



Practicing the Way

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

Second Sunday of Easter
8:00 am worship service

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

Becoming fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.

April 27, 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.

The Gathering

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN

please stand

Thine Is the Glory | ELW #376

1 Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con-qu'ring Son; end - less is the
2 Lo, Je - sus meets thee, ris - en from the tomb! Lov-ing - ly he
3 No more we doubt thee, glo - rious Prince of life; life is naught with-

vic - try thou o'er death hast won! An - gels in bright rai - ment
greets thee, scat - ters fear and gloom; let his church with glad - ness
out thee; aid us in our strife; make us more than con-qu'rors,

rolled the stone a - way, kept the fold - ed grave - clothes
hymns of tri - umph sing, for the Lord now liv - eth;
through thy death - less love; bring us safe through Jor - dan

Refrain

where thy bod - y lay. death hath lost its sting! Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con-qu'ring
to thy home a - bove.

Son; end - less is the vic - try thou o'er death hast won!

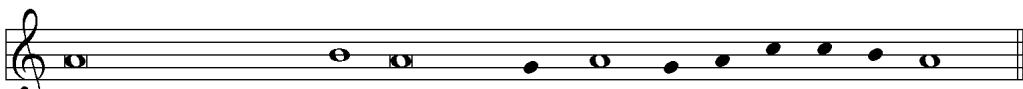
GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
C: **And also with you.**

KYRIE



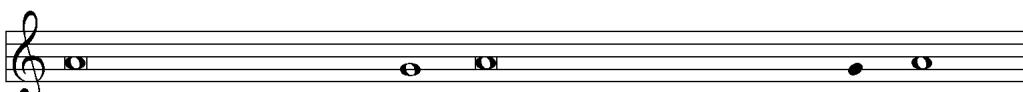
A In peace, let us pray to the Lord. C Lord, have mer - cy.



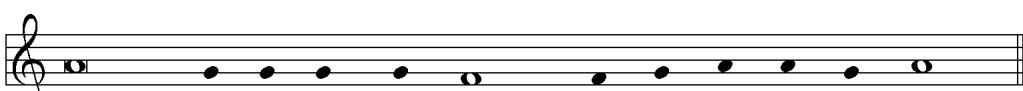
A For the peace from a- bove, and for our sal- vation, let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



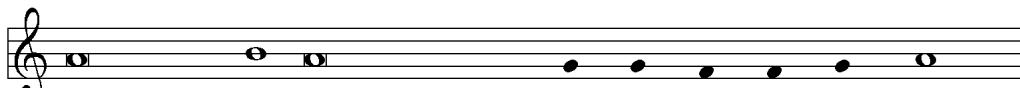
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



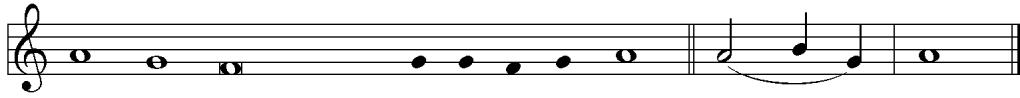
C Lord, have mer - cy.



¶ For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. ¶ Lord, have mer - cy.



¶ Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord. ¶ A - men

HYMN OF PRAISE

Refrain



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



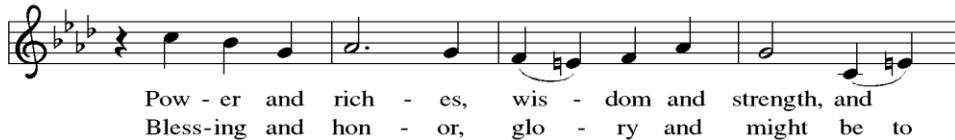
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



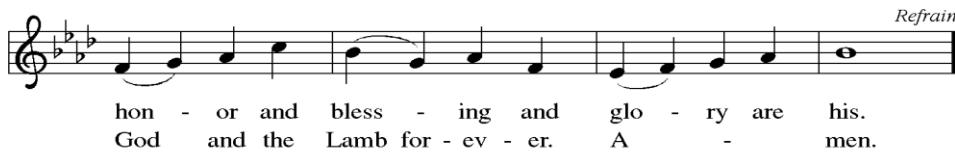
1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
2 Sing . . with all the peo - ple of God, and



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.
join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:



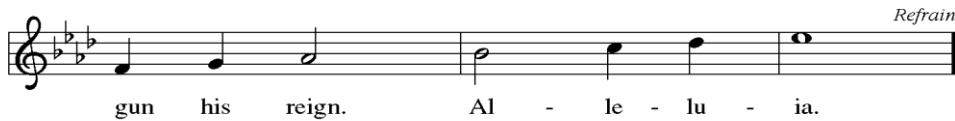
Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and strength, and
Bless-ing and hon - or, glo - ry and might be to



hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



3 For the Lamb who was slain has be -



gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

Refrain

Refrain

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray,

O God of life, you reach out to us amid our fears with the wounded hands of your risen Son. By your Spirit's breath revive our faith in your mercy, and strengthen us to be the body of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The Word

FIRST READING

Acts 5:27-32

When they had brought them, they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, saying, “We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you are determined to bring this man’s blood on us.” But Peter and the apostles answered, “We must obey God rather than any human authority. The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him.”

