

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. Rex Wignall

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

Worship Plan for Sunday, July 5th, 2026 * 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 during the regular school year.

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

The mystery of God's ways is sometimes hidden from the wise and intelligent. The prophet describes an everlasting realm that contrasts with earthly nations, one marked by peace, humility, and freedom. Jesus associates with those excluded from the religious community. Like Paul, we struggle with selfish desires; we lament flawed systems; and we seek God's mercy and forgiveness. We gather around word, water, and meal by Christ's invitation: "Come to me, all you that are weary." Here we find rest for our souls and hope for life in beloved community.

Please stand for the Processional

PROCESSIONAL *Come, All You People: Uyaimose* (ELW 819)

OneLicense Song #24425 Text: Alexander Gondo; tr. I-to Loh, b. 1936, alt. Text © 1986 World Council of Churches, Geneva, Switzerland, and the Asian Institute of Liturgy & Music, notation and English paraphrase by I-to Loh. OneLicense #M-402221.

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. Rex Wignall. 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 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 Diane Molina.

As you or may not have heard, Esther Neumen passed away this last week. There will be a luncheon at Faith to celebrate her life on Monday, July 20th at 1:30.

Join the Blanket Brigade! Beginning today you can check out a fleece blanket to take home and knot at home as you have time. See Candy Pellechio.

Learn about Jesus as recorded in the Gospel of John during Pr. Ken's Zoom Bible Study this Thursday at 7:00. Attendance at prior classes is not necessary. Contact Pastor Ken (hopegiver@aol.com) or at 951/775-2778 for log in information.

God's Work Our Hands is coming up...September 13th! Your Outreach Team has chosen the San Bernardino Community Wellness Campus (men's shelter) to be the recipient of our church day of service. Please look in the Narthex for information on items needed, etc.

For July, we are collecting small jars of peanut butter, grocery bags, and empty egg cartons for the Community Cupboard.

ONGOING ANNOUNCEMENTS

This quarter Outreach is collecting beef sticks, beef jerky and body wash/shower gel (any size) for MilVet.

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

SILENCE

AM: 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 891

Please stand as you are willing and able.

GATHERING SONG: *God Bless Our Native Land* (ELW 891)

With Pr. Ken on guitar

Public Domain; Sources: Text: Charles T. Brooks, 1812-1883; John S. Dwight, 1813-1893; Music: *Thesaurus Musicus*, London, 1744

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.

You are great, O God, and greatly to be praised. You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you. Grant that we may believe in you, call upon you, know you, and serve you, through your Son, 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

Christians readily recognize this passage as the model for Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Matthew actually quoted part of it in his record of that event.

Undoubtedly, it originated as a hopeful prophetic oracle with messianic implications based on Israel's sacred covenant.

The first part of the chapter from which this reading has been separated refers to many of Israel's neighboring city states which are under threat of invasion or already captured from an overwhelming military power. This brief passage and subsequent verses defend Jerusalem as having Yahweh's protection. Ultimately Yahweh will triumph as earlier prophets like Amos, Isaiah and Ezekiel prophesied.

LECTOR: FIRST READING: Zechariah 9:9-12

⁹ Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. ¹⁰ He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the war horse from Jerusalem; and the battle bow shall be cut off, and he shall command peace to the nations; his dominion shall be from sea to sea and from the River to the ends of the earth. ¹¹ As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you, I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit. ¹² Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope; today I declare that I will restore to you double.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM INTRODUCTION

The psalm is a hymn, intended as a song to represent the inner life of all the king's subjects and so of all the faithful on the characteristics of the God of Israel. God's steadfast love and mercy is extolled, along with his goodness and his mercies over all his works.

LECTOR: PSALMODY: Psalm 145:8-14

⁸ The LORD is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

⁹ **LORD, you are good to all, and your compassion is over all your works.**

¹⁰ All your works shall praise you, O LORD, and your faithful ones shall bless you.

¹¹ **They shall tell of the glory of your kingdom and speak of your power,**

¹² that all people may know of your power and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

¹³ **Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom; your dominion endures throughout all ages. You, LORD, are faithful in all your words, and loving in all your works.**

¹⁴ The Lord upholds all those who fall and lifts up those who are bowed down.
Amen.

SECOND LESSON INTRODUCTION

Does anyone not feel the depth of moral conflict Paul described in this passage? He didn't put it in modern psycho-babble such as we might use; but he made perfectly plain how intense the conscious struggle of the will becomes when we face temptation, or unconsciously when we just want our own way. He made equally plain the only true resource for freedom from the guilt of our failure to resist temptation- the grace of forgiveness through Jesus Christ.

