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, November 23, 2025 * Christ the King Sunday

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

Jeremiah's promise of the execution of "justice and righteousness in the land" finds ironic fulfillment in the execution of Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews. It appears utterly contradictory that a king should be crucified with a criminal. This victory appears for all the world as humiliating defeat. Yet through the gate of death Jesus opens the door to paradise.

GOSPEL MESSAGE: The Servant King

Many congregations will sing a hymn this Sunday that declares, "Crown him the Lord of life, who triumphed o'er the grave and rose victorious in the strife for those he came to save" (ELW 855). This is an image of a conquering hero who fought Satan and won. Hail to the king! But that is not the king we are presented with in today's gospel reading. Jesus is a broken, rejected man hanging naked in public shame, dying for a capital offense, sandwiched between two criminals.

Many people struggle to think of Jesus as king because of the negative actions of historical kings. Kings have too often been men wielding power for their own gain, sitting on thrones upheld by patriarchy and wealth. Furthering this negative image are colonialism and the kings who issued decrees to ravage and control people in their native land. Neither is this the image of Christ the king in today's reading.

At Gonzaga University (Spokane, Washington), a focus on servant leadership is offered as a concentration in the master's program in organizational leadership. Its focuses are forgiveness and restorative justice, listening and discerning, community-building, foresight and strategy, and transformational thinking. Doesn't that sound a lot more like the leadership of Jesus?

Perhaps we are reminded of the hard parts of Jesus' journey to draw our attention to his purpose and the focus of his teachings. He wasn't a conqueror, and he didn't wield power for his own gain. He hung naked on the cross to be the ultimate servant leader. We claim Jesus as our king because of his servant leadership—his focus on forgiveness and restoration, building community, and thinking in transformational ways. Hail the servant king!

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 and the Holy Spirit uplifts and inspires us. A special welcome to those joining us on line, to those of you who are here for the first time, and to our guest pastor, Shane Freiberg. On this Christ the King Sunday, praise and thanksgiving fill our hearts – praise to our ever-present loving God, and thanks for the abundant blessings with which God showers us. In the absence of a permanent pastor, the diligence of our Call Committee, and the enthusiasm in all of our ministry areas continue. We are always looking for new and effective ways to share the message of Jesus' love with each other and with our neighbors near and far. Come, share your thoughts, ideas and gifts. Everyone is always welcome!

AM: ANNOUNCEMENTS

The altar flowers were provided by Diane Swarts in thankfulness for this blessed community.

Flyers for the Free Holiday Family Photo event are available in the Narthex for you to share with all your friends and families. Sign up in the Narthex for your turn!

This quarter (October - December) Outreach is collecting the following items for MilVet: Chewing gum (individually wrapped packs) and beef sticks (individually wrapped). The items will be used in monthly boxes sent to deployed military. The donation box is in the Narthex.

Join us on Saturday, Nov. 29th for a "Friendsgiving Potluck & Speed Friending" event for seniors 55+! Flyers and a sign-up sheet are in the Narthex!

For November, we are collecting stuffing and mashed potatoes, grocery bags, and empty egg cartons. Please place donations in the wire basket in the foyer.

On Saturday, Dec. 7th at 3:00, we will be treated to a Big Band Christmas Concert right here at Faith! Bring your friends, family and neighbors! The concert, hosted by the Ackleys, is a fundraiser for the Faith Lutheran Youth Summer Camp fund. There is no cost for the concert, but a free will offering of \$10 per person would be appreciated!

Tea's the Season! The Women of the ELCA Christmas event is Saturday, Dec 13 from 2-4pm. Pick up a flyer as you leave today and sign up in the Narthex. Plan to attend and let's have a wonderful time of fellowship!

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 408

Please stand as you are willing and able.

GATHERING SONG: Come, Thou Almighty King (ELW 408)

With Pr. Ken on guitar

Public Domain; Sources: Text: source unknown, c. 1757, alt.; Text: source unknown, c. 1757, alt.; Music: Felice de Giardini, 1716-1796

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, our true life, to serve you is freedom, and to know you is unending joy. We worship you, we glorify you, we give thanks to you for your great glory. Abide with us, reign in us, and make this world into a fit habitation for your divine majesty, 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.

