



“LAST WORDS”

JESUS'S LAST WORDS FROM THE CROSS

First Sunday of Lent
9:30 am worship service

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH | Inviting, Growing, Serving...

Becoming fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.

February 18, 2024

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Faith is a growing faith community in the Aurora area. We're people just like you, who are hungry to know God better. We're looking for the answers to life's tough questions. We're struggling to be better parents, spouses, friends, and neighbors. We don't have all the answers but we're growing as we go.

Faith is a great place to find healing for broken hearts and broken lives. In every Sunday message you'll learn new skills and attitudes to help you live life with the kind of joy that God intends for us. You'll also meet people who are also growing in their journey through the joys and challenges of life. You'll find lots of "walking partners" for your journey here. There are no closed doors at Faith, just lots of opportunities to grow in Christ, friendship, and love.

Faith is a church with a great vision; however, accomplishing a great vision requires the participation of many great people like you. There's a place in our vision for you to use your unique gifts and talents.

CURRENT MESSAGE SERIES : LAST WORDS

There's something powerful about someone's last words. And that is especially true of the final words Jesus spoke from the cross. The gospel writers recorded seven sayings of Jesus from the cross, seven last words, and these sayings are the focus of our Lent series. As we prepare our hearts for the celebration of resurrection on Easter Sunday, we are taking a closer look at these final words Jesus spoke before he died on the cross and discover their significance for us today.

The Gathering

OPENING SONGS *please stand*

Trading My Sorrows

Chorus I'm trading my sorrows
I'm trading my shame
I'm laying them down for the joy of the Lord
I'm trading my sickness
I'm trading my pain
I'm laying them down for the joy of the Lord

Yes Lord, yes Lord, yes yes Lord
Yes Lord, yes Lord, yes yes Lord
Yes Lord, yes Lord, yes yes Lord, Amen

I am pressed but not crushed
Persecuted not abandoned
Struck down but not destroyed
I am blessed beyond the curse
For His promise will endure
That his joy's gonna be my strength
Though the sorrow may last for the night
His joy comes with the morning (Chorus)

Build My Life

Worthy of ev'ry song we could ever sing
Worthy of all the praise we could ever bring
Worthy of ev'ry breath we could ever breathe
We live for You

Jesus the name above ev'ry other name
Jesus the only one who could ever save
Worthy of ev'ry breath we could ever breathe
We live for You We live for You

Holy there is no one like You
There is none beside You
Open up my eyes in wonder and show me who You are
And fill me with Your heart
And lead me in Your love to those around me

I will build my life upon Your love
It is a firm foundation
I will put my trust in You alone
And I will not be shaken

OPENING PRAYER

A: Holy God, heavenly Father, in the waters of the flood you saved the chosen, and in the wilderness of temptation you protected your Son from sin. Renew us in the gift of baptism. May your holy angels be with us, that the wicked foe may have no power over us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Word

FIRST LESSON

1 Peter 3:18-22

For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water.

And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Blessing, Honor and Glory

please stand

Blessing, Honor, Glory to The Lamb
Holy, righteous, worthy is the Lamb

Death could not hold him down
For he is risen Seated upon the throne
He is the lamb of God
Blessing, honor, Glory to the lamb
Holy , Righteous, worthy is the lamb of God

GOSPEL

Luke 23: 32-38

Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. 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. Then Jesus said, “Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.” And they cast lots to divide his clothing. 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!” The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, and saying, “If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!” There was also an inscription over him, “This is the King of the Jews.”

MESSAGE

Forgive | Pastor Rob

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

A: Trusting in God’s promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need.

A: God our truth, the ark of your church has room for many expressions of faith. We give thanks for voices that challenge and awaken your people. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: God our maker, you remember your covenant with the earth and its inhabitants. Rescue communities and creatures hurting from natural disasters. Preserve species and habitats endangered by human carelessness and disregard. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: God our light, you know our weakness. Free all who govern from the temptations of power. Sustain all who work for human rights in every nation. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: God our help, you care for your beloved children. Comfort all who are grieving, ill, afraid, in pain, or in despair. Feed hungry people living in food deserts. Protect any at risk from exploitation and abuse. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: God our home, you gather your people. Grant us health and safety as we assemble. Keep us mindful of any who are homebound, hospitalized, convalescing, or traveling. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Gracious and loving God, we pray for the family and friends of Faith... Hear us,
O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our
hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C: Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING

OFFERING RESPONSE

Give Thanks

please stand

Give thanks with a grateful heart Give thanks to the holy one

Give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ, His son.

Give thanks with a grateful heart Give thanks to the holy one

Give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ, His son.

