



# 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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Third Sunday in Lent  
9:30 Worship Celebration

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

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

March 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**

### **Only King Forever**

Our God and firm foundation  
Our rock the only solid ground  
As 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    *(Repeat)*

Unmatched in all Your wisdom  
In love and justice You will reign  
And every knee will bow  
We bring our expectations  
Our hope is anchored in Your name  
The name of Jesus  
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 *(Repeat) (Chorus)*

## **This is Amazing Grace**

Who breaks the power of sin and darkness?  
Whose love is mighty and so much stronger?  
The King of glory, the King above all kings  
Who shakes the whole earth with holy thunder?  
Who leaves us breathless in awe and wonder?  
The King of glory, the King above all kings

*Chorus* This is amazing grace This is unfailing love  
That You would take my place That You would bear my cross  
You laid down Your life That I would be set free  
Oh, Jesus, I sing for All that You've done for me

Who brings our chaos back into order?  
Who makes the orphan a son and daughter?  
The King of glory, the King of glory  
Who rules the nations with truth and justice  
Shines like the sun in all of its brilliance  
The King of glory, the King above all kings (*Chorus*)

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain  
Worthy is the King who conquered the grave  
Worthy is the Lamb who was slain  
Worthy is the King who conquered the grave  
Worthy is the Lamb who was slain  
Worthy is the King who conquered the grave  
Worthy is the Lamb who was slain  
Worthy, worthy, worthy (*Chorus*)

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

L: Eternal God, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your word and obey it, and bring your saving love to fruition in our lives, through 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 Timothy 6: 17-19**

As for those who in the present age are rich, command them not to be haughty, or to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but rather on God who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life.

#### RESPONSE

Blessing, Honor and Glory

*please stand*

Blessing, Honor, Glory to The Lamb  
Holy, righteous, worthy is the Lamb

Death could not hold him down  
For he is risen Seated upon the throne  
He is the lamb of God  
Blessing, honor, Glory to the lamb  
Holy , Righteous, worthy is the lamb of God

#### GOSPEL

**Luke 13:1-9**

At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. He asked them, “Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.”

Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none.

Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’ He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’”

## MESSAGE

Generosity: Source of Incredible Joy | Pastor Rob

## PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

A: Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A: We pray for the church, called to be a witness to all peoples. Grant humility and wisdom to bishops, pastors, deacons, elders, councils, and congregations, that they may call upon you in making decisions. God, in your mercy,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: We pray for the earth, called to provide abundantly. Teach your people the goodness of your generosity, that in sharing what we have been given, all life may flourish on the planet that is our shared home. God, in your mercy,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: We pray for those in need, called to receive your compassion. Comfort those whose lives have been disrupted through natural disasters and human conflict. Aid communities in coming together to mourn, heal, and rebuild. God, in your mercy,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: We pray for this assembly, called to welcome its neighbors to the table of your grace. Bless food pantries, community gardens and kitchens, clean water projects, and all ministries that address human hunger and thirst. God, in your mercy,

**C: receive our prayer.**

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

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life.

**C: Amen.**

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# *The Meal*

## **SHARING OF THE PEACE**

## **OFFERING**

## **OFFERING RESPONSE**

Joyful, Joyful

*please stand*

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love!  
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before thee, Praising thee, their sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; Drive the dark of doubt away;  
Giver of immortal gladness, Fill us with the light of day!

## **OFFERATORY PRAYER**

A: Gracious Provider,  
you set your immense treasures among us,  
opening your heart to the world.  
As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love,  
deepen our commitment to sharing those  
treasures with others,  
through our Savior, Jesus Christ.

**C: Amen.**

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## *The Meal*

P: The earth is the Lord's and everything in it,  
The trees of the field clap their hands,  
the birds of the air sing songs of praise.  
And so, we lift up our hearts, and we lift up our voices  
And we offer thanksgiving and adoration to the Lord the Creator of all.

Blessed are you, Sovereign of the Universe, for from seeds sown into the earth you have given us the gift of bread to feed and nourish us. And at Jesus' last meal with his friends, before facing the cross, Our Lord took bread, blessed it and broke it. Then he passed it among them saying:

C: **This is my body, broken for you.**  
**Take and eat, and do this to remember me.**

Blessed are you, Sovereign of the Universe,  
for from grapes which grow ripe and sweet on the vine,  
you have given us the gift of wine to refresh and heal us.  
And at Jesus' last meal with his friends before facing the cross,  
Our Lord took the cup of wine and blessed it.  
Then he passed it among them saying:

C: **This is my blood shed for you.**  
**Take and drink, and do this to remember me.**

And now we come to your table again, Jesus,  
Mindful of how you laid your life down,  
so that we and creation could be born anew;  
Mindful of how you took your life up again,  
so that we and creation could be filled with your abundant life.  
May your Spirit work in these fruits of earth,  
so that they may become for us a sharing in Christ's body and blood.  
May your Spirit work in us, so that we may be transformed into Christ's  
body, carrying his life, his care, and his salvation to all creation.