SECOND READING

Revelation 1:4-8

John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. Look! He is coming with the clouds; every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail. So it is to be. Amen. “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *please stand*

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 28th chapter.

A musical score for soprano voice in G major. The vocal line consists of a series of eighth and sixteenth notes. The lyrics are: "Glo - ry to you, O Lord." The vocal range is approximately from middle C to the soprano C-clef. The score includes a treble clef, a key signature of two sharps, and a common time signature.

GOSPEL

Matthew 28: 16-20

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

Musical notation for the hymn 'Praise to the Lord, my strength'. The notation is in G major (two sharps) and common time. The lyrics are: 'Praise to the Lord, my strength, who daily me defends; to you, O Lord of hosts, who me from all my foes defends.' The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes, with a melodic line that rises and falls to emphasize the words 'Praise' and 'Lord'.

MESSAGE

Witness: Pathway to Purpose & Fulfillment | Pastor Rob

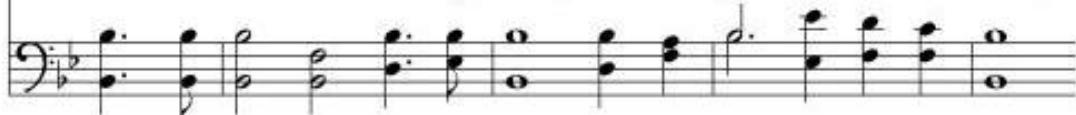
HYMN OF THE DAY

please stand

Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me | ELW #623



1 Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee;
2 Not the la - bors of my hands can ful - fill thy law's de - mands;
3 Noth - ing in my hand I bring; sim - ply to thy cross I cling.
4 While I draw this fleet - ing breath, when mine eye - lids close in death,



let the wa - ter and the blood, from thy riv - en side which flowed,
could my zeal no res - pite know, could my tears for - ev - er flow,
Na - ked, come to thee for dress; help-less, look to thee for grace;
when I soar to worlds un - known, see thee on thy judg - ment throne,



be of sin the dou - ble cure; cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.
all for sin could not a - tone; thou must save, and thou a - lone.
foul, I to the foun-tain fly; wash me, Sav - ior, or I die.
Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee.



PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

A: God of resurrection and new life, we come before you in prayer for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A: Inspire the church with the breath of your Holy Spirit, that we sing the good news of the resurrection. Inspire deacons and pastors, lay leaders and bishops to boldly proclaim your love for all people. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Kindle in the nations a spirit of cooperation and mutual care. Raise up creative and courageous leaders committed to shaping just solutions to complex challenges in our local and global communities. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Embrace all who carry wounds, that they might know your compassion. Draw near to those with chronic pain or anxiety, and all for whom death is near. Comfort individuals and communities suffering in any way. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Transform our fear into curiosity and love, especially across differences in race, religion, sexuality, gender identity, and economic situation. Unravel stereotypes that lead to discrimination, and destroy oppressive systems that marginalize vulnerable communities. 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: We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people.

C: Amen.

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: Risen One,
you have gathered us around your table of grace
along with these gifts we bring.
Come among us again,
breathe your life into us,
and enliven us with this meal,
that we may live as your risen body in the world.

C: Amen.

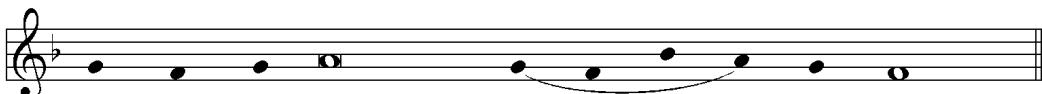
GREAT THANKSGIVING



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 and salutary . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy 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 of grace. Receive the gift of new life.
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 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; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the
 sin of the world; have mer-cy on us. grant us peace.

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace.

C: Amen.

C: Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev'-ry-one what he has done.

Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly 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.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

please stand

A: Living One,
in this feast you have made yourself known to us.
Send us now to tell of your wonders,
sing of your glory,
and proclaim your risen life
to a wounded and weary world.