Like the life-long struggle of the person with an addictive personality, we are forever just one step away from failure. We need to walk with Christ in us every day, every moment. Only then can we live with serenity and hope.

LECTOR: SECOND READING: Romans 7:15-25a

¹⁵ I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. ¹⁶ Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. ¹⁷ But in fact it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me. ¹⁸ For I know that the good does not dwell within me, that is, in my flesh. For the desire to do the good lies close at hand, but not the ability. ¹⁹ For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. ²⁰ Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me. ²¹ So I find it to be a law that, when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. ²² For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, ²³ but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. ²⁴ Wretched person that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? ^{25a} Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

L: 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

Normally, Lutherans (and Methodists) follow the Lectionary scriptures for the day. Very often, those readings address issues and themes that are timely and relevant. However, the assigned Gospel reading from Matthew 11 does not address anything about the freedom and independence we are celebrating this weekend.

Matthew 5:13-16 addresses our calling as Christians, not just today, but over our entire 250-year national history. Jesus calls us to be the Salt and the Light to those around us. For many centuries Salt was used to preserve food from decay. We speak of steady, reliable people as “the salt of the earth.” Jesus warns us not to lose our essence as believers. Jesus asks “But what good is salt if it has lost its flavor. Can you make it useful again?” (New Living Translation)

Jesus also calls us to be “the light of a world” and to let that light “shine for all to see.” In case you’ve forgotten, you are part of the EVANGELICAL Lutheran Church, and you are called to share your faith around you. (The same goes for the Methodists.)

Thinking about what you have witnessed and experienced in America over the years, are you Salt and Light to those around you?

P: GOSPEL: Matthew 5:13-16

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹³ “You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything but is thrown out and trampled under foot. ¹⁴ “You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid.

¹⁵ People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON: “Our 250-Year Mission” by Pr. Rex Wignall

AM: PLEASE TURN TO HYMN

Please stand as you are willing and able.

HYMN OF THE DAY: *Once to Every Man and Nation* (sung by Fountainview Academy Orchestra & Singers)

OneLicense Song #51055; by James Russell Lowell & Lee Ljelson; Fountainview Academy Orchestra & Singers • God so Loved the World - Fall • 2018; OneLicense # M-402221

AM: APOSTLES' CREED

We continue as we confess our faith using the words of the Apostles' 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.

AM: Please be seated for the Prayers of Intercession

PASTOR AND ASSISTING MINISTER: PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Trusting in God's steadfast love for all God has made, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

Gathering God, send your Spirit on the church you have called out from every nation. Knit us together into one body and heal the divisions we have caused. Overcome our timidity to witness and act in the public square when your purpose is being thwarted. Bless rostered and lay leaders with clarity and courage as they center your people in the gospel. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

All your works praise you, O God. From the Arctic to the Caribbean, from the Atlantic to the western islands, these lands and waters have sustained its peoples over many centuries. As we take our part in creation's praise, revive our wonder at what you have fashioned, and enliven our will to ensure its health for future generations. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Holy Trinity, you show us the splendor of diversity and the beauty of unity in your own divine life. We come from many nations with many languages; make us a united people that delights in our many different gifts. As the United States of America marks its declaration of independence, give those whom we have entrusted with authority the spirit of wisdom, and curb every abuse of that trust, so that both here and abroad, justice, humility, and peace may flourish. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

You are the Mother of exiles, O God. Extend your arms to all who are tired, who live with poverty, the tempest-tossed, all who yearn to breathe free. Embrace people seeking refuge; those incarcerated, detained, or disappeared; and neighbors fearing those they once trusted. Give healing and hope to people in any oppression and need, especially Briana; Ian Berger; Mary Booth; Judy Brosz; Rich and Sandy Chandler; Vicki Crow; Eleanor Diaz; Doris Hays; Sarge Hunter; Mike Latchford; Don Little; Donna McCain; Sandra Miller; Dee Mills; Michael Myers; the family of Esther Neumen; Janet Oster; Amy Sinclair; Joyce Stromberg; Kiki Thomas; Nicholas Thomas; Diana Ward; the homebound; those in care facilities; 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. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

We remember before you those who have died in every generation: Jan Hus, executed for protesting the ecclesial system; Benedict, teacher of a prayerful life; and those who have died ensuring the freedoms of this country: people in the armed services, peace officers, advocates, and activists. Gather us, together with those who have gone before us, especially Esther Neumen, and with saints of every tribe and nation, into the holy city you have prepared. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Loving God, be with us during this time of discernment as our search for a permanent pastor continues. Fill all Ministry Leaders and Call Committee members with wisdom and patience as we continue to further the work of your kingdom. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Into your mercy, O God, we entrust our restless hearts and all our cares, through Jesus Christ, our 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. During the musical offering, the usher will bring the offering plate forward to be lifted up to the Lord.

