



**W H E N   G O D**

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Seventh Sunday of Easter  
8:00 am worship service

# **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

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### OPENING HYMN

Give to Our God Immortal Praise! | ELW #848

*please stand*

1 Give to our God im - mor - tal praise! Mer - cy and  
2 He sent his Son with pow'r to save from guilt and  
3 Give to the Lord of lords re - nown; the King of

truth are all his ways. Won - ders of grace to  
dark - ness and the grave. Won - ders of grace to  
kings with glo - ry crown. His mer - cies ev - er

God be - long; re - peat his mer - cies in your song.  
God be - long; re - peat his mer - cies in your song.  
shall en - dure when lords and kings are known no more!

The image shows a three-part musical score for the hymn 'Give to Our God Immortal Praise!'. It consists of three systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line of each system. The first system contains the first three lines of the hymn. The second system contains the next three lines. The third system contains the final three lines, which end with a double bar line.

### 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.**



# 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.

*Refrain*



3 For the Lamb who was slain has be -



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

*Refrain*

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray,  
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.

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## *The Word*

### FIRST READING

**Acts 1: 15-17, 21-26**

In those days Peter stood up among the believers (together the crowd numbered about one hundred twenty persons) and said, “Friends, the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit through David foretold concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus— for he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry.” So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these must become a witness with us to his resurrection.” So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. Then they prayed and said, “Lord, you know everyone’s heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.” And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.

## SECOND 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 *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 Mark, the 6<sup>th</sup> chapter.

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

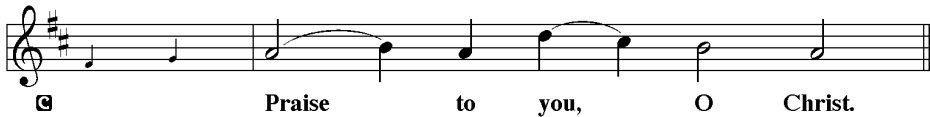
## GOSPEL

**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.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.



## MESSAGE

When God Feels Distant | Pastor Rob



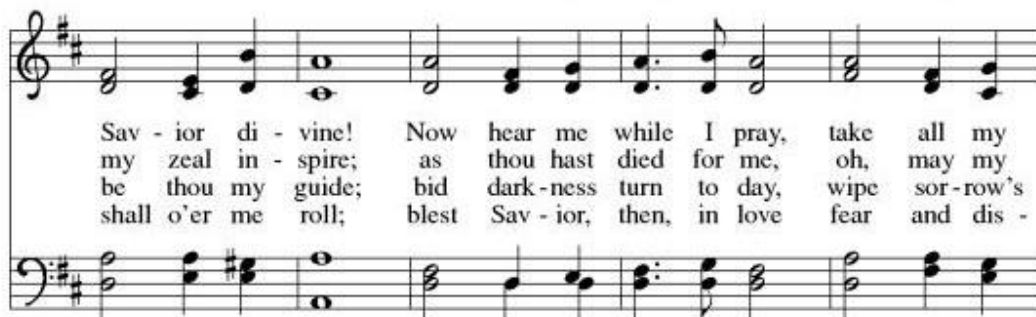
# HYMN OF THE DAY

# My Faith Looks Up to Thee | ELW #759

please stand



1 My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Cal - va - ry,  
2 May thy rich grace im - part strength to my faint - ing heart,  
3 While life's dark maze I tread and griefs a - round me spread,  
4 When ends life's tran - sient dream, when death's cold, sul - len stream



Sav - ior di - vine! Now hear me while I pray, take all my  
my zeal in - spire; as thou hast died for me, oh, may my  
be thou my guide; bid dark - ness turn to day, wipe sor - row's  
shall o'er me roll; blest Sav - ior, then, in love fear and dis -



guilt a - way, oh, let me from this day be whol - ly thine!  
love to thee pure, warm, and change - less be, a liv - ing fire!  
tears a - way, nor let me ev - er stray from thee a - side.  
trust re - move; oh, bear me safe a - bove, a ran - somed soul!

## APOSTLES CREED

**C:** I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

## 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.**

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

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: 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*

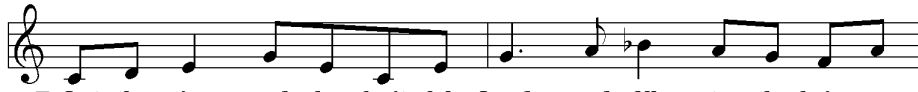
### **PEACE**

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

### **OFFERING**

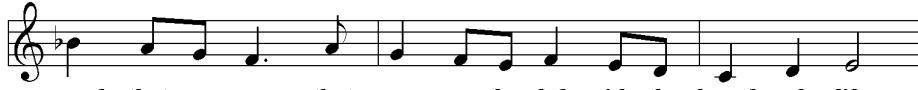
## OFFERING RESPONSE *please stand*



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 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.


## 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:



**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly 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:** 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 the usher stand, please ask an usher to assist you.*

**G** 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; grant us peace.

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

**C:** **Amen.**

**G** Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.  
 Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proud-ly 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. Al - le - lu - ia.

## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

*please stand*

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**

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## *The Sending*

### BLESSING

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**C: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

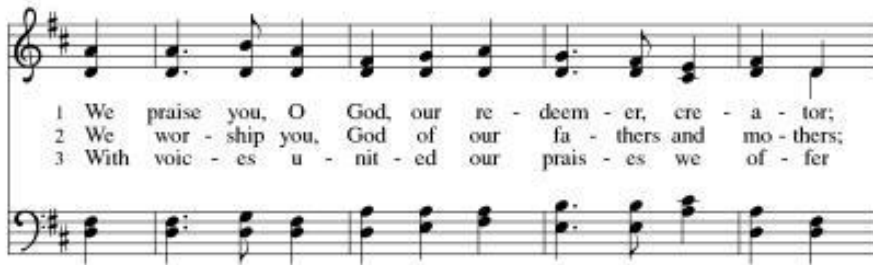
P: The God of resurrection power,  
the Christ of unending joy,  
and the Spirit of Easter hope  
† bless you now and always.

**C: Amen.**



## CLOSING HYMN

We Praise You, O God | ELW #870



1 We praise you, O God, our re - deem - er, cre - a - tor;  
2 We wor - ship you, God of our fa - thers and mo - thers;  
3 With voic - es u - nit - ed our prais - es we of - fer



in grate - ful de - vo - tion our trib - ute we bring.  
through tri - al and tem - pest our guide you have been.  
and glad - ly our songs of thanks - giv - ing we raise.



We lay it be - fore you; we kneel and a - dore you;  
When per - ils o'er - take us, you will not for - sake us,  
With you, Lord, be - side us, your strong arm will guide us.



we bless your ho - ly name; glad prais - es we sing.  
and with your help, O Lord, our strug - gles we win.  
To you, our great re - deem - er, for - ev - er be praise!

## 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.

**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:6308623500) or send an e-mail [prayerteam@discoveringfaith.com](mailto: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: [careteam@discoveringfaith.com](mailto:careteam@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:6302485515).





Pastor Rob Douglas  
DISCOVERINGFAITH.COM

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