C: Amen

The Sending

BLESSING

P: The triune God,
who was, who is, and who is to come,
Sovereign, † Savior, and Spirit,
light your way with resurrection dawn,
now and always.

C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

You Servants of God | ELW #825

please stand

1 You ser - vants of God, your Mas - ter pro - claim, and pub - lish a -
2 As - cend - ed on high, al - might - y to save, yet still he is
3 Sal - va - tion to God who sits on the throne! Let all cry a -
4 Then let us a - dore and give him his right, all glo - ry and

broad his won - der - ful name; the name, all - vic - to - rious, of
nigh, his pres - ence we have. The great con - gre - ga - tion his
loud and hon - or the Son. The prais - es of Je - sus the
pow'r and wis - dom and might, all hon - or and bless - ing, with

Je - sus ex - tol; his king - dom is glo - rious and rules o - ver all!
tri - umph shall sing, as - crib - ing sal - va - tion to Je - sus, our king!
an - gels pro - claim, fall down on their fac - es, and wor - ship the Lamb.
an - gels a - bove, and thanks nev - er ceas - ing, and in - fin - ite love!

DISMISSAL

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

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!

ADULT ONLINE STUDY GROUP

Begins 4/29 | 7:00 PM

God Never Gives Up On You

God's Grace Is Greater Than Your Biggest Setback. God enacts his perfect plan through imperfect people—including you and me!

Join us online and see how God used Jacob—the misbehaving patriarch who was strong on savvy but weak on conscience—simply because God chose to use Jacob. His story invites us to believe in a God who sticks with the unworthy until we are safely at home. God turns brokenness into blessings through his grace, mercy, and relentless love. Not just for Bible characters, but for you. God Never Gives Up on YOU.

This 5-week video Bible study is facilitated by Becky Marchiando. The study group meets online via Zoom on Tuesday evenings April 29 through May 27 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!

APRIL SHOWERS BRING MAY FLAMINGOS

Flamingo season will soon be underway here at Faith. Yes, two flocks of those lovely, tacky, plastic, pink flamingo lawn ornaments will soon be descending upon the lawns of various families of Faith. Fortunately, we have a trained team of students who are ready to remove them should they land in your yard. Removal fee is \$20.

You can join the fun by requesting these flocks land at a specific address. Special requests will be honored for \$5. Get someone before they get you! So choose wisely, and have fun playing the game all month long!

Want to ensure these pesky birds don't land in your yard? Flamingo Insurance is available for only \$10. Buy early; the cost of removing these from your yard is double.

All proceeds go to support the Student Ministries Summer Dominican Republic mission trip. Details, special requests, and insurance certificates are available at the Pink Flamingo Table. Thanks for playing, and for your support!

A MOMENT FOR MOM

Sat 5/10 | 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. This month Dr Jana Richardson will be speaking on Empowered Motherhood: Understanding Your Pelvic Floor. 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

NEXT

Sun 5/18 | 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

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

REVOLUTION

Sun 4/27 | 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!

CHICAGO CUBS GAME

Mon 5/26 | 10:30 AM

Grab your family and friends as we join the Faith Community Life team on a tour bus down to Wrigley Field Monday, May 26 to see the Cubs take on the Colorado Rockies. Tickets are \$80/person and include the bus and game ticket (food, drinks, etc. are on your own).

Tickets are in Section 225. ONLY 50 TICKETS AVAILABLE!

Purchase tickets online at www.discoveringfaith.com

Arrive at Faith promptly by 10:30 AM. Bus Leaves Faith and arrives at Wrigley Field between 12:00-12:30 PM. Game starts at 1:20 PM. The bus will leave immediately after the game and we are expected to arrive back at Faith by 6:00 PM, depending on the length of the game.

Tickets will be sent to you once purchased and closer to the game. Everyone must have a ticket and tickets are non-refundable. Dress for the weather. There is a bathroom on the bus.

VBS -True North

7/21 - 7/25/25 | 9:00 AM

Join us this summer at True North VBS, kids will embark on the ultimate Alaskan adventure where northern lights glow over majestic mountains, racing rivers, and glistening glaciers. As kids trek the tundra, they'll explore how easy it is to lose sight of what's true in our wild world today. Pointing them toward Jesus, True North VBS shows them that he is a faithful friend we can always trust. He's our True North! 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 or register online at discoveringfaith.com

Living Generously

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 Revenue \$98,388

2025 YTD Budget \$ 110,813

2025 YTD Expenses \$120,449

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:(630)862-3500) or send an e-mail 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: caretteam@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:(630)248-5515).



Pastor Rob Douglas
DISCOVERINGFAITH.COM

3000 LIBERTY ST. AURORA, IL. 60502 | (630) 862-3500 | OFFICE@DISCOVERINGFAITH.COM