

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
A Congregation of the ELCA

28200 Portsmouth Drive, Sun City, CA 92586 * (951) 679-1518
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Guest Pastor: Pr. Rex Wignall

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

Worship Plan for Sunday, April 19, 2026 * Third 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: 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

Today's gospel begins with two disciples walking to Emmaus, overcome with sadness, loss, and disappointment. They had hoped Jesus, who was crucified, would be the one to redeem Israel! Yet the risen Christ walks with them and then opens their eyes in the breaking of the bread. Each Sunday our hearts burn within us as the scriptures are proclaimed and Christ appears to us as bread is broken and wine is poured. The story of Emmaus becomes the pattern of our worship each Lord's day.

GOSPEL MESSAGE: The Way of Resurrection

In some Bibles the subheading for today's gospel reading is "The Road to Emmaus." Although this is a suitable description, we could also call it "The Way to Emmaus." On the road or way to Emmaus, two disciples encounter the risen Christ. Notice that as Jesus accompanies them, he meets them where they are, holds their heartache, questions their assumptions, challenges their perspectives, and ultimately guides them deep into God's word. All this happens on the way!

Only one of the two companions on the way with Jesus is named: Cleopas. Why is the other disciple's identity a mystery? Luke may be using a clever storytelling device, one designed for readers to see themselves as part of the narrative. In that case, you may be the unnamed disciple in this Jesus story! (Aren't we all disciples on the way, accompanied by Jesus on the journey of Easter faith?)

Eventually, after Jesus blesses and breaks bread at a meal, the two disciples finally recognize him. Their hearts are kindled with faith and activated by the word of God encountered on the way with Jesus. It is no surprise that they hit the road again, racing back to Jerusalem to tell the others what just happened on the way.

From the very beginning, the way of faith in Christ has been a movement of resurrection promise. This movement has never stopped sharing the grace and love of God with everyone it encounters along the way. We are called to join this movement, with all our heartaches, assumptions, and misunderstandings. We are not people with all the answers, but sojourners or pilgrims on the way.

Please stand for the Processional

PROCESSIONAL *Lift High the Cross* (ELW 660)

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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

The altar flowers were provided by the Puccios celebrating their wedding anniversary.

The Blessing of the Animals is this Saturday beginning at 9:00! All will be blessed...pets, pet owners, pet mementos!

If you purchased an Easter lily and still haven't take it home, please do so today. If you didn't order one, but would like one, feel free to take one; the cost is \$13.00.

This quarter Outreach is collecting tuna in bags/cans, small bags of nuts (any kind) and shampoo for MilVet.

In April, we are collecting pasta and sauce, grocery bags, and empty egg cartons for the Community Cupboard.

Join us for a game at Storm Stadium this Sunday, the 26th at 2:00! Please see the flyer in the Narthex for ticket information.

The Pacifica Synod Regional Gathering will be on May 2, 2026 at Trinity Lutheran in Riverside from 10am-2pm and lunch will be provided. Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend. More information can be found in the Narthex.

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 522

Please stand as you are willing and able.

GATHERING SONG: *As We Gather at Your Table* (ELW 522)

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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, your Son makes himself known to all his disciples in the breaking of bread. Open the eyes of our faith, that we may see him in his redeeming work, 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 conclusion to Peter's sermon at Pentecost is a call for repentance and baptism, with a promise of the gift of the Holy Spirit. It had spectacular results. Thousands responded and became members of the new faith community. These astonishing events emphasized that the early church saw the resurrection as proof that Jesus was God's promised Messiah. This would appear to represent a pattern of what happened when preaching hits the mark.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

FIRST READING: Acts 2:14a, 36-41

^{14a} Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed [the crowd]: ³⁶ "Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God

has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.”³⁷ Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, “Brothers, what should we do?”³⁸ Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”³⁹ For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.”⁴⁰ And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.”⁴¹ So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM INTRODUCTION

Psalm 116 is fourth in a group of psalms known as the “Egyptian Hallel” psalms. the Egyptian Praise psalms (Psalms 113–118), are recited at the Passover meal on the eighth day of Passover. Psalms 113 and 114 are read before the meal; Psalms 115–118 are read at its conclusion, while drinking the fourth cup of celebratory wine.

