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Palm Sunday  
8:00 am worship service

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

Becoming fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.

March 24, 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 WORSHIP 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.

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## *The Gathering*

(The congregation is invited to gather outside & process in while waving palms on the opening song.)

### **PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL**

P: When Jesus and his disciples had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethpage at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, “Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, ‘The Lord needs them.’ And he will send them immediately.” This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying,

**C: “Tell the daughter of Zion, ‘Look, your King is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.’”**

P: The disciples went on and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and followed were shouting.

**C: “Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!”**

P: When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking “Who is this?” The crowds were saying...

**C: This is the Prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.”**

P: Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, order your disciples to stop.” He answered, “I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out.”

# PROCESSIONAL SONG

All Glory, Laud, and Honor | ELW #344

*Refrain*



All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to you, re - deem - er, king,



to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho - san - nas ring.



- 1 You are the king of Is - rael and Da - vid's roy - al Son,
- 2 The com - pa - ny of an - gels is prais - ing you on high;
- 3 The mul - ti - tude of pil - grims with palms be - fore you went.
- 4 To you, be - fore your pas - sion, they sang their hymns of praise.
- 5 Their prais - es you ac - cept - ed; ac - cept the prayers we bring,

*Refrain*



now in the Lord's name com - ing, our King and Bless - ed One.  
cre - a - tion and all mor - tals in cho - rus make re - ply.  
Our praise and prayer and an - thems be - fore you we pre - sent.  
To you, now high ex - alt - ed, our mel - o - dy we raise.  
great au - thor of all good - ness, O good and gra - cious King.

# WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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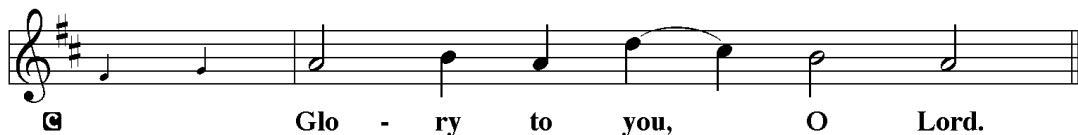
## The Word

### FIRST READING

Isaiah 50:4-9a

The Lord God has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens— wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. The Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. It is the Lord God who helps me; who will declare me guilty? All of them will wear out like a garment; the moth will eat them up.

P: The Holy Gospel according to John, the 19<sup>th</sup> chapter.

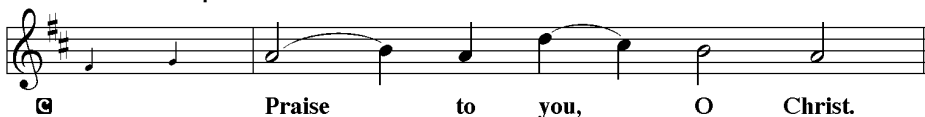


### GOSPEL

John 19: 28-30

After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfill the scripture), “I am thirsty.” A jar full of sour wine was standing there. So they put a sponge full of the wine on a branch of hyssop and held it to his mouth. When Jesus had received the wine, he said, “It is finished.” Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

P: The Gospel of the 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: 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: Blessed One, today the church sings glad hosannas as we enter Holy Week. Prepare us to bear witness to Christ's suffering and death endured for our sake. Gather your people around the cross and comfort us with resurrection hope. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: Renew your good creation and protect the balance of life on earth. Encourage the work of foresters, scientists, arborists, gardeners, and river keepers. We pray for the health of pollinating insects, songbirds, and native plants. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: Establish peace and justice among the nations. Hold to account any with authority to judge others. Grant that courts, legislatures, and local governments will serve with integrity and compassion. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: Bring hope to any who feel forsaken or forgotten. Make a way for refugees and asylum seekers. Reunite families enduring separation. We pray for any who are incarcerated, institutionalized, or in foster care, that they may know your love. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: Give energy and joy to our pastor/s, deacons, worship leaders, and musicians. Bless baptismal candidates, their sponsors, confirmands, and teachers. Watch over those who travel. 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: Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**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

### 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: 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.**

## CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

P: God is with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift our hearts to God.**

P: Let us give thanks to God, our God!

**C: We give God our thanks and our praise!**

P: On this day of celebration –  
on this day of renewing our faith –  
on this day of walking with the Christ,  
to Jerusalem... to Golgotha... and beyond –  
we give you thanks, great and loving God.

