that "God brought us out of Egypt."

LECTOR: FIRST READING: Exodus 12:1-4, 11-14

¹The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: ²This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. ³Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. ⁴If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. ¹¹This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of the LORD. ¹²For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the LORD. ¹³The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt. ¹⁴This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM INTRODUCTION

At first glance, a psalm of thanksgiving may seem like an ill-suited choice for Maundy Thursday. How does the victorious and celebratory tone of thanksgiving fit into our commemoration of those final tender moments of Jesus with his disciples before his death—the last supper together, the identification of Jesus' betrayer, Jesus washing of the disciples' feet? We would do well to make space for thanksgiving. For in the shadow of the cross, on the night before his death, Jesus shared the bread and the

cup with his disciples, interpreting his imminent suffering and death not as an end but as a beginning, not as a tragedy but as a victory, not as a time for sorrow but as a time for *eucharistia*, “thanksgiving.” Among other things, then, today is a time for giving thanks, joining our voices with the psalmist in gratitude for God’s mercy toward us in bringing about our salvation and restoring us to life.

LECTOR: PSALMODY: Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19

¹ I love the Lord because he has heard my voice and my supplications.

² **Because he inclined his ear to me, therefore I will call on him as long as I live.**

¹² What shall I return to the Lord for all his bounty to me?

¹³ **I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord;**

¹⁴ I will pay my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people.

¹⁵ **Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his faithful ones.**

¹⁶ O Lord, I am your servant; I am your servant, the child of your serving girl. You have loosed my bonds.

¹⁷ **I will offer to you a thanksgiving sacrifice and call on the name of the Lord.**

¹⁸ I will pay my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people,

¹⁹ **in the courts of the house of the Lord, in your midst, O Jerusalem. Praise the Lord!**

Amen.

SECOND LESSON INTRODUCTION

The main problem the Apostle Paul seeks to correct in his first letter to the Corinthian congregation is their divisiveness. Paul criticizes the Corinthians for coming “together as a church” only to exhibit the divisions present in their gatherings (1 Corinthians 11:18). But what really irks Paul is that divisions would be present even during the celebration of the Lord’s Supper, which was meant to be a unifying commemoration of the body of Christ. As a remedy to their divisions, Paul briefly outlines the tradition of the Lord’s Supper, highlighting its meaning in three main orientations: past, present, and future.

LECTOR: SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

²³ For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, ²⁴ and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, “This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

²⁵ In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” ²⁶For

as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL INTRODUCTION

Jesus performs the highly symbolic action of washing his disciples' feet to prepare them for his farewell and departure, ensuring they understand the significance of his mission of love and can practice it in his absence. Jesus sets an example of service, teaching his disciples not only through words but through his actions.

Peter does not understand Jesus' service of washing feet and initially refuses it. Jesus replies, "You do not know what I am doing, but later you will understand" (13:7). This response indicates that the act is not merely a ritual or a one-time event but a symbolic gesture connected to loving the world, even to the point of risking one's life. Peter will only fully grasp the meaning of this love and service after Jesus departs.

Peter subsequently requests that Jesus wash his hands and head in addition to his feet, symbolizing the entire person.

L: Please stand for the gospel

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 151)

Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

P: GOSPEL: John 13:1-17, 31b-35

The holy gospel according to John, the 13th chapter, beginning at the first verse.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. ²The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper ³Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, ⁴got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. ⁵Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him. ⁶He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" ⁷Jesus answered,

“You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand.”⁸ Peter said to him, “You will never wash my feet.” Jesus answered, “Unless I wash you, you have no share with me.”⁹ Simon Peter said to him, “Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!”¹⁰ Jesus said to him, “One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you.”¹¹ For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, “Not all of you are clean.”¹² After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, “Do you know what I have done to you?”¹³ You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am.¹⁴ So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet.¹⁵ For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you.¹⁶ Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them.¹⁷ If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.”^{31b} “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 BY PR. KEN PUCCIO

AM: PLEASE TURN TO HYMN 335

Please stand as you are willing and able.

HYMN OF THE DAY: *Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross* (ELW 335)

Public Domain; Sources: Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915; Music: William H. Doane, 1832–1915

P: PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

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

MUSICAL OFFERING: *You Are Holy* (ELW 525)

OneLicense Song #00877; Text and music © 1990 Ton Vis Produktion AB, administered by Augsburg Fortress in North America, South America, and Central America, including the Caribbean; Sources: Text: Per Harling, b. 1948; Music: Per Harling; OneLicense #M-402221

THE MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

GREAT THANKSGIVING DIALOGUE

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.

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, whose suffering and death gave salvation to all. You gather your people around the tree of the cross, transforming death into life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

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.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth. Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood. Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea. Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey. Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one. Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ. Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

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.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

Come, Holy Spirit.

With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

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

We invite all baptized Christians, believing that Christ is truly present in this meal through the power of the Holy Spirit to come forward and be renewed in the covenant of their baptism. Gather at the altar rail. If you wish to receive a blessing, please cross your arms over your chest. You may choose from red wine or white

grape juice. A gluten-free option is available upon request. 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.

Please deposit empty cups in the provided baskets on your way back to your seat.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

DURING DISTRIBUTION: *Come to the Table*

CCLI Song # 7036352 Ben Glover | Ben McDonald | Dave Frey; © 9t One Songs; Ariose Music; Mike Curb Music; Pencil Prophet Publishing; Run Run Milo; For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. CCLI License # 111573116; Streaming License 22384499A

Let Us Break Bread Together (ELW 471)

Public Domain. Text: African American spiritual Music: African American spiritual

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

OL song #00891 Text and music © 1984 Les Presses de Taizé, admin. GIA Publications Inc., agent. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission. OneLicense License Number M-402221

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Let us pray. Lord Jesus, in a wonderful sacrament you strengthen us with the saving power of your suffering, death, and resurrection. May this sacrament of your body and blood so work in us that the fruits of your redemption will show forth in the way we live, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

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.

AM: Please stand as you are willing and able.

SENDING HYMN: *In the Garden* (by Alan Jackson)

For use solely with the SongSelect® [Terms of Use](#). All rights reserved; CCLI License # 11573116 – Streaming License: 22384499 Size A

DISMISSAL

AM: Go in service, imitating Jesus' humility.

C: *Thanks be to God. We rejoice in the gift of the Sacrament of Holy Communion.*

THIS WEEK AT FAITH

Friday, the 3rd: Al-Anon meets at 10:30; Good Friday worship begins at 5:00

Saturday, the 4th: Donation drop off is from 9:00-12:00; Blanket Brigade meets from 10:00-12:00.

Sunday, the 5th: Easter Sunday Worship begins at 9:30 with Pr. Ken Puccio.

THOSE WHO SERVED TODAY:

ASSISTING MINISTER: Joanne

LECTOR: Candy

COMMUNION SERVER: Diane S.

POWER POINT: Mike

USHER: Annie

ATTENDANCE: Judy Ad.

GREETER: Jean

ALTAR GUILD: Mars and Jean

SOUND: Mars

LIVE STREAM: Madeline

To give directly to Faith Lutheran Church electronically, you may use one of the below QR codes.

NO FEES
to Faith Lutheran



Zelle
ficfinance1518@gmail.com



*This is my body
that is
for you*

1 CORINTHIANS 11:24