Psalm 116 is classified as an Individual Hymn of Thanksgiving, in which a psalm singer praises God for goodness to or on behalf of them, usually for deliverance from some trying situation.

LECTOR: PSALMODY: Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19

¹ I love the LORD, who has heard my voice, and listened to my supplication,

² **for the LORD has given ear to me whenever I called.**

³ The cords of death entangled me; the anguish of the grave came upon me; I came to grief and sorrow.

⁴ **Then I called upon the name of the LORD: “O LORD, I pray you, save my life.”**

¹² How shall I repay the LORD for all the good things God has done for me?

¹³ **I will lift the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD.**

¹⁴ I will fulfill my vows to the LORD in the presence of all God’s people.

¹⁵ **Precious in your sight, O LORD, is the death of your servants.**

¹⁶ O LORD, truly I am your servant; I am your servant, the child of your handmaid; you have freed me from my bonds.

¹⁷ I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving and call upon the name of the LORD.

¹⁸ I will fulfill my vows to the LORD in the presence of all God's people,

¹⁹ in the courts of the LORD's house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem. Hallelujah! Amen.

SECOND LESSON INTRODUCTION

This letter may have been a manual exhorting newly baptized adults just converted from paganism. It made the point that because of Christ's death and resurrection these new believers have been set free to be everything God created them to be. They are to live the rest of their lives in reverence for God and showing love for each other. Verse 17 may contain an early reference to the Lord's Prayer.

Its sermon-like approach indicates that before being circulated to widely spread Christian communities, it began as a sermon. A more recent parallel are the sermons of John Wesley which two centuries after his death are still normative for Methodist doctrine.

LECTOR: SECOND READING: 1 Peter 1:17-23

¹⁷ If you invoke as Father the one who judges impartially according to each person's work, live in fear during the time of your exile. ¹⁸ You know that you were ransomed from the futile conduct inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. ²⁰ He was destined before the foundation of the world but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. ²¹ Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your trust and hope are in God. ²² Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual affection, love one another deeply from the heart. ²³ You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

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

The story of the two disciples who walked on the road to Emmaus that first Easter Day tells us something more about how to get to know Christ - something more about how we might recognize him – how we might encounter him. It speaks to us of how Christ walks with us on our journey - and how, in the breaking of bread he comes to be known to us.

In the Mid-East at the time of Jesus, and even to this day, to eat a meal with someone - to have a person into your house and to sit at table with them, is the greatest compliment - the greatest kindness that one can show. It is an act of profound intimacy - an act of trust - of honor - of friendship.

We recognize God, we commune with God, we fellowship with God, in the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Wouldn't you like to have heard Jesus when he interpreted all the scriptures to the two men?

P: GOSPEL: Luke 24:13-35

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹³ Now on that same day two [disciples] were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴ and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵ While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, ¹⁶ but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷ And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸ Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" ¹⁹ He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰ and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. ²¹ But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. ²² Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this

morning,²³ and when they did not find his body there they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive.²⁴ Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see him.”²⁵ Then he said to them, “Oh, how foolish you are and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared!²⁶ Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?”²⁷ Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.²⁸ As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on.²⁹ But they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.” So he went in to stay with them.³⁰ When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them.³¹ Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him, and he vanished from their sight.³² They said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?”³³ That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem, and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together.³⁴ They were saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!”³⁵ Then they told what had happened on the road and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON: "Do You know Him When You See Him?" by Pr. Rex Wignall

HYMN OF THE DAY: *Open My Eyes That I May See* (sung by Gryphon Hall)

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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