FIRST LESSON INTRODUCTION

The shepherd is a standard Old Testament symbol for the king of Israel. After condemning Israel's leaders for failing to provide care for God's flock, this prophecy promises a monarch who will return Israelites from foreign lands and rule them in prosperity, security and peace.

If you have found yourself lamenting your choice in national leaders, rest assured that you join a long tradition of such lament. For example, Jeremiah 23:1-6, is set within the larger pericope of chapters 21-23, which focus on the fall of Jerusalem

to the Babylonians in 587 BCE. In particular, these three chapters emphasize that the various institutional and national leaders of the time -- especially the kings, the priests, and the prophets -- failed the people of Judah during a time of catastrophic national crisis.

LECTOR: FIRST READING: Jeremiah 23:1-6

¹ Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the LORD. ² Therefore thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the LORD. ³ Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. ⁴ I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall no longer fear or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the LORD. ⁵ The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ⁶ In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM INTRODUCTION:

"We sing this psalm to the praise of God, because He is with us and powerfully and miraculously preserves and defends His church and His word against all fanatical spirits, against the gates of hell, against the implacable hatred of the devil, and against all the assaults of the world, the flesh, and sin."

(Martin Luther, A Manual of the Book of Psalms, or, The Subject-Contents of All the Psalms; now first translated into English by Henry Cole (London: R.B. Seeley & English W. Burnside, 1837), 132.

LECTOR: PSALMODY: Psalm 46

¹ God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

²Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved, and though the mountains shake in the depths of the sea;

- ³ though its waters rage and foam, and though the mountains tremble with its tumult.
- ⁴ There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High.
- ⁵ God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be shaken; God shall help it at the break of day.
- ⁶ The nations rage, and the kingdoms shake; God speaks, and the earth melts away.
- ⁷ The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.
- ⁸ Come now, regard the works of the LORD, what desolations God has brought upon the earth;
- ⁹ behold the one who makes war to cease in all the world; who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the shields with fire.
- ¹⁰ "Be still, then, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth."
- ¹¹ The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

Amen.

SECOND LESSON INTRODUCTION

Few passages in the New Testament letters reach the majestic heights of this one. It is at once a joyous affirmation of what Jesus Christ has done for us and a vivid statement of the fundamental belief on which our faith stands: Jesus is the divine Savior who died and rose again for us. The passage also declares the firm conviction that Jesus is the final and full revelation of God's love and purpose for all of creation.

LECTOR: SECOND READING: Colossians 1:11-20

¹¹ May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, so that you may have all endurance and patience, joyfully ¹² giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. ¹³ He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. ¹⁵ He 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.

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

How appropriate to end the Christian year with the story of Jesus' promise of eternal life to the repentant thief dying beside him. The sovereign Lord of all creation has compassion for every sinner. The reign of Christ, the King of Love, is for all who choose to be his subjects.

P: GOSPEL: Luke 23:33-43

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

³³ When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. ³⁴ [[Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."]] And they cast lots to divide his clothing. ³⁵ And the people stood by watching, but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!" ³⁶ The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine ³⁷ and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" ³⁸ There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews." ³⁹ One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" ⁴⁰ But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? ⁴¹ And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." ⁴² Then he said,

"Jesus, remember me when you come in your kingdom." 43 He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

AM: PLEASE TURN TO HYMN 855

Please stand as you are willing and able.

HYMN OF THE DAY: Crown Him with Many Crowns (ELW 855, vs. 1, 2, 5)

Public Domain; Sources: Text: Matthew Bridges, 1800-1894, sts. 1-3, 5; Godfrey Thring, 1823-1903, st. 4; Music: George J. Elvey, 1816-1893

