



Fourth Sunday of Lent
8:00 am worship service

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

Becoming fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.

March 15, 2026

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 WORSHIP SERIES: THE KINGDOM OF GOD

The writers of the New Testament consistently pointed out that Jesus's primary role was a king who had come to establish God's kingdom on earth. And everyone is invited to participate in it.

The Gathering

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

C Amen.

P Gracious God,

C have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you:
Gracious God,

C have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word:
Gracious God,

C have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P For failing to recognize your coming reign,
and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,

C have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition,
and for disdaining the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,

C have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P For disregarding voices from the margin,
and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world:
Gracious God,

C have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound.

Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the
righteousness of Christ. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are
forgiven.

C Amen.

OPENING HYMN

O Day of Rest and Gladness | ELW #521

please stand

1 O day of rest and glad - ness, O day of joy and light,
 2 On you, at earth's cre - a - tion, the light first had its birth;
 3 To - day on wea - ry na - tions the heav'n - ly man - na falls;
 4 New grac - es ev - er gain - ing from this our day of rest,

O balm for care and sad - ness, most beau - ti - ful, most bright:
 on you, for our sal - va - tion, Christ rose from depths of earth;
 to ho - ly con - vo - ca - tions the sil - ver trum - pet calls,
 we reach the rest re - main - ing to spir - its of the blest.

on you the high and low - ly, through a - ges joined in tune,
 on you, our Lord vic - to - rious the Spir - it sent from heav'n;
 where gos - pel light is glow - ing with pure and ra - diant beams
 We sing to you our prais - es, O Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son;

sing, "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly," to the great God tri - une,
 and thus on you, most glo - rious, a three - fold light was giv'n.
 and liv - ing wa - ter flow - ing with soul - re - fresh - ing streams,
 the church its voice up - rais - es to you, blest Three in One.

GREETING

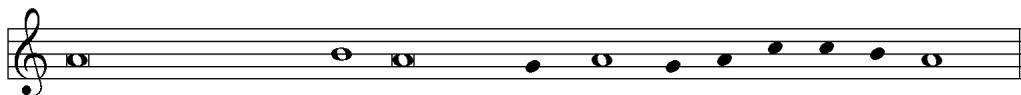
P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

KYRIE



A In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.



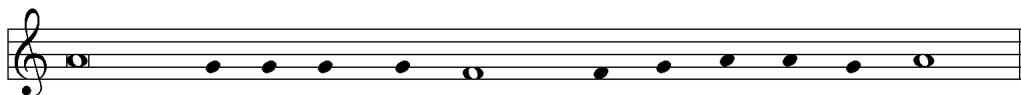
A For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.

The Word

FIRST READING

1 Samuel 16:1-13

The Lord said to Samuel, “How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.” Samuel said, “How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me.” And the Lord said, “Take a heifer with you and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.’ Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do, and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you.” Samuel did what the Lord commanded and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling and said, “Do you come peaceably?” He said, “Peaceably. I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.” And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, “Surely his anointed is now before the Lord.” But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him, for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.” Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. He said, “Neither has the Lord chosen this one.” Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, “Neither has the Lord chosen this one.” Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, “The Lord has not chosen any of these.” Samuel said to Jesse, “Are all your sons here?” And he said, “There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.” And Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and bring him, for we will not sit down until he comes here.” He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. The Lord said, “Rise and anoint him, for this is the one.” Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

SECOND READING

Ephesians 5:8-14

for once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Walk as children of light, for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness; rather, expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly, but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

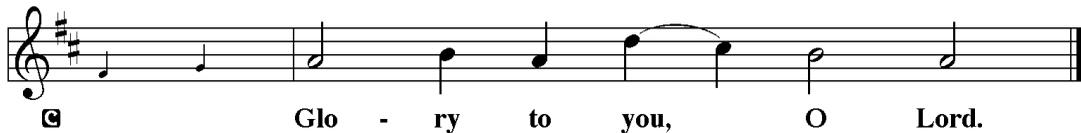
“Sleeper, awake!
Rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.”

LENTEN VERSE *please stand*



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra-cious and mer-ci-ful,
slow to an - ger, and a-bound-ing in stead-fast love.

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 6th chapter.



Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Beneath the Cross of Jesus | ELW #338

please stand

1 Be - neath the cross of Je - sus I long to take my stand;
2 Up - on the cross of Je - sus, my eye at times can see
3 I take, O cross, your shad - ow for my a - bid - ing place;

the shad - ow of a might - y rock with - in a wea - ry land,
the ver - y dy - ing form of one who suf - fered there for me.
I ask no oth - er sun - shine than the sun - shine of his face;

a home with - in a wil - der - ness, a rest up - on the way,
And from my con - trite heart, with tears, two won - ders I con - fess:
con - tent to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss,

from the burn - ing of the noon - tide heat and bur - dens of the day,
the . . . won - der of his glo - rious love and my un - wor - thi - ness,
my . . . sin - ful self my on - ly shame, my glo - ry all, the cross.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

A: Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

A: God, our shepherd, we pray that you guide the church. Lead Christians in our community and across the globe in right paths for your name's sake. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: God our provider, we cry out for this planet and the life it holds. Rescue endangered animals and plants, preserve threatened ecosystems, and save creatures from natural disasters. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: God our sovereign, we plead for your peace on earth. Bring an end to war and violence, and raise up leaders in governments, courts, businesses, schools, and community organizations who seek goodness and mercy. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: God our friend, we praise you for the diversity of people among us. Awaken us to share and receive the gifts we each possess, and stir up a spirit of understanding, celebration, and welcome for all. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

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

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.

C: Amen.

The Meal

PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

OFFERING

OFFERING RESPONSE *please stand*



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our



cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the



seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.



Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the



prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your



pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A: O God, maker of heaven and earth,
your steadfast love embraces all creation.
You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth
and bring forth its bounty.
Through these gifts of bread and wine,
draw us into the death and life of your Son,
who calls us to bear witness to his saving work.
We ask this in Jesus' name.

C: Amen.

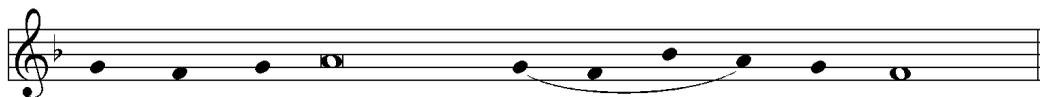
GREAT THANKSGIVING



Ⓟ The Lord be with you. ☩ And al - so 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 him thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right and salutary . . .we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:



Heav- en and earth are full of your glo- ry. Ho - san - na. Ho - san - na.



Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P: 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.

LORD'S PRAYER

**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**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

**P: Come to the table.
Feast on God's goodness and mercy.**
C: Thanks be to God.

COMMUNION 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. Apple/Grape juice is in the center of the communion tray. Gluten free wafers available at the usher stand, please ask an usher to assist you.

C Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
 mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
 world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
 sin of the world; grant us peace.

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

C: Amen.

C Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.
 Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proud-ly bear his name.
 He re - calls his prom - is - es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy with
 shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

please stand

A: God of our salvation,
we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls,
reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey.
Through the body and blood of your Son,
may we become Christ's body in the world,
bearing witness to your love for all creation,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen

The Sending

BLESSING

P: Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity:
God, who calls all things into existence,
Jesus Christ, who redeems us,
and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation,
† bless you now and always.

C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling | ELW #631

please stand



1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heav'n, to
2 Breathe, oh, breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - 'ry
3 Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er; let us all thy
4 Fin - ish then thy new cre - a - tion, pure and spot - less



earth come down! Fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy
trou - bled breast; let us all in thee in - her - it; let us
life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -
let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -



faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion,
find thy prom - ised rest. Take a - way the love of sin - ning;
more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing,
ly re - stored in thee! Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,



pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with
Al - pha and O - me - ga be; end of faith, as
serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee
till in heav'n we take our place, till we cast our



thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - 'ry trem - bling heart.
its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty,
with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love,
crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise!

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Believe the good news.

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: 3/18, 3/25

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 "The Way of the Cross"

Wednesdays | 7:15 PM

In Jesus' day the cross was a symbol of suffering and shame. Join us for our midweek Lenten series where we'll talk about how it now represents an empowering invitation to a completely different way of life.

GIVING HOPE PROJECT

Our Faith community is partnering with Sharing Connections to help individuals and families who need basic supplies and furnishings. Veterans, Homeless transitioning to housing, Abuse/Domestic Violence victims and others in need. If you have gently used furniture, household items, seasonal clothing, or would like to help financially, please consider giving.

THIS Saturday March 21st from 8:00-10:30AM is the LAST day to drop off donations.

If you have registered online for furniture to be picked up, we will contact you this week.

Volunteers are needed to pick up furniture and deliver all our donations to the warehouse in Downers Grove. Please volunteer by going to the link below. Or to find out what you can donate.

Thank you for your contributions to help our neighbors in need.

For all details visit www.discoveringfaith.com/thegivinghopeproject

EGG STUFFING PARTY

Wed 3/18 & 3/25 | 7:30 PM

Come join the fun and help make our egg drop a huge success. Volunteers are needed to stuff eggs. We will be having an Egg Stuffing Party in the cafe on Wednesday evenings 7:30-9:00 PM. Come join the fun! For more information contact the church office.