P: Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

AM: Living Savior, just as you journeyed with the disciples to Emmaus, accompany us on our journey of faith. Gather us at your table, that we recognize you in the breaking of the bread. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

AM: Almighty God, you provide for the needs of all creation. Bless the fields that are being prepared for planting, and send favorable weather so that the soil may yield an abundant harvest. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

AM: God of justice, where leaders abuse power, confront them and call them to repentance. Where there is corruption, bring integrity; where there is violence, sow peace. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

AM: Healing Savior, your resurrection brings hope to a hurting world. Heal those who are sick, especially Judy Appel; Susan Bauerle; Ian Berger; Ron Biggs; Mary Booth; Arnette Calkins; Rich and Sandy Chandler; Jeff Cook; Vicki Crow; Eleanor Diaz; Sandy Evers; Leticia Garibay; Frank Harrison IV; Doris Hays; Sarge Hunter; Donna McCain; Sandra Miller; Carol Morris; Michael Myers; Esther Neumen; Ovidio Ortega; Janet Oster; Tina Peteroski; Amy Sinclair; Shalonne Stone and family; Joyce Stromberg; Diane Swarts; 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. Strengthen the weary, give courage to the despairing, and comfort the dying. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

AM: Gracious One, you have made us your own through the gift of baptism. Unite us in genuine love for one another and uphold this community in your name. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

AM: Eternal Light, we give thanks for all who have nurtured your church's life in ages past. Bring us at last with them to the brightness of your glorious presence. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

AM: Loving God, be with us during this time of discernment as our search for a permanent pastor continues. Bless all who have taken on extra responsibility, especially the Call Committee. Fill all our leaders and members with wisdom and patience. Keep us all mindful of the work you would have us do to further the work of your kingdom. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

P: God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.
Amen.

P: PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you.

P: OFFERING

Today's Offering Highlight shines light on the generosity of time and talent for all those who have volunteered to work on the Endowment Fund Board. This Board is comprised of five members who faithfully oversee the accounts that make up the Endowment Fund. They also choose the recipients of the Scholarships that the Funds were created to help. The Board manages long-term financial gifts and the disbursement of earnings. Thanks to the generosity of earlier generations and current members, those funds have done much good throughout the years. Please see the church's website for application details so that you can encourage eligible students to apply. We are in the midst of accepting applications **right now!** Deadline is May 1.

This morning's offering, including our prayers and pledges, will now be brought forward and lifted up to God during the Musical Offering.

AM: PLEASE TURN TO HYMN 459

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

MUSICAL OFFERING: *Wade in the Water* (ELW 459)

Public Domain; Sources: Text: African American spiritual; Music: African American spiritual; Tune Name: Wade in the Water, Trouble the Water

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.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: 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, 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

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.

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: DURING DISTRIBUTION

Here Is Bread (ELW 483)

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You Are Holy (ELW 525)

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

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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 537

Please stand as you are willing and able.

SENDING SONG: *On Our Way Rejoicing* (ELW 537)

Public Domain: Sources: Text: John S. B. Monsell, 1811–1875, alt.; Music: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–1879

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: Go in celebration! Share the good news: Christ is risen!

C: He is risen indeed!

THIS WEEK AT FAITH

Tuesday, the 21st: 4 Plus 1 Group meets at 10:00; Fellowship Team meets at 2:00

Wednesday, the 22nd: Finance Team meets at 11:00

Thursday, the 23rd: Pr. Ken's Zoom Bible Study begins at 7:00

Friday, the 24th: Al-Anon meets at 10:30

Saturday, the 25th: Blessing of the Animals

Sunday, the 26th: Worship begins at 9:30 with Pr. Rex. The Storm baseball game begins at 2:00.

THOSE WHO SERVED TODAY:

ASSISTING MINISTER: Pr. Ken

LECTOR: Robert P.

COMMUNION SERVER: Debbie

POWER POINT: Bill

USHER: Annie

ATTENDANCE: Pat O.