C: **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: All who are hungry, come!  
The feast of grace is spread.  
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: Generous Host,  
you have shared your feast with us and made us new.  
Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities,  
that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom,  
in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

## CLOSING SONG

## What A Friend We Have In Jesus

What a friend we have in Jesus  
All our sins and griefs to bear  
And what a privilege to carry  
Everything to God in prayer  
Oh what peace we often forfeit  
Oh what needless pain we bear  
All because we do not carry  
Everything to God in prayer

Have we trials and temptations  
Is there trouble anywhere  
We shall never be discouraged  
Take it to the Lord in prayer  
Can we find a friend so faithful  
Who will all our sorrows share  
Jesus knows our every weakness  
Take it to the Lord in prayer

Chorus    Precious Jesus  
             Lord and friend  
             I give everything to You  
             Shelter   Shepherd   Savior King  
             I give everything to You

Are we weak and heavy laden  
Cumbered with a load of care  
Precious Savior still our refuge  
Take it to the Lord in prayer  
Do thy friends despise forsake thee  
Take it to the Lord in prayer  
In His arms He'll take and shield thee  
Thou Wilt find a solace there   (*Chorus*) (*Chorus*)

## DISMISSAL

A:        Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.

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!

### **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: 3/26, 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"*

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 3/19 & 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.

## REVOLUTION

Sun 4/6 & 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! Meets 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays in the auditorium. Register online- [discoveringfaith.com](http://discoveringfaith.com)

## ADULT ONLINE STUDY GROUP

Tuesdays | 7:00 PM

### *The Promise and Power of Easter*

Easter is so much more than a holiday. Easter isn't just a date on the calendar; it's the most significant event in human history. It's the celebration of Jesus' resurrection from the dead, and His victory over everything that holds us back in our earthly lives. It's the day we focus on the promise and power of Jesus and draw closer to Him.

This 4-week video Bible study is facilitated by Becky Marchiando. The study group meets online via Zoom on Tuesday evenings March 18 through April 8 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!

## THE EASTER JOURNEY

Sat 4/12 | 3:00 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, April 12, and starts at 3:00 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.

## EASTER FLOWERS

Orders Due April 6

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](http://www.discoveringfaith.com)

## HOLY WEEK 2025

**Maundy Thursday**

April 17 | 7:00 PM

**Good Friday**

April 18 | 12:00 PM, 7:00 PM

**Easter Celebration Worship**

Sunday April 20 | 6:30, 8:00, 9:30 AM

## FIRST COMMUNION WORKSHOP

**Sat 4/13 | 3:00 PM**

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 April 17, at 7:00 p.m. For further information, contact Pastor Rob at [pastor@discoveringfaith.com](mailto:pastor@discoveringfaith.com). Sign up today at the welcome center.

## NEXT

**Sun 4/27 | 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.

## WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY GROUP

**Tuesdays | 9:00 AM**

### *The Women of Easter*

All women of Faith are invited to attend a study of The Women of Easter by Liz Curtis Higgs. Beginning March 11, the group will journey through Lent watching the ancient scenes unfold that lead to the Savior's resurrection through the eyes of Mary of Bethany, Mary of Nazareth and Mary Magdalene.

The weekly meetings will be held in the auditorium and facilitated by Sue Boozell. The workbook is \$8 and will be available at the meetings. For additional information, contact Sue Boozell at [sue.boozell@discoveringfaith.com](mailto:sue.boozell@discoveringfaith.com).

## A MOMENT FOR MOM

**Sat 4/12 | 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/amomentformom](http://www.discoveringfaith.com/amomentformom)

## 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](https://discoveringfaith.com) or for more information please contact [jenn@discoveringfaith.com](mailto:jenn@discoveringfaith.com) PreK – 5<sup>th</sup> grade

## **Living Generously (As of Feb 28, 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 \$67,294

2025 YTD Budget \$ 73,875

2025 YTD Expenses \$ 81,127

## **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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