**C: Thank you, loving God!**

P: From the very beginning, you have loved us.  
You created all that is, calling it into being.  
With the *ruach* – the Spirit – with the Wind and the Word,  
you saw what you had created,  
and called it, “Good!”

**C: Thank you, loving God!**

P: But, time and time again, in history and in our story,  
we have turned away from your love.  
We have turned away from your hope.  
We have turned away from you.  
We have wandered away, thinking we knew best.

**C: But you never left us to walk by ourselves, loving God.  
Even when we turn away.  
You walk the road with us.**

P: Through prophets, priests and storytellers,  
through mothers and grandmothers,  
through fathers and grandfathers,  
through teens and children and infants,  
you called us back to your love.

**C: Thank you, loving God!**

P: There came a time when you sent Jesus to speak to the world.  
To speak to us.  
To teach us your love.  
To give abundant life.  
To make us new.

**C: Thank you, loving God!**

P: He lived a life as one of us – a child, a youth, an adult.  
He laughed with those who laughed,  
he cried with those who cried.  
In all of this, he walked the hard road –

**C: the way of the Cross and the way of the Resurrection.**

P: On the night before he was put to death,  
he gathered for a meal of celebration with his friends.  
There he recommitted himself to your love, and to his people.  
He took bread, thanked You, and broke the bread,  
giving it to his friends, saying,  
“Take this and eat it. This is my body, given for you.  
Each time you do this, remember me.”

**C: We remember him.**

P: After the meal was over, he took the cup of blessing,  
thanked You, and poured the wine,  
giving it to his friends, saying,  
“Take this and drink it. This is my blood, given for you.  
Each time you drink this, remember me.”

**C: We remember him.**

P: And so we do as he asked us, loving God.  
We pray that your Spirit might fill these gifts,  
and fill us – that all might be vessels of your love,  
your hope and your life in the world.

**C: Come, Holy Spirit, come!**

### **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**

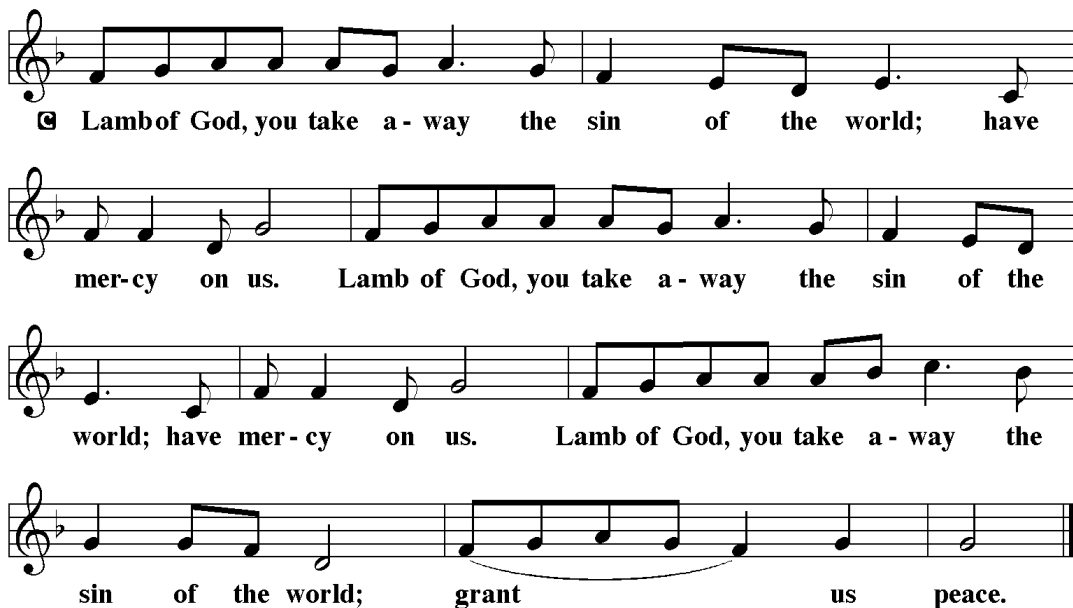
P: Bread for the journey.  
A feast for hungry hearts. Come!

**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.



☞ 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.**



☞ 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.

## PASSION DRAMA

NARRATOR: Now Jesus stood before the Governor, and the Governor asked him,

PILATE: Are you the King of the Jews?

NARRATOR: Jesus answered, "You say so." But when he was accused by the chief priest and elders, he did not answer. Then Pilate said to him,

PILATE: Do you not hear how many accusation they make against you?