And now let the weak say I am strong Let the poor say I am rich.

Because of what the Lord has done for us

And now let the weak say I am strong Let the poor say I am rich.

Because of what the Lord has done for us

Give thanks!

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A: Jesus, you are the bread of life
and the host of this meal.

Bless these gifts that we have gathered
that all people may know your goodness.

Feed us not only with this holy food
but with hunger for justice and peace.

We pray this in your name.

C: Amen.

The Meal

P: The earth is the Lord's and everything in it,
The trees of the field clap their hands,
the birds of the air sing songs of praise.
And so, we lift up our hearts, and we lift up our voices
And we offer thanksgiving and adoration to the Lord the Creator of all.

Blessed are you, Sovereign of the Universe, for from seeds sown into the earth you have given us the gift of bread to feed and nourish us. And at Jesus' last meal with his friends, before facing the cross, Our Lord took bread, blessed it and broke it. Then he passed it among them saying:

This is my body, broken for you.
Take and eat, and do this to remember me.

Blessed are you, Sovereign of the Universe,
for from grapes which grow ripe and sweet on the vine,
you have given us the gift of wine to refresh and heal us.
And at Jesus' last meal with his friends before facing the cross,
Our Lord took the cup of wine and blessed it.
Then he passed it among them saying:

This is my blood shed for you.
Take and drink, and do this to remember me.

And now we come to your table again, Jesus,
Mindful of how you laid your life down,
so that we and creation could be born anew;
Mindful of how you took your life up again,
so that we and creation could be filled with your abundant life.
May your Spirit work in these fruits of earth,
so that they may become for us a sharing in Christ's body and blood.
May your Spirit work in us, so that we may be transformed into Christ's
body, carrying his life, his care, and his salvation to all creation.

C: **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread;
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those
who sin against us;
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE MEAL

P: Bread for the journey.
A feast for hungry hearts. Come!

C: **Thanks be to God.**

DISTRIBUTION

AN INVITATION

We invite you to share in Holy Communion this morning, regardless of your church background or lack thereof. We believe that God is present in the bread and wine as it becomes the body and blood of Jesus Christ and that this presence is a gift of grace in the lives of those who receive it. All are welcomed to the table enjoy this gift of God's love and mercy. Grape juice is in the center of the communion tray. Gluten free wafers available at usher stand.

COMMUNION BLESSING *please stand*

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace.

C: **Amen.**

The Sending

SENDING PRAYER

A: Generous God,
at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace.
As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread,
now make us one loaf to feed the world;
in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life.

C: **Amen**

CLOSING SONG

I love You, Lord
Oh Your mercy never fails me
All my days, I've been held in Your hands
From the moment that I wake up
Until I lay my head
I will sing of the goodness of God

And all my life You have been faithful
And all my life You have been so, so good
With every breath that I am able
I will sing of the goodness of God

I love Your voice
You have led me through the fire
In the darkest night
You are close like no other
I've known You as a Father
I've known You as a Friend
I have lived in the goodness of God

Your goodness is running after It's running after me
Your goodness is running after It's running after me
With my life laid down
I'm surrendered now
I give You everything
Your goodness is running after It's running after me

DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. Share your bread.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to Faith!

We are so glad that you have chosen to worship with us today! Have questions about Faith? Wondering how to get connected or get more involved? We'd love to help. No matter where you are in life or how many times you've visited, we're here to guide you towards your next best step. Stop by the welcome center located near the main entrance. If this is your first time at Faith, let us know, we've got a special gift just for you!

LENTEN MIDWEEK MEAL

Wednesdays | 6:30 PM

Each Lenten season we provide a fellowship opportunity for people of faith to gather around a table and share a meal at 6:30PM. This meal is intended to be simple and provide some time for us to slow down and care for one another. Everyone who attends shares in the responsibility of providing different components for the meal. Volunteers sign up each week to provide a gallon of soup for the evening. The remainder of the attendees provide either bread or cookies. Beverages and table service will be provided. The Lenten Meal will be offered at 6:30 PM on Wednesdays: 2/21, 2/28, 3/6, 3/13, 3/20. Our worship series begins after this fellowship time at 7:15PM. Sign up at the welcome center or online at www.discoveringfaith.com

MIDWEEK LENTEN WORSHIP – “Things Jesus Never Said”

Wednesdays | 7:15 PM

Begins 2/21/23

These days it's easy to see life the way we want to. We can filter our images, pick the news we want to hear, and listen only to the viewpoints that agree with us. When we do that, we start to distort our view of the world. The same thing can happen to our view of God. We reshape our perception of Him into what we want to believe, or what we want to think about others. Jesus came to bring us the truth about God and His plan for us, and it doesn't always sound like what you may think.

