



**W H E N   G O D**

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Seventh Sunday of Easter  
9:30 Worship Celebration

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

Becoming fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.

May 12 , 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: WHEN GOD**

What do you do . . .When God feels distant, when God doesn't cooperate, when God seems late?

We all face times when it feels like God is far away. Our prayers are unanswered, and our circumstances go from bad to worse. During these times, God doesn't just seem distant; he seems distracted. People tell us to pray more. Pastors tell us to have more faith. But what does the Bible say?

Join us as we look at the lives of three people from the New Testament, each loved by God, but whose circumstances seemed to tell a different story.

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# *The Gathering*

## **OPENING SONG**

### **Only King Forever**

Our God and firm foundation  
Our Rock the only solid ground  
The nations rise and fall  
Kingdoms once strong now shaken  
We trust forever in Your name  
The name of Jesus  
We trust in the name of Jesus

*Chorus*    You are the only King forever  
              Almighty God we lift You higher  
              You are the only King forever  
              Forevermore You are victorious

Unmatched in all Your wisdom  
In love and justice You will reign  
And ev'ry knee will bow  
We bring our expectations  
Our hope is anchored in Your name  
The name of Jesus  
Oh we trust the name of Jesus (*Chorus*)

We lift our banner high  
We lift the name of Jesus  
From age to age You reign  
Your kingdom has no end (*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*)

The Earth shall soon dissolve like snow  
The sun forbear to shine  
But God, Who called me here below  
Will be forever mine  
You'll be forever mine (*Chorus*) (*Chorus*)

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

L: Gracious and glorious God, you have chosen us as your own, and by the powerful name of Christ you protect us from evil. By your Spirit transform us and your beloved world, that we may find our joy in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and 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

**1 John 5: 9-13**

If we receive human testimony, the testimony of God is greater; for this is the testimony of God that he has testified to his Son.

Those who believe in the Son of God have the testimony in their hearts. Those who do not believe in God have made him a liar by not believing in the testimony that God has given concerning his Son. And this is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Seek Ye First

*please stand*

Seek ye first the kingdom of God  
And its righteousness  
And all these things will be added unto you  
Allelu, alleluia Bought with the precious blood of Christ

### GOSPEL

**Mark 6: 14-20**

King Herod heard of it, for Jesus' name had become known. Some were saying, "John the baptizer has been raised from the dead; and for this reason these powers are at work in him." But others said, "It is Elijah." And others said, "It is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old." But when Herod heard of it, he said, "John, whom I beheaded, has been raised."

For Herod himself had sent men who arrested John, bound him, and put him in prison on account of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, because Herod had married her. For John had been telling Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." And Herodias had a grudge against him, and wanted to kill him. But she could not, for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous

and holy man, and he protected him. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed; and yet he liked to listen to him.

## MESSAGE

When God Feels Distant | Pastor Rob

## PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

- A: Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.
- A: You sanctify us in your truth; your word is truth. Send your church out into the world to spread your love and joy. Embolden all bishops, pastors, and deacons to be faithful ministers of your word and sacraments. God of grace,
- C: hear our prayer.**
- A: Your creation groans under the strain of pollution. Preserve melting glaciers and dwindling forests. Bolster those who work for climate justice and help us all to be good and faithful stewards of your creation. God of grace,
- C: hear our prayer.**
- A: Your people seek wisdom, understanding, and peace. Guide all those who govern and inspire them to work on behalf of the most vulnerable in our midst. Keep safe first responders, those serving in the military, and those whose duty it is to protect others. God of grace,
- C: hear our prayer.**
- A: Your children need your loving care. Protect them from all harm. Comfort those in any affliction. Support those who grieve and bring solace to those near death. God of grace,
- C: hear our prayer.**
- A: Your Spirit lives within us here. Inspire the work of this congregation and unite us as one. Bless all the mothers in our midst, console those for whom this day is difficult, and gather us all under the care of your loving wings. 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: Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray,  
trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living  
Lord.

C: **Amen.**

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## *The Meal*

### **SHARING OF THE PEACE**

### **OFFERING**

### **OFFERING RESPONSE**

*please stand*

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Love divine, all loves excelling,  
Joy of heav'n to earth come down!  
Fix in us thy humble dwelling,  
all thy faithful mercies crown.  
Jesus, thou art all compassion,  
pure, unbounded love thou art;  
visit us with thy salvation,  
enter ev'ry trembling heart

### **OFFERATORY PRAYER**

P: Risen One,  
you call us to believe and bear fruit.  
May the gifts that we offer here  
be signs of your abiding love.  
Form us to be your witnesses in the world,  
through Jesus Christ, our true vine.

C: **Amen.**

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## *The Meal*

P: God's love for the world was so great that He gave us His Son, so that anyone who believes in Him should not die but receive eternal life.

We come to this table in need;

We are weak and need strength;

We are broken and need healing;

We are hardened and need softening;

We are poor in spirit and need care.

**C: We give thanks for Your compassion, O God;  
We rejoice at Your invitation to share in this meal,  
and we receive again Your abundant grace.**

P: So, let's remember how Jesus gave Himself for us;  
At supper, on the night of His betrayal, Jesus took bread,  
gave thanks, broke it and shared it with His friends, saying:  
This is my body, given for you. Take it, eat it, and remember Me.