AM: PLEASE TURN TO HYMN 887

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

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

OneLicense Song #72094; Text Sts. 1,2 © 1934, 1962, Lorenz Publishing Company. St. 3 © 1964 Lorenz Publishing Company. All rights reserved. Outside USA: Music © by Breitkopf & Härtel, Wiesbaden; OneLicense #M-402221

AM: OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

God of all creation, all you have made is good, and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious

resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting 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

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

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.

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

All of God's children are welcome to Christ's table. 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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Amen.

DURING DISTRIBUTION

Come to the Table (sung by Sidewalk Prophets)

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I am the Bread of Life (ELW 485)

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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

AM: PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection, that we may show your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

Amen.

P: BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

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

Amen.

P: PLEASE TURN TO HYMN 888

Please stand as you are willing and able.

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

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

AM: INVITATION

We would like to invite guests and visitors to come and join us in the Fellowship Hall for cookies, coffee and conversation.

AM: DISMISSAL

AM: You have been empowered for ministry.

C: Thanks be to God. We will share the good news of Jesus.

THIS WEEK AT FAITH

Tuesday, the 7th: Worship & Music meets at 10:00; WELCA Board meets at 12:30

Wednesday, the 8th: Mary Circle Bible Study begins at 10:00

Thursday, the 9th: Cheer/Eucharistic Team meets at 4:00; Pr. Ken's Zoom Bible Study begins at 7:00

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

Sunday, the 12th: Worship begins at 9:30 with Pr. Shane

If you know of someone on our prayer list who no longer needs urgent prayer, please notify the church office.

THOSE WHO SERVED TODAY:

ASSISTING MINISTER: Roderick

LECTOR: Bill

COMMUNION SERVER: Diane S.

POWER POINT: Mars

USHER: Gina

ATTENDANCE: Joanne

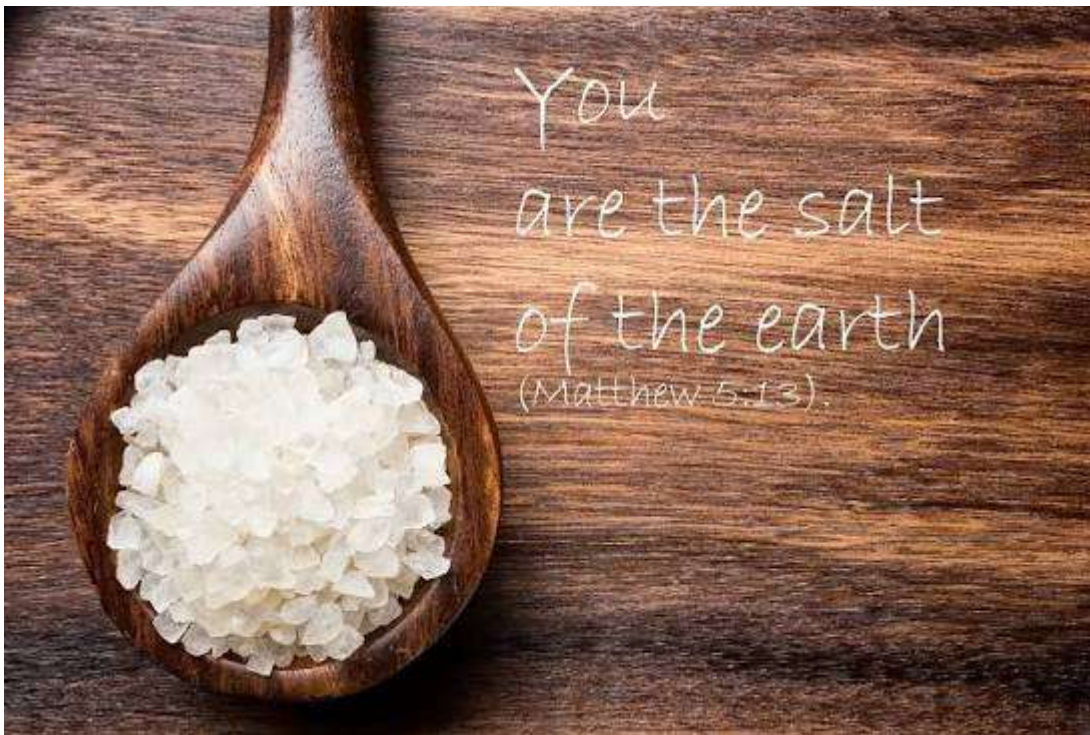
GREETER: Walli

ALTAR GUILD: Mars & Debbie

SOUND: Madeline

LIVE STREAM: Maddie

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