



# 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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Seventh Sunday after Epiphany  
9:30 Worship Celebration

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

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

February 23, 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**

### **Open Up the Heavens**

We've waited for this day, we're gathered in Your name  
Calling out to you  
Your glory like a fire, awakening desire  
Will burn our hearts with truth

*Pre-Chorus* You're the reason we're here  
You're the reason we're singing

*Chorus* Open up the heavens, we want to see you  
Open up the floodgates, a mighty river  
Flowing from your heart  
Filling every part of our praise

Your presence in this place, Your glory on our face  
We're looking to the sky  
Descending like a cloud, You're standing with us now  
Lord, unveil our eyes (*Pre-Chorus*) (*Chorus*)

Show us, show us Your glory  
Show us, show us Your power  
Show us, show us Your glory, Lord  
Show us, show us Your glory  
Show us, show us Your power  
Show us, show us Your glory, Lord (*Chorus*) (*Chorus*)

## House of the Lord

We worship the God who was  
We worship the God who is  
We worship the God who evermore will be

He opened the prison doors  
He parted the raging sea  
My God, He holds the victory

*Chorus* There's joy in the house of the Lord There's joy in the house of the Lord today  
And we won't be quiet We shout out Your praise  
There's joy in the house of the Lord Our God is surely in this place  
And we won't be quiet We shout out Your praise

We shout out Your praise  
We sing to the God who heals  
We sing to the God who saves  
We sing to the God who always makes a way

'Cause He hung up on that cross  
Then He rose up from that grave  
My God's still rolling stones away (*Chorus*)

We were the beggars  
Now we're royalty  
We were the prisoners  
Now we're running free  
We are forgiven, accepted  
Redeemed by His grace  
Let the house of the Lord sing praise (*Repeat*) (*Chorus*)

We shout out Your praise  
We shout out Your praise  
We shout out Your praise

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: O Lord Jesus, make us instruments of your peace, that where there is hatred, we may sow love, where there is injury, pardon, and where there is despair, hope. Grant, O divine master, that we may seek to console, to understand, and to love in your name, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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### *The Word*

#### READING

**Exodus 20: 8-11**

Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work. But the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

#### RESPONSE

**He Is Exalted**

*please stand*

He is exalted, the King is exalted on high; I will praise him.  
He is exalted, forever exalted, and I will praise his name.  
Jesus is Lord, forever his truth shall reign;  
heaven and earth rejoice in his holy name.  
He is exalted, the King is exalted on high!

#### GOSPEL

**Luke 6:27-38**

“But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. Do to others as you would have them do to you. “If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

## PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

A: With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A: Surprising God, you call us to love our enemies and to show kindness in the face of cruelty. Let our actions be a shining witness of your overwhelming grace for all. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: As animals hibernate and fields lay dormant, let them be a reminder that life and faith are not static but always changing and growing. May we, with all creation, trust that the ending of one thing promises life in a new way. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: We pray for leaders and policymakers who work to reduce violence in our nations, cities, and towns. Give your wisdom and discernment amid heated arguments and differing viewpoints. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: We pray for the victims of abuse and violence. Provide safe shelter and new beginnings to those experiencing domestic violence and dangerous situations. Enfold with love all who seek your healing care. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: Empower our faith communities to be signs of your gracious love. Bless the local ministries of parish nursing and caregiving, that they will be a voice for those in need in our communities. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

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

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people.

**C: Amen.**

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# *The Meal*

## SHARING OF THE PEACE

### OFFERING

#### OFFERING RESPONSE

We Are An Offering

*please stand*

We lift our voices    We lift our hands

We lift our lives up to You    We are an offering

Lord use our voices    Lord use our hands

Lord use our lives they are Yours    We are an offering

### OFFERATORY PRAYER

A: God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens,  
and your abundance to the depths of the seas.

Bless what we offer to your service:  
our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts.

Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity,  
now and always.

C: **Amen.**

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## *The Meal*

P: God, you are with us.

C: **You are always with us.**

P: May we open our hearts.

C: **May we know your presence.**

P: In thanksgiving,

C: **And in deepest honor.**

P: Holy God, we honor you in whom our lives are founded, and in whom our futures lie. We remember and honor also the human searching over the centuries that has perceived your presence in life, and your meaning for all of life.

Above all we honor Jesus, our Christ, whose life and death reveal to us, as his resurrection, the full nature of your being and the potential nature of ours.

We remember that, on the night before his death, Jesus, as he'd always done, gathered his friends for a common meal. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread and gave some to each one, saying:

“Take, eat: This is my body given for you and for everyone.

Do this in remembrance of me.”

After supper he took a cup of wine, and, when he had given thanks, he gave it to them and said:

“Drink this, all of you: This is my blood which is shed for you and for everyone. Drink this in remembrance of me.”

In light of this, we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

C: **Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ's spirit renews our lives.**



P: Holy God, may our hearts and minds be alive to what is sacred in this bread and wine. May they open us to your guidance and to your love for us, for all humankind, and for all life on this earth. This is our hope, our common will, and the expression of our love and trust in Jesus, our Christ.

