



A S H  
W E D N E S D A Y

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12:00 & 7:00 pm worship service

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

Becoming fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.

February 18, 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.

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# The Gathering

*\* For sections marked with a star (\*), please stand if you are able.*

## **\*PSALM: Psalm 51:1-17**

A: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving kindness;  
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

**C: Wash me through and through from my wickedness  
and cleanse me from my sin.**

A: For I know my transgressions,  
and my sin is ever before me.

**C: Against you only have I sinned  
and done what is evil in your sight.**

A: And so you are justified when you speak  
and upright in your judgment.

**C: Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth,  
a sinner from my mother's womb.**

A: For behold, you look for truth deep within me,  
and will make me understand wisdom secretly.

**C: Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure;  
wash me, and I shall be clean indeed.**

A: Make me hear of joy and gladness,  
that the body you have broken may rejoice.

**C: Hide your face from my sins,  
and blot out all my iniquities.**

A: Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within me.

**C: Cast me not away from your presence  
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.**

A: Give me the joy of your saving help again  
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.

**C: I shall teach your ways to the wicked,  
and sinners shall return to you.**

A: Deliver me from death, O God,  
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness, O God of my salvation.

**C: Open my lips, O Lord,  
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

A: Had you desired it, I would have offered sacrifice,  
but you take no delight in burnt-offerings.

**C: The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit;  
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.**

### **\*EXHORTATION**

P: Brothers and sisters: God created us to experience joy in communion with him, to love all humanity, and to live in harmony with all of his creation. But sin separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, and so we do not enjoy the life our Creator intended for us. Also, by our sin we grieve our Father, who does not desire us to come under his judgment, but to turn to him and live.

As disciples of the Lord Jesus we are called to struggle against everything that leads us away from love of God and neighbor. Repentance, fasting, prayer, and works of love--the discipline of Lent--help us to wage our spiritual warfare. I invite you, therefore, to commit yourselves to this struggle and confess your sins, asking our Father for strength to persevere in your Lenten discipline.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

### **\*CONFESSION**

P: Most holy and merciful Father:

**C: We confess to you and to one another,  
and to the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth,  
that we have sinned by our own fault in thought, word, and deed;  
by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.**

P: We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength.  
We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven.

**C: Have mercy on us, Lord.**

P: We have been deaf to your call to serve as Christ served us.  
We have not been true to the mind of Christ.  
We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

**C: Have mercy on us, Lord.**

P: We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness.  
The pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives,

**C: we confess to you, Lord.**

P: Our self-indulgent appetites and ways,  
and our exploitation of other people,

**C: we confess to you, Lord.**

P: Our anger at our own frustration,  
and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,

**C: we confess to you, Lord.**

P: Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts,  
and our dishonesty in daily life and work,

**C: we confess to you, Lord.**

P: Our negligence in prayer and worship,  
and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,

**C: we confess to you, Lord.**

P: Accept our repentance, Lord, for the wrongs we have done.  
For our blindness to human need and suffering,  
and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,

**C: accept our repentance, Lord.**

P: For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors,  
and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,

**C: accept our repentance, Lord.**

P: For our waste and pollution of your creation,  
and our lack of concern for those who come after us,

**C: accept our repentance, Lord.**

P: Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us.

**C: Hear us, Lord, for your mercy is great. Amen**

## **IMPOSITION OF ASHES**

*Those who desire to receive ashes come forward to the altar.*

**P:** Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

## **\*CONCLUSION OF CONFESSION**

**P:** Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,

**C: that we may show forth your glory in the world.**

**P:** By the cross and Passion of your Son, our Lord,

**C: bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.**

**P:** Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
does not desire the death of sinners,

but rather that they may turn from their wickedness and live.

Therefore we implore him to grant us true repentance and his Holy Spirit,

that those things may please him which we do on this day,

that the rest of our life may be pure and holy,

and that at the last we may come to his eternal joy;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen**

*A brief silence.*

## **\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**P:** The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

**P:** Almighty and ever-living God, you hate nothing you have made and you forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and honest hearts, so that, truly repenting of our sins, we may obtain from you, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

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## The Word

### FIRST READING

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the Lord is coming, it is near— a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness! Like blackness spread upon the mountains a great and powerful army comes; their like has never been from of old, nor will be again after them in ages to come.

Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing. Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him, a grain offering and a drink offering for the Lord, your God? Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly; gather the people. Sanctify the congregation; assemble the aged; gather the children, even infants at the breast. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her canopy. Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep. Let them say, “Spare your people, O Lord, and do not make your heritage a mockery, a byword among the nations. Why should it be said among the peoples, ‘Where is their God?’”

### SECOND READING

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says, “At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you.” See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! We are putting no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the

power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

## **GOSPEL**

**Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21**

“Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven. “So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

“And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

“And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

**P:** The Gospel of the Lord.

**C:** **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**MESSAGE**

| Pastor Rob

# HYMN OF THE DAY

In the Cross of Christ I Glory | ELW #324

*please stand*

1 In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, tow'r - ing  
2 When the woes of life o'er - take me, hopes de -  
3 When the sun of bliss is beam - ing light and  
4 Banc and bless - ing, pain and plea - sure, by the

o'er the wrecks of time, All the light of  
ceive, and fears an - noy, nev - er shall the  
love up - on my way, from the cross the  
cross are sanc - ti - fied; peace is there that

sa - cred sto - ry gath - ers round its head sub - lime.  
cross for - sake me; lo, it glows with peace and joy.  
ra - diance stream - ing adds more lus - ter to the day.  
knows no mea - sure, joys that through all time a - bide.

