

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, June 1, 2025* Seventh 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. 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

It is possible to hear in Jesus' high priestly prayer, a prayer he offered shortly before his death, the petitions of the ascended Christ for his own throughout history—to our day—and beyond. Jesus prays for us. In holy baptism we become believers in God, have our robes washed in the flood of Christ's forgiveness, and receive the gift of life forever with all the saints.

GOSPEL MESSAGE: To Know God

After her very first day of Sunday school, a little girl went up to her father, looked him directly in the eyes, and said, "I love you, Daddy, because God loved me first." She then declared boldly, "First Jesus, four nineteen!" It took only a few seconds for her father to realize that her Sunday school lesson for the day was based on 1 John 4:19, which says, "We love because he first loved us." Amazing, that already on her first day of Sunday school this child of God had learned that love comes first from Jesus and then is to be shared.

Once we understand the principle that we love because God loves us first, it is not difficult to reach other related conclusions. We forgive because God has already forgiven us. We bless because God has already blessed us. We walk with others because God walks with us. These are bold statements of union with God. Jesus, in today's gospel reading, is not afraid to say that he and God are one. And more than this, God's intent is that each of us is to be one with God as well. To know God is to know love. To know God *is* to know forgiveness. To know God *is* to know blessing.

What happens when we approach the altar on Sunday and receive the sacrament? When we receive the bread and wine, we take in Jesus. In taking in Jesus, we become everything that Jesus is. This is truly, albeit mysteriously, an embodied reality of union with God. What a gift!

It has always been God's desire to be reconciled with us—for us to be in a relationship of peace and wholeness through Jesus and to live the life of the Spirit by clearly sharing with others everything we have come to know about the One who created us. In sharing love with others, we then live a life that says "thank you" to God.

Please stand for the Processional

PROCESSIONAL: *Lift High the Cross* (ELW 660)

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. Rex Wignall.

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

Be sure to join us in the Fellowship Hall immediately following today's service for the Unbirthday celebration! Today is everyone's birthday!

The altar flowers were provided by the Ehrigs wishing blessings for all kids out of school and a safe summer for all.

Next Sunday is Pentecost, so be sure to wear red!

For the month of June, we are collecting hearty soups for the Cupboard. Last month we collected 74 packages of pasta.

Tickets for the WELCA Luncheon Fundraiser on June 21 are now on sale in the Narthex.

Christmas in July is here! Our patriotic giving tree is up in the Narthex through July 4th. Choose which kind of gift card from the tree you'd like to donate.

For more information and a complete monthly calendar, contact the church office.

REPORT FROM SYNOD ASSEMBLY: Kandie Hulme, Kathy Kent, Pr. Ken Puccio

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 384

Please stand as you are willing and able.

GATHERING SONG: *That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright* (ELW 384, vs. 1, 4)

Public Domain: Text: Latin hymn, 5th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.; Music: European tune, adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621

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, form the minds of your faithful people into your one will. Make us love what you command and desire what you promise, that, amid all the changes of this world, our hearts may be fixed where true joy is found, your Son, Jesus Christ our 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 1:1-11

[Luke writes:] ¹ In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning ² until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³ After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. ⁴ While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; ⁵ for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." ⁶ So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷ He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." ⁹ When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰ While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹ They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you

stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

AM: PSALMODY: Psalm 47

¹ Clap your hands, all you peoples; shout to God with a joyful sound.

² **For the LORD Most High is to be feared: a great king over all the earth,**

³ who subdues the peoples under us, and the nations under our feet;

⁴ **who chooses our inheritance for us, the pride of Jacob, whom God loves.**

⁵ God has gone up with a shout, the LORD with the sound of the ram’s horn.

⁶ **Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our king, sing praises.**

⁷ For God is king of all the earth; sing praises with a song.

⁸ **God reigns over the nations; God is enthroned on high.**

⁹ The nobles of the peoples have gathered as the people of the God of Abraham.

The rulers of the earth belong to God, who is highly exalted.

Amen.

LECTOR: SECOND READING: Ephesians 1:20-23

²⁰ God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹ far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. ²² And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, ²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

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: Luke 24:36-53

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

³⁶While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." ³⁷They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. ³⁸He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? ³⁹Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." ⁴⁰And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. ⁴¹While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" ⁴²They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³and he took it and ate in their presence. ⁴⁴Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you — that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." ⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high." ⁵⁰Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. ⁵¹While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵²And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; ⁵³and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON: "Words of Assurance" by Pr. Rex Wignall

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, 3, 5)

Public Domain. 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

God of resurrection and new life, we come before you in prayer for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

Welcoming God, you invite all people to come and encounter your love. Give your church open hearts and minds to embrace all who seek your presence. Increase the capacity for cooperation between denominations and congregations. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Creating God, your might is seen in storms and in silence. Where drought threatens, bring rain. Where waters flood, ease them back. Where fire, earthquake, hurricane, or tornado destroy, shelter your people and restore your land. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Discerning God, fill the hearts of leaders with your passion for justice and mercy. Call the nations of this world to tables of peace and collaboration. Encourage governments to seek avenues of collective benefit and joy. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Abiding God, all people are held in your care. Accompany survivors of abuse, trauma, and exploitation. Strengthen our resolve to listen and advocate on behalf of all who are unnoticed. Hear our prayers for those close to our heart, especially Monte Anderson; 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.