HOLY WEEK 2024

Maunder Thursday

March 28 | 7:00 PM

Good Friday

March 29 | 12:00 PM, 7:00 PM

Easter Celebration Worship

Sunday March 31 | 6:30, 8:00, 9:30 AM

NEXT

Today! | 9:00 & 10:30 AM

If you've ever wondered how to get involved at Faith, or how to take the next step, don't worry. We've created a simple next step for you. It's a small gathering called NEXT. This informal gathering lasts only about 20 minutes after services and will provide you an overview of our mission, strategy, and environments to help you determine your best next step for continuing your faith journey. Meets fireside

GROUPLINK

Tues 2/20 | 7:00 PM

If you are interested in learning how to connect to a community group here at Faith please plan on attending GroupLink. In a community group, people study God's Word together and discuss the issues and challenges of life. It's also where they pray, care for one another, and are missed if they don't show up. Life change happens best in these small groups! Sign up at the welcome center or online at www.discoveringfaith.com

HESED HOUSE SERVE EVENT

Weds 2/21 | 6:30 PM

Faith's next serving opportunity at Hessed House is on 2/21. We will need roughly 5 to 10 volunteers to help with meal setup, serving, and cleanup. Volunteers can conveniently sign up online or at the welcome center. All that's needed is a serving heart. If you have questions about Faith's Hessed House ministry, please reach out to the ministry team at hessedhouse@discoveringfaith.com.

MOM'S GROUP: A Moment for Mom

Sat 3/9 | 10:00 AM

We are hosting moms of children infants-elementary school to come together for a time of learning, laughter, and treats. Take a moment to connect with other moms, while enjoying a yummy breakfast, hearing from a knowledgeable speaker on topics related to parenting, and building your mom village along the way. Our group meets the 2nd Saturday of each month, through May, 10:00 AM - 12:15 PM. For more information about our guest speaker and topic lineup, and to register for events, please visit www.discoveringfaith.com/amomentformom.

ST PATRICKS DAY PARTY – (21+ Event)

Sat 3/16 | 5:00 PM

DJ, bagpipes, Irish dancers, food, drinks, and more! Tickets on sale online and at the welcome center. \$25 per person or \$45 per couple. Invite your friends and neighbors!

EASTER FLOWERS

Orders Due Mar 17

Once again a variety of spring flowers will be offered to adorn our altar for the Easter services. If you would like to honor the memory of a loved one or just celebrate the Glory of God please fill out an order form and place it in the offering plate or in the church office. Order forms available at the welcome center or online at www.discoveringfaith.com

FIRST COMMUNION WORKSHOP

Sat 3/23 | 9:00 AM

For those parents who feel their elementary school-aged child is ready to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion, you are encouraged to attend our First Communion workshop. This learning event is intended to be a time for both the parents and the child to discover the gracious gift of God's love and mercy that comes to us through this meal. The children who participate in this workshop will celebrate their First Communion at the Maundy Thursday service on March 28, at 7:00 p.m. For further information, contact Pastor Rob at pastor@discoveringfaith.com. Sign up today at the welcome center.

KIDWERKS

Sundays at 9:30 AM

Join us as we dive into learning about new virtues each month through stories from the bible so that we can grow in our understanding and relationship with God. For more information please contact jenn@discoveringfaith.com

REVOLUTION

Sundays | 5:00 PM

On Sunday Nights at Faith, we've created an event that attracts **middle & high school students just like you**. After all, we figure you want to be wherever your friends are. We make this time as fun and relevant as we possibly can. The goal is for you to leave feeling energized to go out there and tackle another week!

Giving at Faith! As Easy as Click & Give



As followers of Jesus Christ, we embrace irrational generosity. We know it changes lives—ours and the people we're reaching. At Faith, taking action on your generosity is simple. Just scan the QR code with your camera and give. Simple, safe, and secure.

Prayers

If you would like to add someone to our prayer list and have the prayer team pray for them, please contact the church office at [\(630\) 862-3500](tel:6308623500) or send an e-mail prayerteam@discoveringfaith.com

Prayer concerns will be listed for four weeks unless otherwise noted.

Care

If you know of someone who is in need of emotional, physical, or spiritual support, please contact our care team at: careteam@discoveringfaith.com

Pastoral Emergency

In the case of an emergency that requires immediate Pastoral Care, please contact Pastor Rob directly on his cell phone at [\(630\) 248-5515](tel:6302485515).



Pastor Rob Douglas

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