



# 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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Second Sunday of Easter  
9:30 Worship Celebration

# **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.

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## *The Gathering*

### **OPENING SONG**

#### **Lord I Lift Your Name on High**

Lord I lift Your name on high

Lord I love to sing Your praises

I'm so glad You're in my life

I'm so glad You came to save us

You came from heaven to earth

To show the way

From the earth to the cross

My debt to pay

From the cross to the grave

From the grave to the sky

Lord I lift Your name on high

## **Jesus Messiah**

He became sin who knew no sin  
That we might become His righteousness  
He humbled Himself and carried the cross  
Love so amazing love so amazing

Chorus Jesus Messiah Name above all names  
Blessed Redeemer Emmanuel  
The Rescue for sinners  
The Ransom from heaven  
Jesus Messiah Lord of all

His body the bread His blood the wine  
Broken and poured out all for love  
The whole earth trembled and the veil was torn  
Love so amazing love so amazing (Chorus)

All our hope is in You  
All our hope is in You  
All the glory to You God  
The Light of the world (Chorus)

Jesus Messiah  
Lord of all  
The Lord of all  
The Lord of all

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

L: 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.

## **WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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## The Word

### 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.

### RESPONSE

### In Christ Alone

*please stand*

In Christ alone, my hope is found  
He is my light, my strength, my song  
This cornerstone, this solid ground  
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm  
  
What heights of love    What depths of peace  
When fears are stilled    When strivings cease  
My Comforter my all in all    Here in the love of Christ I stand

### 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.”

**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.**

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

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people.

**C: Amen.**

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## The Meal

### SHARING OF THE PEACE

### OFFERING

### OFFERING RESPONSE

Give Thanks

*please stand*

Give thanks with a grateful heart    Give thanks to the holy one

Give thanks because he's given    Jesus Christ, His son.

Give thanks with a grateful heart    Give thanks to the holy one

Give thanks because he's given    Jesus Christ, His son.

And now let the weak say I am strong    Let the poor say I am rich.

Because of what the Lord has done for us

And now let the weak say I am strong    Let the poor say I am rich.

Because of what the Lord has done for us

Give thanks!

### OFFERATORY 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.

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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.**

P: 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.**

P: 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: 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 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: 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.

## CLOSING SONG

Praise God From Whom all blessings flow  
Praise Him All creatures here below  
Praise Him above Ye heav'nly host  
Praise Father Son and Holy Ghost

## Doxology (God Be Praised)

Chorus Praise the Father Praise the Son  
Praise the Spirit Now with us  
Every moment all our days God be praised  
Oh God be praised

Praise God With morning's breaking light  
Praise Him Through darkness of the night  
Praise Him With every breath of life  
Praise Him my soul With all your might (Chorus)(Chorus)

Praise God In face to face we see  
The One who died To set us free  
The One Who rose in victory  
Praise now forever Christ our King (Chorus) (Chorus)

God be praised Oh God be praised (Repeat)

Praise God From Whom all blessings flow  
Praise Him All creatures here below  
Praise Him above Ye heav'nly host  
Praise Father Son and Holy Ghost

## DISMISSAL

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.  
C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

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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!

### **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](http://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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:jenn@discoveringfaith.com) or register online at [discoveringfaith.com](http://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.





Pastor Rob Douglas  
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