Rejoicing God, be with this congregation as summer begins in the northern hemisphere. Keep travelers safe. Keep the vulnerable cool. Invigorate summer ministry efforts in our community, and support the well-being of children and young people. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Loving God, the beginning and the end, you are with us throughout our lives. In gratitude for the saints who have died, we look toward your coming again among us. 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 628

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

MUSICAL OFFERING: *Jerusalem, My Happy Home* (ELW 628, vs. 1, 5)

Public Domain: Sources: Text: F.B.P., 16th Century; Music: North American traditional; arr. Hymnal version; Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress

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

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

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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 638

Please stand as you are willing and able.

SENDING SONG: *Blessed Assurance* (sung by Alan Jackson)

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

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.

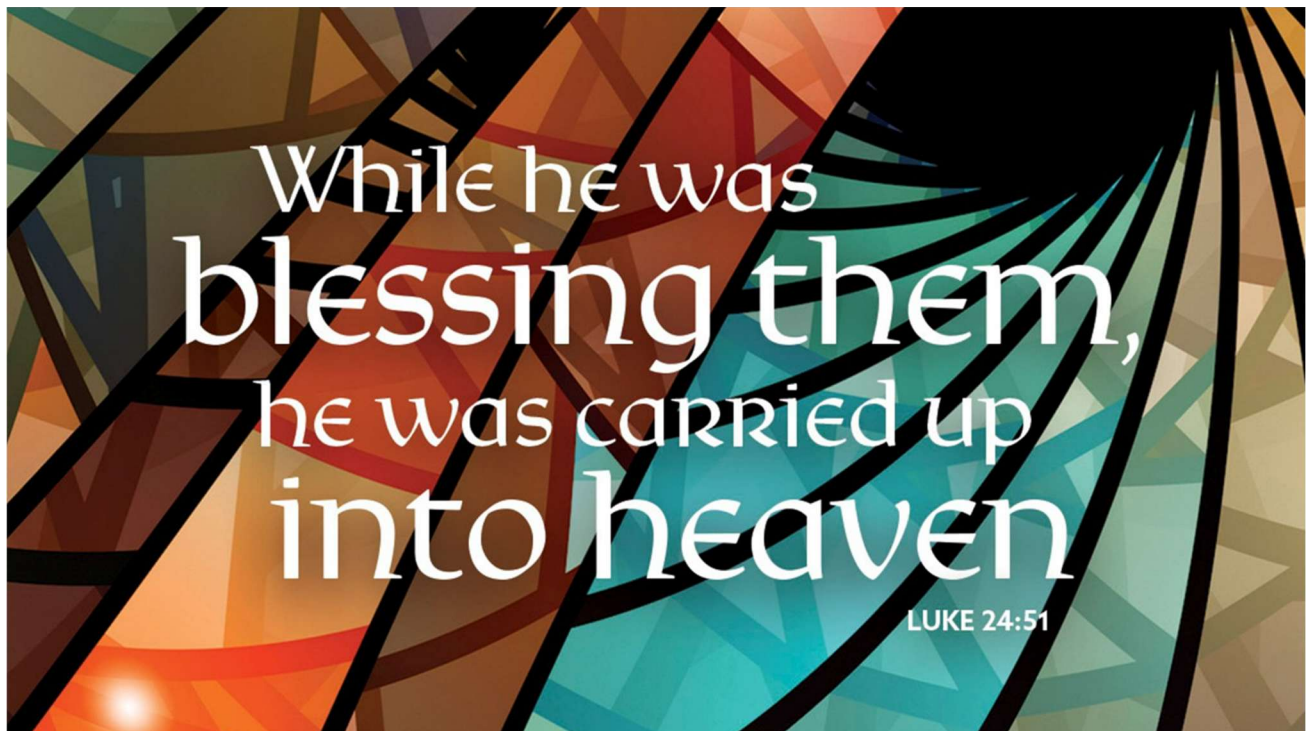
THIS WEEK AT FAITH

Tuesday, the 3rd: Worship & Music meets at 10:00

Thursday, the 5th: Snip 'N Stitch meets at 9:00; The Transition Team meets at 1:00

Friday, the 6th: Al-Anon meets at 10:30

Sunday, the 8th: Worship begins at 9:30 with Pr. Shane. Wear red for Pentecost!



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