



# Practicing the Way

NINE PRACTICES THAT ROOT US AND DEEPEN US  
IN OUR EXPERIENCE OF GOD AS WE SERVE THE WORLD

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First Sunday in Lent  
9:30 Worship Celebration

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

**Becoming fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.**

March 9, 2025

## **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: PRACTICING THE WAY**

Join us as we explore nine ancient practices of the way of Jesus that promise to help root us in the faith and deepen our experience of God as we serve our world. When practiced regularly these keystone habits can powerfully guide our journey of spiritual growth, creating a rule of life that helps us become more like Jesus, transformed into the people we were created to be.

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# *The Gathering*

## **OPENING SONG**

### **Everlasting God**

Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord  
We will wait upon the Lord, we will wait upon the Lord  
Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord  
We will wait upon the Lord, we will wait upon the Lord

Pre-Chorus Our God, You reign forever  
Our hope, our strong Deliverer

Chorus You are the everlasting God  
The everlasting God  
You do not faint You won't grow weary  
You're the defender of the weak  
You comfort those in need  
You lift us up on the wings Like eagles

Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord  
We will wait upon the Lord, we will wait upon the Lord  
Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord  
We will wait upon the Lord, we will wait upon the Lord  
(Pre-Chorus) (Chorus) (Chorus)

## **Amazing Grace, My Chains are Gone**

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me  
I once was lost, but now I'm found  
Was blind, but now I see

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear  
And grace my fears relieved  
How precious did that grace appear  
The hour I first believed

**Chorus** My chains are gone  
I've been set free  
My God, my Savior has ransomed me  
And like a flood His mercy rains  
Unending love, Amazing grace

The Lord has promised good to me  
His word my hope secures  
He will my share and portion be  
As long as life endures (Chorus)(Chorus)

The Earth shall soon dissolve like snow  
The sun forbear to shine  
But God, who called me here below  
Will be forever mine  
Will be forever mine  
You are forever mine

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

L: Holy God, mighty and immortal, you are beyond our knowing, yet we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. Transform us into the likeness of your Son, who renewed our humanity so that we may share in his divinity, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## **WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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# The Word

**READING****Romans 10:8b-13**

But what does it say? “The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. The scripture says, “No one who believes in him will be put to shame.”

For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. For, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

**RESPONSE****In Christ Alone**

*please stand*

In Christ alone, my hope is found  
He is my light, my strength, my song  
This cornerstone, this solid ground  
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm

What heights of love    What depths of peace  
When fears are stilled    When strivings cease  
My Comforter my all in all    Here in the love of Christ I stand

**GOSPEL****Matthew 6: 16-18**

“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.

**MESSAGE**

Fasting: Growing in Gratitude and Grace | Pastor Rob

## PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

A: Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A: Gracious God, speak your word anew among your church. Strengthen it to withstand the temptation to turn inward in fear or complacency. Embolden church institutions to turn from self-preservation toward the self-giving love of Jesus. God, in your mercy,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: Mothering God, speak the word of life into wilderness places and fertile fields. Grant wisdom to your people, that we may quell the urge to strip lands of their resources and instead preserve first fruits for future generations. God, in your mercy,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: Almighty God, speak a word of wisdom to people in positions of power: mayors, councils, and tribal leaders, legislators, judges and juries, presidents, and monarchs. Help them discern your voice and follow your guidance, resisting the temptations of the evil one. God, in your mercy,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: Steadfast God, speak words of courage to your people in the wilderness. Protect migrants and refugees on perilous journeys, that they find safe refuge and a portion in the bounty you have given humanity to share. God, in your mercy,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: Loving God, speak gently to all who are alone. Bless lay ministers, home communion teams, and others who attend to those who are overlooked, vulnerable, or lonely, that all find belonging in your love. We pray for all who are ill. God, in your mercy,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: Gracious and loving God, we pray for the family and friends of Faith... God, in your mercy,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love,  
in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life.

**C: Amen.**

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## *The Meal*

### **SHARING OF THE PEACE**

### **OFFERING**

#### **OFFERING RESPONSE**

Beautiful Savior

*please stand*

Beautiful Savior King of creation

Son of God and Son of Man

Truly I'd love Thee truly I'd serve Thee

Light of my soul my Joy my Crown

### **OFFERATORY PRAYER**

A: Gracious Provider,  
you set your immense treasures among us,  
opening your heart to the world.  
As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love,  
deepen our commitment to sharing those  
treasures with others,  
through our Savior, Jesus Christ.

**C: Amen.**

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## 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.**

## 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: All who are hungry, come!  
    The feast of grace is spread.  
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 to 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 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.

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# The Sending

## SENDING PRAYER

A: Generous Host,  
you have shared your feast with us and made us new.  
Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities,  
that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom,  
in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

## CLOSING SONG

Verse 1 Hold on to me as we go  
As we roll down this unfamiliar road  
Though this wave is stringing us along  
Just know.. you're.. not.. alone...  
I'm gonna make this place your home

Verse 2 Settle down, it'll all be clear  
Don't pay no mind to the demons, they fill you with fear  
The trouble... it might drag you down  
If you get lost, you can always be found  
Just know you're not alone...  
I'm gonna make this place your home

Chorus      Oh-- Oh-- Oh-- Oh  
                  Oh-- Oh-- Oh-- Oh (Repeat) (Repeat)

Verse 2 (Chorus) (Chorus) (Chorus)