**C: Amen.**

P: After supper, Jesus took the cup,  
gave thanks and shared it with His friends, saying:  
This is my blood shed for you. Take it, drink it and remember Me.

**C: Amen.**

P: In this bread and in this wine we receive again  
the generous, and costly gift of life,  
offered to us through the sacrifice of Jesus.  
This meal is a proclamation of God's goodness, a thanksgiving for God's grace  
and a sharing in God's life.

**C: And we will keep celebrating in this way until Jesus returns. 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: The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread.

Come and eat at God's table.

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: Shepherding God,  
you have prepared a table before us  
and nourished us with your love.  
Send us forth from this banquet  
to proclaim your goodness  
and share the abundant mercy of Jesus,  
our redeemer and friend.

**C: Amen.**

## CLOSING SONG

## Hope Has a Name

There is a song I know it well  
A melody that's never failed  
On mountains high in valleys low  
My soul will rest  
My confidence in You alone

*Chorus*    Hope has a name His name is Jesus  
              My Savior's cross has set this sinner free  
              Hope has a name His name is Jesus  
              Oh Christ be praised I have victory

There is a light salvation's flame  
Christ undefeated trampled the grave  
See now the cross be lifted high  
The light has come the light has won  
Behold the Christ    (*Chorus*)

There'll be a day my hope complete  
Now home in glory Your face I'll see  
My pain no more my fear will cease  
I bow my life I fix my eyes  
On Christ my king  
I bow my life I fix my eyes  
On Christ my king    (*Chorus*)

## DISMISSAL

**A:**    Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.  
**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!

### **CONFIRMATION SUNDAY**

**Sun 5/19 & Sun 6/9 | 9:30 AM**

We will be celebrating the affirmation of faith of our young people who have completed their confirmation journey. Join us as these Christ followers boldly proclaim that Jesus is their Lord and Savior.

5/19: Mane Brolley, Amber Gabris, Kelsey Howard, Annabelle Nawrocki

6/9: Alejandro Cantarero, Ariana Cantarero

### **FAMILY PIZZA NIGHT**

**Sat 5/18 | 5:00 PM**

Come join us for Family Pizza Night at Aurelio's Pizza at 1975 Springbrook Square Dr in Naperville. Join us for Pizza, salad soft drinks and dessert (Cash bar)

Cost \$24 (ADULT) \$13.00 (CHILD 3-10). Price includes taxes and tip.

Reserve your seat online or at the welcome center

### **NEXT**

**Sun 5/19 | 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

### **CHICAGO EXPERIENCE**

**Sat 6/28 | 8:00 PM**

Want to experience Chicago right here in Aurora? Embrace the brass! The Chicago Experience is the ultimate tribute band honoring the legendary rock band. We're gathering inside the park in the grass closer to the river. We'll be flying balloons to make it easier to find us.

Tickets are \$2 per person through May 31, \$5 per person starting June 1. Purchase tickets at [Paramountaurora.com](http://Paramountaurora.com). Bring a blanket or folding chair. Gates open at 6:00 PM. Come join us!

## **VBS -Scuba**

**7/8 - 7/12/24 | 9:00 AM**

Join us at Scuba VBS, where kids will dive deep into an amazing undersea adventure where they'll experience the ever-flowing, never-ending love of God. At Scuba VBS, kids will be immersed in the Word and discover what living water is really all about! Kids participate in memorable Bible-learning activities, sing catchy songs, play teamwork-building games, make and devour yummy treats, experience one-of-a-kind Bible Adventures, collect Bible Memory Buddies to remind them of God's love, and test out Sciency-Fun Gizmos they'll take home and play with all summer long. For more information contact [jenn@discoveringfaith.com](mailto:jenn@discoveringfaith.com) or register online at [discoveringfaith.com](http://discoveringfaith.com)

## **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

- The children's ministry team is looking for volunteers to join us for VBS this summer, July 8-12. We are looking for both teen and adult volunteers for the week. Please contact [jenn@discoveringfaith.com](mailto:jenn@discoveringfaith.com) if you're interested in serving this summer!

## **KIDWERKS Summer Schedule**

**Sundays at 9:30AM**

June: 2, 16 & 30

July: 14 & 28

August: 11 & 25

We will continue to meet this summer every other week in the auditorium. Join us for a summer of fun and learning! To register go to [discoveringfaith.com](http://discoveringfaith.com) or for more information please contact [jenn@discoveringfaith.com](mailto:jenn@discoveringfaith.com)

## **ADULT ONLINE STUDY GROUP**

**Tuesdays | 7:00 PM**

### ***Desperate for Hope***

Have you ever asked, Why am I going through this? What if this never gets better? Does God really care about me? When life falls apart, it's easy to feel alone and slip into despair—disillusioned with God, hopeless about the future, and doubting your faith.

This 7-week online study will be facilitated by Becky Marchiando. Please register online or at the welcome center so that we may send you Zoom credentials required to participate. Come join us!

## **KIDWERKS**

**Sun 5/19 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

Sun 5/19 | 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!

## BLOOD DRIVE: SAVE THE DATE!

Sat 6/22 | 9:00 AM

Be a Beacon of Hope whose kindness saves lives, including those with cancer or sickle cell disease. These fighters and their families are counting on you.

Make an appointment:

[https://donate.illinois.versiti.org/donor/schedules/drive\\_schedule/5608994](https://donate.illinois.versiti.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/5608994)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.



Pastor Rob Douglas

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