CANDY DONATIONS NEEDED

Individually wrapped bite size candy donations are needed to fill our 15,000 eggs! If you are able to donate some bags of candy, please drop them off at the welcome center.

WOMENS BIBLE STUDY

Mon 3/23 | 7:15 PM

Unfolding over 6 sessions, Nicki Koziarz walks women through the Book of Ruth, focusing on the Moabite woman's 5 practical habits that kept her eyes on God: Ruth accepted the assignment of refinement, followed through on her commitments despite her feelings, remained open to the movement of God, gave others what she needed, and moved forward in faith.

EASTER FLOWERS

Orders Due Mar 22

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 ONLY at the welcome center- no online ordering.

FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN

Weds 3/25

This is a wonderful volunteer opportunity to help out in our community. We will be packing meals on Wednesday, March 25th. Sign up online at www.discoveringfaith.com. All volunteers need to sign up before March 15th. Check out the volunteering policies before signing up!

Each day our partners distribute FMSC meals in schools, orphanages, clinics and feeding programs around the world to deliver hope and break the cycle of poverty.

REVOLUTION

Sun 3/15 & 4/19 | 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! Meets 1st and 3rd Sundays in the auditorium. Register online- discoveringfaith.com

FIRST COMMUNION WORKSHOP

Sun 3/22 | 3:00 PM

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 April 2, at 7:00 p.m. For further information, contact Pastor Rob at pastor@discoveringfaith.com. Sign up today at the welcome center.

TUESDAY AM WOMENS BIBLE STUDY

Begins 3/17 | 9:00 AM

It's Good to Be Queen by Liz Curtis Higgs

This book chronicles the Queen of Sheba's intentional journey to seek wisdom from a godly source, King Solomon, and challenges the readers to become as bold, gracious and wise as the Queen. The workbook will be made available at the meetings (\$12). It is also available in Kindle format. For additional information contact Sue Boozell at sue.boozell@discoveringfaith.com.

HOLY WEEK 2026

Maundy Thursday

April 2 | 7:00 PM

Good Friday

April 3 | 12:00 PM, 7:00 PM

Easter Celebration Worship

Sunday April 5 | 6:30, 8:00, 9:30 AM

HELICOPTER DROPPED EASTER EGG HUNT

Sat 4/4 | 11:00 AM

Be a part of the excitement!

Faith will once again host our annual Helicopter-Dropped Easter Egg Hunt for the community. Volunteers are needed to help with this year's event. You can sign up online or at the welcome center. Parking passes can be purchased through Eventbrite on our website. There are a limited amount of on-site parking passes but additional parking will be available at Young Elementary School on Liberty Street, just down from the church. There will be bus transportation to and from the school. Volunteers are asked to park at Young Elementary.

Be sure to invite your friends and neighbors to this incredible event!

ADULT ONLINE STUDY GROUP

Tuesdays | 7:00 PM

The Case for Easter

In this four-session video Bible study, you'll examine the story around the resurrection of Jesus and how you can know it's true.

The Case for Easter will invite you to examine what you believe about the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and determine what you believe about the most important questions of the Christian faith.

This 4-week online study is facilitated by Becky Marchiando. Please register below so that we may send you Zoom credentials required to participate and come join us!

A MOMENT FOR MOM

Sat 4/11 | 10:00 AM

A Moment for Mom is a group for moms of kiddos ages 0-10 that meets the 2nd Saturday each month through May 2026. Sessions provide a delicious breakfast and amazing speakers on topics relating to motherhood. We offer affordable childcare while you attend. Our website is ready for you to explore our speakers and costs for the 2025-2026 year. Come join us and other moms to laugh, learn, and connect. Register today and/or reach out to us for more information at www.discoveringfaith.com/amomentformom.

ROCKSTAR BINGO FUNDRAISER FOR TROOP 643

Sat 4/11 | 7:00PM

Bring your friends and family to this fun, musical, fundraising event hosted by Pack 643! Our Faith Lutheran Cub Scout pack 643 is hosting their 2nd annual Rockstar Bingo fundraiser. When bingo, and music come together, everyone wins! A silent auction, prizes after each round, food, drinks and a 50/50 make it a winning night for everyone! This is a perfect date night, parents' night out or fun night with co-workers!

NEXT

Sun 4/12 | 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 approximately 20 minutes and will provide you with an overview of our mission, strategy, and environment to help you determine your best next step in continuing your faith journey. Pastor Rob and Jenn Richardson, Faith's volunteer coordinator, will be on hand for conversation and to welcome you to Faith. Meets fireside.

KIDWERKS

Sundays | 9:30 AM

Join us in the auditorium 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. To register go to discoveringfaith.com or for more information please contact jenn@discoveringfaith.com PreK – 5th grade



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