## **\*NICENE CREED**

**C We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father.  
Through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation**

**he came down from heaven;  
by the power of the Holy Spirit**

**he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was  
made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven**

**and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.**

**With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.**

**He has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.**

**We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,**

**and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## 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: Guide your church, O God. Accompany all Christians in this season of repentance, and renew our faith in the riches of grace you give to us in baptism. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: Heal this earth, O God. Satisfy the needs of every parched place, every diverse ecosystem, every suffering creature. Though all return to dust, grant beauty and purpose to each living thing. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: Restore the nations, O God. Let your healing spring up quickly across the world. Give all in authority the will to loosen the bonds of injustice and let any who are oppressed go free. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: Deliver your people, O God. Comfort any whose hearts are rent by grief, uphold any who are sick, bring food to those who hunger, and give housing to all without shelter. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: Bless this assembly, O God. Reconcile us to one another and to you. Strengthen our resolve to fast from evil, open our hands in sharing, and quicken our prayer. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

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

**C: Amen.**

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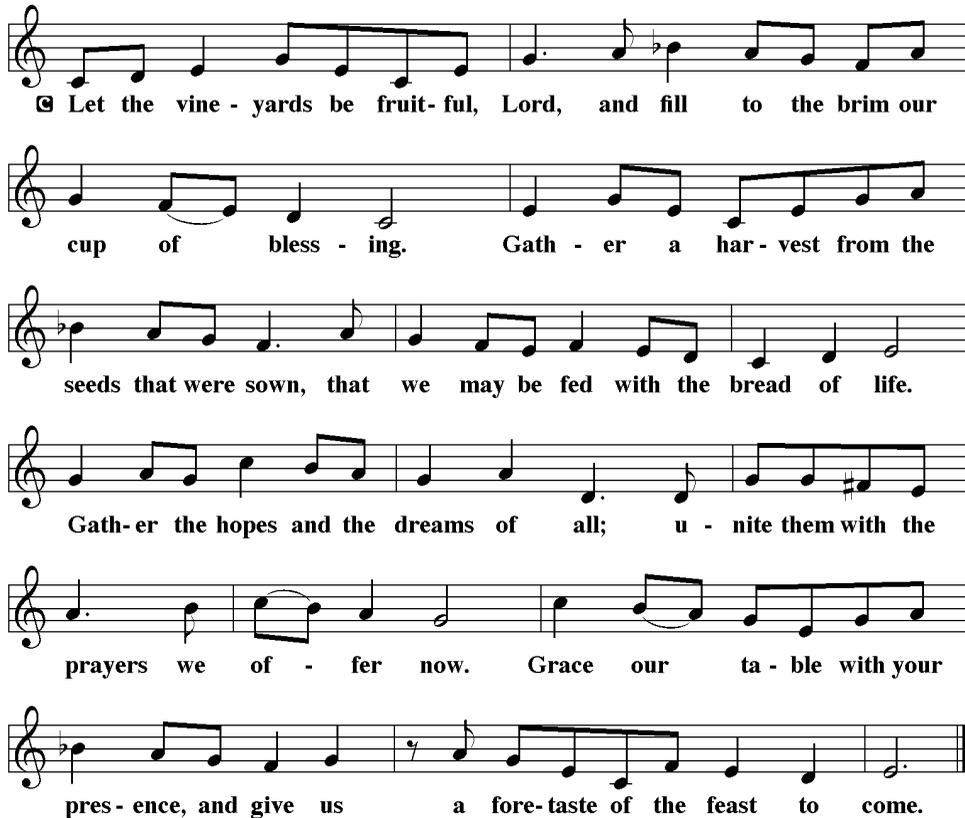
## *The Meal*

### PEACE

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

**C: And also with you.**

## OFFERING *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



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

**P:** It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



**C** 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. 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.

## 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.

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## *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

## Beneath the Cross of Jesus | ELW #338

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.

## DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Believe the good news.

C: Thanks be to God.

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## NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Lent begins with a solemn call to fasting and repentance as we begin our journey to the baptismal waters of Easter. As we hear in today's readings, now is the acceptable time to return to the Lord. During Lent the people of God will reflect on the meaning of their baptism into Christ's death and resurrection. The sign of ashes suggests our human mortality and frailty. What seems like an ending is really an invitation to make each day a new beginning, in which we are washed in God's mercy and forgiveness. With the cross on our brow, we long for the spiritual renewal that flows from the springtime Easter feast to come.*

### **MIDWEEK WORSHIP – The Way of the Cross**

**Wednesdays | 7:15 PM**

Begins 2/25/26

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.

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: 3/12, 3/19, 3/26, 4/2 and 4/9. Our worship series begins after this fellowship time at 7:15PM.





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