And now, in the spirit of Christ's teaching, we pray:

## **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: The joy of the Lord is our strength.

Come, eat this meal of gladness.

**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 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: Nourishing God,  
at this table you have refreshed us  
with holy gifts of food and drink.  
Strengthen us for service,  
and send us out to embody your good news  
of liberation and healing for the sake of the world.  
In the name of Christ we pray,

C: **Amen.**

## CLOSING SONG

## Come Thou Fount, Come Thou King

Come Thou Fount of every blessing	Tune my heart to sing Thy grace
Streams of mercy never ceasing	Call for songs of loudest praise
Teach me some melodious sonnet	Sung by flaming tongues above
Praise the mount I'm fixed upon it	Mount of Thy redeeming love

I was lost in utter darkness	'Til You came and rescued me
I was bound by all my sin when	Your love came and set me free
Now my soul can sing a new song	Now my heart has found a home
Now Your grace is always with me	And I'll never be alone

Chorus    Come Thou Fount come Thou King  
              Come Thou precious Prince of Peace  
              Hear Your bride to You we sing  
              Come Thou Fount of our blessing  
              (Repeat)

O to grace how great a debtor	Daily I'm constrained to be
Let Thy goodness like a fetter	Bind my wandering heart to Thee
Prone to wander Lord I feel it	Prone to leave the God I love
Here's my heart Lord take and seal it	Seal it for Thy courts above

(Chorus)

I was lost in utter darkness	'Til You came and rescued me
I was bound by all my sin when	Your love came and set me free
Now my soul can sing a new song	Now my heart has found a home
Now Your grace is always with me	And I'll never be alone

## DISMISSAL

A:    Go in peace. Live in Hope.  
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!

### **ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP**

**Wed 3/5 | Noon & 7:00 PM**

On Ash Wednesday we begin our forty-day journey toward Easter with a day of fasting and repentance. Marking our foreheads with dust, we acknowledge that we die and return to the earth. At the same time, the dust traces the life-giving cross indelibly marked on our foreheads at baptism. While we journey through Lent to return to God, we have already been reconciled to God through Christ. We humbly pray for God to make our hearts clean while we rejoice that "now is the day of salvation." Returning to our baptismal call, we more intentionally bear the fruits of mercy and justice in the world.

### **A MOMENT FOR MOM**

**Sat 3/8 | 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](http://www.discoveringfaith.com)

### **CUB SCOUT MUSIC BINGO FUNDRAISER (21+ Event)**

**Sat 3/8 | 7:00 PM**

Bring your friends and family to this fun, musical, fundraising event hosted by Pack 643! Our Faith Lutheran Church Cub Scout Pack 643 is hosting their 1st annual Rockstar Bingo fundraiser. When bingo, and music come together, everyone wins! A silent auction, prizes after each round, your own pizza and snacks, bottled water, 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! Beyond water, it's BYOB.

Game will be played in pairs. No singles. Event tickets are \$50 per pair. Purchase online soon! Last day of online ticket sales is Sunday, February 23. There will be no ticket sales at the door. Prepurchase required for admittance. Adults only (21+) event.

## REVOLUTION

Sun 3/2 & 3/16 | 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)

## 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 | 6:00 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

## **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.

## **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

## **ADULT ONLINE STUDY GROUP**

**Tuesdays | 7:00 PM**

### ***What Happens Next***

What Happens Next is an optimistic, accessible, and nonsensational guide to what the Bible says about heaven's time line that will empower you to face the future with faith. Max takes you on a well-researched examination of the essential milestones such as the rapture, the seven years of tribulation, and the glory of heaven. You will be encouraged to ponder God's promises for the future. "It's all about hope. It's all about him."

This 6-week video Bible study is facilitated by Becky Marchiando. It meets online via Zoom on Tuesday evenings 1/21 – 2/25 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!

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

**Tuesdays | 9:00 AM**

### ***Behold and Believe***

The group is exploring Behold and Believe by Courtney Doctor and Joanna Kimbrel. All women of Faith are invited to attend a study of the “I Am” statements of Jesus as recorded in the Gospel of John. Meetings will take place Tuesdays in the café & facilitated by Sue Boozell. The book is \$10 and will be made available at the meetings. Come join us! For additional information, contact Sue Boozell at [sue.boozell@discoveringfaith.com](mailto:sue.boozell@discoveringfaith.com).

### **Living Generously (As of January 31, 2025)**

Our mission is simple. Invite people to discover the new life that can be found in Jesus Christ. Because of your financial generosity, lives are being changed. Our budgeted resource needs to live out our mission are not currently fully funded. We would like to invite you to prayerfully consider how you can respond so that together we can enhance our mission impact in our community and beyond. Thank you for living generously.

2025 YTD Giving \$27,250

2025 YTD Budget \$36,937

2025 YTD Expenses \$42,650

### **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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