NARRATOR: But he gave them no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the Governor was accustomed to releasing a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted.

At that time they had a notorious prisoner called Barabbas. So after they had gathered, Pilate said to them:

PILATE: Whom do you want me to release for you, Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?

NARRATOR: And the people shouted...

**CROWD: Barabbas! Barabbas!**

PILATE: Then what should I do with Jesus, this man who is called the Messiah?

**CROWD: Let him be crucified!**

PILATE: Why, what evil has he done?

**CROWD: Let him be crucified! Release Barabbas! Let him be crucified!!**

NARRATOR: So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water, washed his hands before the crowd, saying...

PILATE: I am innocent of this man's blood— see to it yourselves.

NARRATOR: Then the people as a whole answered:

**CROWD: His blood be on us and on our children!**

NARRATOR: So he released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified. Then the soldiers of Pilate took Jesus into the Governor's headquarters and gathered the whole court around him. They stripped him; put a scarlet robe on him, and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him saying, "Hail, king of the Jews!"

They spat on him and took the reed; struck him on the head. After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. And when they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots and then they sat down there and

kept watch over him. Over his head they put the charge against him, which read: “THIS IS JESUS, KING OF THE JEWS.” Then two thieves were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying....

**CROWD: You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross.**

**NARRATOR:** From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, “Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?” that is, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”

And when some of the bystanders heard it, they said, “This man called for Elijah”. At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick and gave it for him to drink. But the others said, “Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to see him.” Then Jesus cried again and breathed his last.

At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook and the rocks were split. Now when the centurion and those with him, who were keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified and he said...

**CENTURION:** Truly, this man was God's Son!

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## *The Sending*

### **BLESSING**

**P:** Beloved, we are God's own people,  
holy, washed, renewed.  
God bless you and keep you,  
shower you with mercy, fill you with courage,  
and † give you peace.

**C: Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

Were You There | ELW #353

1 Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? Were you there?  
 2 Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?  
 3 Were you there when they pierced him in the side?  
 4 Were you there when the sun re - fused to shine?  
 5 Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? Were you there?

Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? Were you there?  
 Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?  
 Were you there when they pierced him in the side?  
 Were you there when the sun re - fused to shine?  
 Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? Were you there?

*Refrain*

Oh, some-times it caus-es me to trem-ble, trem-ble, trem-ble.

Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? Were you there?  
 Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?  
 Were you there when they pierced him in the side?  
 Were you there when the sun re - fused to shine?  
 Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? Were you there?



## **DISMISSAL**

**A:** Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**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!

## **HOLY WEEK 2024**

### **Maundy Thursday**

**March 28 | 7:00 PM**

Lent concludes as we gather around the table and a new commandment that Jesus gives, "Love one another as I have loved you." Join us as we begin the three day journey to the resurrection. Communion will be celebrated.

### **Good Friday**

**March 29 | 12:00 & 7:00 PM**

Join us for our Good Friday service of gathering darkness. We gather together at the foot of the cross to remember the depth of God's love for us. Services will be held in the auditorium.

### **Easter Celebration Worship**

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

At Faith, we want to experience the excitement of Easter with you. On March 31, join us at one of our worship services for some awesome music, an inspirational message, and a time for refreshments and fellowship in our café afterwards. Come and celebrate Easter at Faith!

### **HELICOPTER DROPPED EASTER EGG HUNT**

**Sat 3/30 | 11:00 AM**

*Be a part of the excitement!*

Join us for our Annual Easter Egg Drop on March 30<sup>th</sup>, at 11:00am. This event has become an anticipated community event which all of our friends in the Fox Valley look forward to each year. While it is intended to bring focus to Faith and celebrate the renewal of spring time and the blessings of Easter...it is also a magical day in which children revel in the excitement and anticipation of the Easter Bunny and all of his goodies... which is magnified by the special delivery from a helicopter! Reserve your free tickets today! Visit: [www.discoveringfaith.com/easteregg hunt](http://www.discoveringfaith.com/easteregg hunt).

This event is only possible by the many gifted volunteers who help prepare the entire experience. Volunteer opportunities include the stuffing thousands of eggs, set up, traffic directors, music, photography, leaders and tear down. There is no doubt YOU have something to offer!

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

## **MOM'S GROUP: A Moment for Mom**

**Sat 4/13 | 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](http://www.discoveringfaith.com/amomentformom).

## **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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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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