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

Gathered with one voice, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

We pray for the church in the world, its leaders, and its mission to share the good news of healing and restoration. Inspire us to embody the beloved community in ways that faithfully witness to the Holy Spirit. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for the trembling mountains and glad streams of creation. Preserve and renew your coastlines, deep seas, forests, and grasslands. Guide all who tend flocks or care for creatures of all kinds. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for leaders and advocates in government, civic life, and public safety. Support equity across the globe, and heal division with accountability and truth. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for any who are hungry, living in poverty or desperation, weary in body or spirit, or sick, especially Briana; Ian Berger; Arnette Calkins; Sandy Chandler; Vicki Crow; Eleanor Diaz; Doris Hays; Randy Hulme; Sarge Hunter; Eileen Johnson; Mike Latchford; Don Little; Donna McCain; Sandra Miller; Carol Morris; Michael Myers; Esther Neumen; Dick Olsen; Nancy Randolph and family; Marilyn Rieti; Amy Sinclair; Joyce Stromberg; Kiki Thomas; Nicholas Thomas; Earlean Wagner; Diana Ward; the homebound; the emergency responders; the San Bernardino Community Wellness Campus; and those grieving and anticipating surgery or tests. At this time, we also pray for those we name aloud or silently in our hearts. Comfort all in need of your tender care. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for this part of the body of Christ gathered around word and sacrament. Bring us into authentic community where all ages are valued and experience God's faithfulness together. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We give thanks for all who have died in faith. May we remember them faithfully until we are gathered with you in the paradise you promise. 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.

We offer these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your grace and unyielding love; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

P: PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

P: OFFERING

This week's Ministry Highlight features the Worship & Music Ministry. This covers a wide array of services that are necessary for Worship to take place smoothly. Many people are needed each Sunday, and at other worship opportunities - to read scriptures, provide technical support, greet and guide congregants throughout the services, etc. Many people work behind the scenes to ready the altar and sanctuary for worship. Music enhances the worship time. Please continue to support these acts of service by volunteering your time, your talents, your treasures and your prayers so that Worship may continue to be meaningful for all of us.

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

MUSICAL OFFERING: Majesty (sung by Jack Hayford)

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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.

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 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: 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.

The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

Amen.

P: PLEASE TURN TO HYMN 638

Please stand as you are willing and able.

SENDING SONG: Blessed Assurance (ELW 638)

With Pr. Ken on guitar

Public Domain; Sources: Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820-1915; Music: Phoebe P. Knapp, 1830-1908

AM: INVITATION

We would like to invite guests and visitors to come and meet us in the narthex as you exit so that our council members can welcome you, and you can join us in the Fellowship Hall for cookies, coffee and conversation.

AM: DISMISSAL

AM: Go in Peace, Serve the Lord in Love.

C: Thanks be to God for his Mercy!

THIS WEEK AT FAITH

Monday, the 24th: Council meets at 1:00

Thursday, the 27th: Thanksgiving Day

Friday, the 28th: Al-Anon meets at 10:30

Saturday, the 29th: Friendsgiving Potluck for 55+ begins at 3:00

Sunday, the 30th: First Sunday of Advent and Worship begins at 9:30 with Pr.

Shane

THOSE WHO SERVED TODAY: ASSISTING MINISTER: Joanne

LECTOR: Bill

COMMUNION SERVER: Diane S.

POWER POINT: Mike

USHER: Becky

ATTENDANCE: Pat O.

GREETER: Walli

ALTAR GUILD: Marlene and Debbie

SOUND: Mars

LIVE STREAM: Madeline

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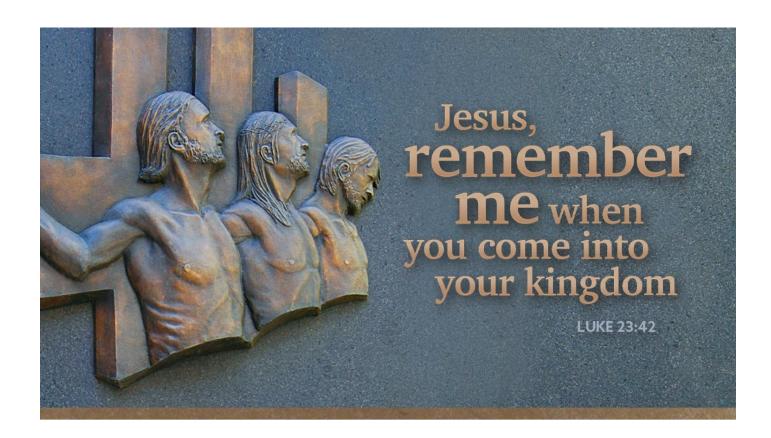












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