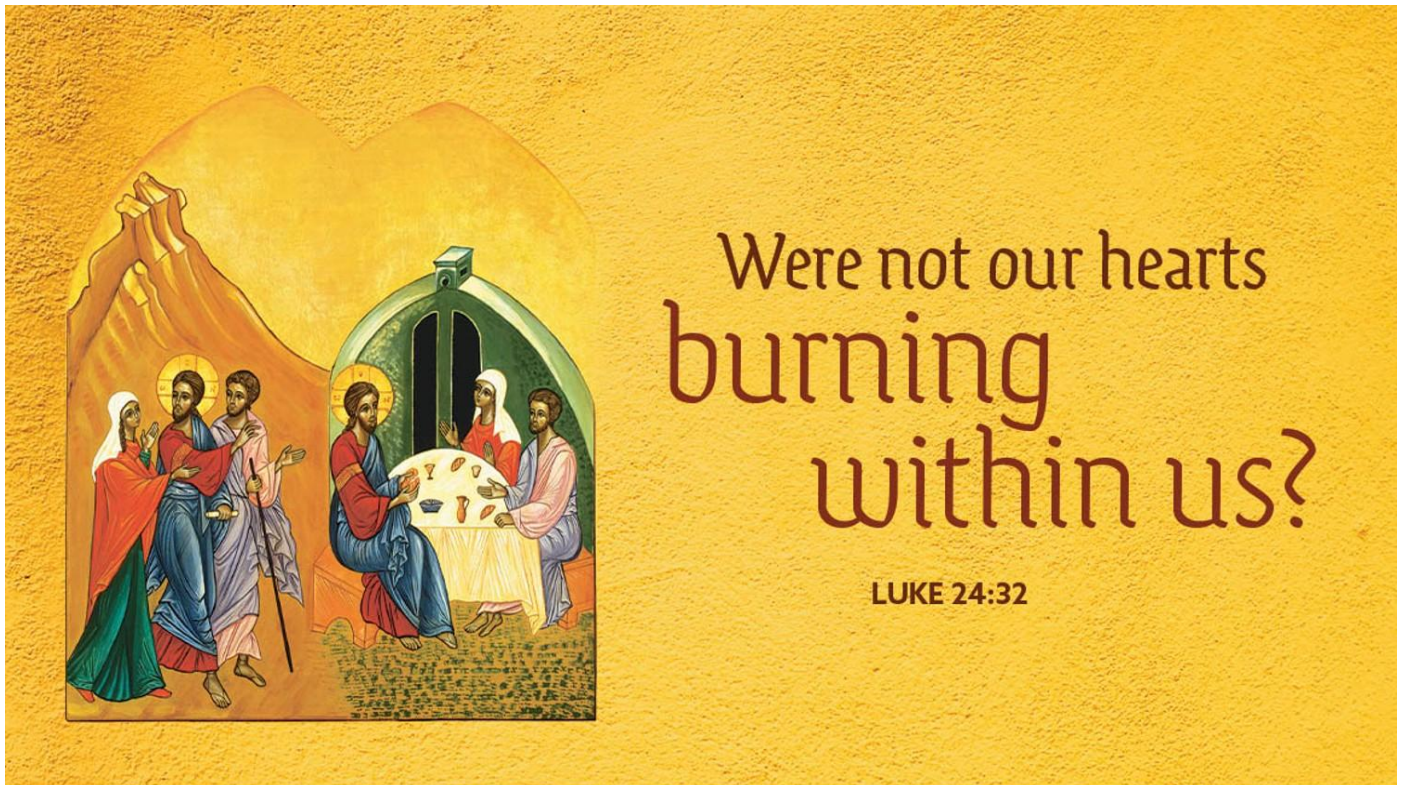
GREETER: Jean
ALTAR GUILD: Kandie and Debbie
SOUND: Candy
LIVE STREAM: Madeline

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NO FEES
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