Then sings my soul  
My Savior, God, to Thee  
How great Thou art, how great Thou art  
Then sings my soul  
My Savior, God, to Thee  
How great Thou art, how great Thou art (Chorus)

## Home/ How Great Thou Art

## **DISMISSAL**

A: Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

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## 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: 3/12, 3/19, 3/26, 4/2, 4/9. Our worship series begins after this fellowship time at 7:15PM. Sign up at the welcome center or online at [www.discoveringfaith.com](http://www.discoveringfaith.com)

### **MIDWEEK LENTEN WORSHIP**

**Wednesdays | 7:15 PM**

***“I Am: The 7 I Am Statements of Jesus”***

Begins 3/12/25

In a world that is constantly changing, that is full of questions and uncertainties, can we find something solid to hang on to, something that will give the security we long for? Jesus gives an answer—in His own words. He is the “I Am!” When we are in darkness, He says, “I Am Light.” When we are lost, He declares, “I Am Your Good Shepherd.” When we have no way to get through our crisis, He invites, “I Am the Door.” Join us as we discover who Jesus is, and who we can become.

### **EGG STUFFING PARTY**

**Wed 3/12, 3/19 & 3/26 | 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.

## **SAINT PATRICKS DAY PARTY (21+ Event)**

**Sat 3/15 | 5:00 PM**

Great food, Irish dancers, bag pipes, and so much more! Wear your favorite Irish green! Sign up at welcome center or online. Tickets are \$25/person or \$45/couple if purchased through 3/13. Tickets purchased on or after 3/14 are \$35/person or \$55/couple. This is a 21+ event. Invite your friends and neighbors!

## **NEXT**

**Sun 3/16 | 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

## **REVOLUTION**

**Sun 3/16 & 4/6 | 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 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays in the auditorium. Register online- [discoveringfaith.com](http://discoveringfaith.com)

## **ADULT ONLINE STUDY GROUP**

**Begins 3/18 | 7:00 PM**

### ***The Promise and Power of Easter***

Easter is so much more than a holiday. Easter isn't just a date on the calendar; it's the most significant event in human history. It's the celebration of Jesus' resurrection from the dead, and His victory over everything that holds us back in our earthly lives. It's the day we focus on the promise and power of Jesus and draw closer to Him.

This 4-week video Bible study is facilitated by Becky Marchiando. The study group meets online via Zoom on Tuesday evenings March 18 through April 8 at 7:00 PM. Sign up online or at the welcome center so that we can send you Zoom credentials you'll need to participate. We'd love to have you join us!

## **THE EASTER JOURNEY**

**Sat 4/12 | 3:00 PM**

Join us as we journey from Palm Sunday to the great celebration of Easter. Your family will travel with Jesus and his disciples through those final days. Through live actors, storytelling, and music, your whole family will have the chance to experience the depth and beauty of God's love in a new and exciting way. The Easter Journey will be held at the church on Saturday, April 12, and starts at 3:00 PM. The journey will conclude with an egg hunt, Easter crafts, and treats. We can't wait to see the whole family! Spaces are limited, so reserve your ticket today.

## **FIRST COMMUNION WORKSHOP**

**Sat 4/13 | 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 17, at 7:00 p.m. For further information, contact Pastor Rob at [pastor@discoveringfaith.com](mailto:pastor@discoveringfaith.com). Sign up today at the welcome center.

## **HOLY WEEK 2025**

**Maundy Thursday**

**April 17 | 7:00 PM**

**Good Friday**

**April 18 | 12:00 PM, 7:00 PM**

**Easter Celebration Worship**

**Sunday April 20 | 6:30, 8:00, 9:30 AM**

## **KIDNEY DONOR SEARCH**

Kari and Jake Rothmeyer, members of Faith, are searching for a kidney donor for their son Asher. The live donor should be 42 years old or younger, have no history of diabetes, and be of a healthy weight. If you are interested in learning more or would like to discuss this opportunity with the family, you can contact Kari at (331) 238-9512.

## **WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY GROUP**

**Tuesdays | 9:00 AM**

### ***The Women of Easter***

All women of Faith are invited to attend a study of The Women of Easter by Liz Curtis Higgs. Beginning March 11, the group will journey through Lent watching the ancient scenes unfold that lead to the Savior's resurrection through the eyes of Mary of Bethany, Mary of Nazareth and Mary Magdalene.

The weekly meetings will be held in the auditorium and facilitated by Sue Boozell. The workbook is \$8 and will be available at the meetings. For additional information, contact Sue Boozell at [sue.boozell@discoveringfaith.com](mailto:sue.boozell@discoveringfaith.com).

## **A MOMENT FOR MOM**

**Sat 4/12 | 10:00 AM**

Our moms group here at Faith, A Moment for Mom, has a delicious breakfast and amazing speakers on topics relating to motherhood. We meet the 2nd Saturday of each month through May 2025. We offer affordable childcare while you attend. Our website is up and ready for you to explore our speakers and cost for the 2024-2025 year. Come join other moms of kiddos ages 0-10, to laugh, learn and connect. Register today and/or reach out to us for more information at [www.discoveringfaith.com/amomentformom](http://www.discoveringfaith.com/amomentformom)

## KIDWERKS

**Sundays at 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](http://discoveringfaith.com) or for more information please contact [jenn@discoveringfaith.com](mailto:jenn@discoveringfaith.com) PreK – 5<sup>th</sup> grade

### 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.



Pastor Rob Douglas  
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