



“LAST WORDS”

JESUS'S LAST WORDS FROM THE CROSS

Fifth Sunday of Lent
9:30 am worship service

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

Becoming fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.

March 17, 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 MESSAGE 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.

The Gathering

OPENING SONGS *please stand*

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

Gratitude

All my words fall short
I got nothing new
How could I express
All my gratitude?

I could sing these songs
As I often do
But every song must end
And You never do

Chorus 1 So I throw up my hands And praise You again and again
'Cause all that I have is a hallelujah Hallelujah

Chorus 2 And I know it's not much But I've nothing else fit for a King
Except for a heart singing hallelujah Hallelujah

I've got one response
I've got just one move
With my arm stretched wide
I will worship You (*Chorus 1*) (*Chorus 2*)

Bridge Come on, my soul Oh, don't you get shy on me
Lift up your song 'Cause you've got a lion inside of those lungs
Get up and praise the Lord (*Repeat 2x*) (*Chorus 1*) (*Chorus 2*)

OPENING PRAYER

A: O God, with steadfast love you draw us to yourself, and in mercy you receive our prayers. Strengthen us to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit, that through life and death we may live 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

The Word

FIRST LESSON

Hebrews 5:5-10

So also Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him, “You are my Son, today I have begotten you”; as he says also in another place, “You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek.” In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Be Thou My Vision

please stand

Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art
Thou my best thought by day or by night
Waking or sleeping Thy presence my light

GOSPEL

John 19: 25-39

And that is what the soldiers did. Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home. 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.

Since it was the day of Preparation, the Jews did not want the bodies left on the cross during the sabbath, especially because that sabbath was a day of great solemnity. So they asked Pilate to have the legs of the crucified men broken and the bodies removed. Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who had been crucified with him. But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. Instead, one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once blood and water came out. (He who saw this has testified so that you also may believe. His testimony is true, and he knows that he tells the truth.) These things occurred so that the scripture might be fulfilled, "None of his bones shall be broken." And again another passage of scripture says, "They will look on the one whom they have pierced."

After these things, Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, though a secret one because of his fear of the Jews, asked Pilate to let him take away the body of Jesus. Pilate gave him permission; so he came and removed his body. Nicodemus, who had at first come to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds.

MESSAGE

Thirsty | Pastor Rob

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: God of the covenant, through the church you draw us into community. We give thanks for the means of grace around which we gather. Inspire writers, musicians, and artists whose creative gifts adorn our worship. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: God of all that exists, you lavish the earth with extravagant beauty. Preserve the rich and complex diversity of living things. Support local, national, and international efforts to protect the environment for future generations. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: God of the nations, you desire peace and plenty for all people. Defend those who challenge oppression and expose corruption. Support advocates for human rights, social justice, and the welfare of children. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: God of good will, you restore what is broken. We pray for any experiencing estrangement, conflict, or abuse in families and intimate relationships. Protect and comfort all who are vulnerable, especially those living in institutions. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: God of every time and place, you are with us. Support ministries of prayer and presence in this congregation. Move us to reach out to any who are homebound, lonely, grieving, in treatment, or ill. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

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

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C: Amen.

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

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.**

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.

THE 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: Bread for the journey.
A feast for hungry hearts. Come!
- C: **Thanks be to God.**

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. 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.**

The Sending

SENDING PRAYER

- A: Generous God,
at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace.
As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread,
now make us one loaf to feed the world;
in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life.
- C: **Amen**

Glorious Day

CLOSING SONG

I was buried beneath my shame
Who could carry that kind of weight?
It was my tomb 'til I met You

I was breathing but not alive
All my failures I tried to hide
It was my tomb 'til I met You

Chorus You Called my name and I ran out of that grave
Out of the darkness into Your glorious day
You called my name and I ran out of that grave
Out of the darkness into Your glorious day

Now Your mercy has saved my soul
Now Your freedom is all that I know
The old made new, Jesus, when I met You (*Chorus*)

I needed rescue, my sin was heavy
But the chains break at the weight of Your glory
I needed shelter, I was an orphan
Now You call me a citizen of Heaven

When I was broken, You were my healing
Now Your love is the air that I'm breathing
I have a future
My eyes are open, cause when (*Chorus*)

DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

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. Everyone who attends shares in the responsibility of providing different components for the meal. Beverages and table service will be provided. The Lenten Meal will be offered at 6:30 PM on Wednesday: 3/20. Our worship series begins after this fellowship time at 7:15PM. Sign up at the welcome center or online at www.discoveringfaith.com

MIDWEEK LENTEN WORSHIP – “Things Jesus Never Said”

Wednesdays | 7:15 PM

These days it's easy to see life the way we want to. We can filter our images, pick the news we want to hear, and listen only to the viewpoints that agree with us. When we do that, we start to distort our view of the world. The same thing can happen to our view of God. We reshape our perception of Him into what we want to believe, or what we want to think about others. Jesus came to bring us the truth about God and His plan for us, and it doesn't always sound like what you may think.

EASTER FLOWERS

Orders Due Today!

Once again a variety of spring flowers will be offered to adorn our altar for the Easter services. If you would like to honor the memory of a loved one or just celebrate the Glory of God please fill out an order form and place it in the offering plate or in the church office. Order forms available at the welcome center or online at www.discoveringfaith.com

NEXT

Sun 3/17 | 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

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!

ADULT ONLINE STUDY GROUP

Tuesdays | 7:00 PM

Why Easter Matters

Have you ever been at odds with God? Have you resisted, defied, or tried to bargain your way out of what you thought God wanted? You aren't alone. Scripture documents similar stories. In this Easter Study Andy Stanley looks at some of the people whose lives intersected with Jesus in the weeks leading to his crucifixion. Each of them had an agenda that put them at odds with God and Jesus. As you'll see, there's a little bit of them in all of us.

This 4-week online study will be facilitated by Becky Marchiando. Please register at the welcome center so that we may send you Zoom credentials required to participate. Come join us!

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.

EGG STUFFING PARTY!

March 20 | 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 evening 3/20 from 7:30 - 9:00pm. Come join the fun!

FIRST COMMUNION WORKSHOP

Sat 3/23 | 9:00 AM

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 March 28, at 7:00 p.m. For further information, contact Pastor Rob at pastor@discoveringfaith.com. Sign up today at the welcome center.

THE EASTER JOURNEY

Sat 3/23 | 3:30 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, March 23, and starts at 3:30 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.

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 30th, 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.

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!

For more volunteer information, please email eggdrop@discoveringfaith.com.

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.

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

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!

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.

2024 YTD Giving. \$44,606

2024 YTD Budget \$47,509

2024 YTD Expenses \$61,326

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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