



PALM SUNDAY

HOSANNA TO THE KING OF KINGS | MATTHEW 21:9

Palm Sunday
9:15 am worship

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

Becoming fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.

March 28, 2021

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.

The Gathering

OPENING SONGS *please stand*

Sing to the King

Sing to the King who is coming to reign
Glory to Jesus the Lamb that was slain
Life and salvation, His empire shall bring
Joy to the nations when Jesus is King

Chorus Come let us sing a song
 A song declaring we belong to Jesus
 He is all we need
 Lift up a heart of praise
 Sing now with voices raised to Jesus
 Sing to the King

For his returning we watch and we pray
We will be ready the dawn of that day
We'll join in singing with all the redeemed
Satan is vaquished and Jesus is King! (*Chorus*) (*Chorus*)

Hosanna

Praise is rising, eyes are turning to You We turn to You
Hope is stirring, hearts are yearning for You We long for You

Pre-Chorus Cause when we see You, we find strength to face the day
In Your presence all our fears are washed away Washed away

Chorus Hosanna, Hosanna
You are the God who saves us
Worthy of all our praises
Hosanna, Hosanna
Come have Your way among us
We welcome you here, Lord Jesus

Hear the sound of hearts returning to You We turn to You
In your kingdom, broken lives are made new You make us new

(Pre-Chorus) (Chorus)

(Pre-Chorus) (Pre-Chorus)

(Chorus) (Chorus)

OPENING PRAYER

A: Everlasting God, in your endless love for the human race you sent our Lord Jesus Christ to take on our nature and to suffer death on the cross. In your mercy enable us to share in his obedience to your will and in the glorious victory of his resurrection, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Word

FIRST READING

Philippians 2: 5-11

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

SONG OF RESPONSE

We Are Called

please stand

Come! Live in the light!
Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord!
We are called to be the light for the kingdom,
to live in the freedom of the city of God.

We are called to act with justice,
We are called to love tenderly;
We are called to serve one another,
To walk humbly with God.

GOSPEL

Mark 11: 1-11

When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples and said to them, “Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. If anyone says to you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ just say this, ‘The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.’” They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, some of the bystanders said to them, “What are you doing, untying the colt?” They told them what Jesus had said; and they

allowed them to take it. Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting,

“Hosanna!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

MESSAGE

| Pastor Rob

SPECIAL MUSIC

Hosanna

please stand

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

A: Relying on the promises of God, we pray boldly for the church, the world, and all in need.

A: In Jesus you came among us as a suffering servant. Give your church humility. Redeem your people from pride and the certainty that we always know your will. Heal us and empower us to confess Christ crucified. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: In creation, life springs from death. Redeem your creation awaiting resurrection: restore lost habitats and endangered species. Create new possibilities for areas affected by climate change, grant relief from natural disasters, and nurture new growth. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Jesus was handed over to the powers of this world. In all nations, instruct the powerful, that they would not exploit their power but maintain justice. Sustain soldiers, and guide those who command them, that they serve those in greatest need. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: On the cross Jesus joined all who feel forsaken. Abide with those who are condemned to death. Defend those who are falsely accused. Console and strengthen those who are mocked or bullied. Accompany all who suffer; grant respite and renewal. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: You called followers to tend Jesus' body in death. Sustain hospice workers and funeral directors. Bless this congregation's ministries at times of death: those who plan and lead funerals, those who prepare meals, all who offer support in grief. 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 ourselves and all our prayers to you, O faithful God, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

The Meal

PEACE

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

C: And also with you.

OFFERING

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

P: God is with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift our hearts to God.

P: Let us give thanks to God, our God!

C: We give God our thanks and our praise!

P: On this day of celebration –
on this day of renewing our faith –
on this day of walking with the Christ,
to Jerusalem... to Golgotha... and beyond –
we give you thanks, great and loving God.

C: Thank you, loving God!

P: From the very beginning, you have loved us.
You created all that is, calling it into being.
With the *ruach* – the Spirit – with the Wind and the Word,
you saw what you had created,
and called it, “Good!”

C: Thank you, loving God!

P: But, time and time again, in history and in our story,
we have turned away from your love.
We have turned away from your hope.
We have turned away from you.
We have wandered away, thinking we knew best.

**C: But you never left us to walk by ourselves, loving God.
Even when we turn away.
You walk the road with us.**

P: Through prophets, priests and storytellers,
through mothers and grandmothers,
through fathers and grandfathers,
through teens and children and infants,
you called us back to your love.

C: Thank you, loving God!

P: There came a time when you sent Jesus to speak to the world.
To speak to us.
To teach us your love.
To give abundant life.
To make us new.

C: Thank you, loving God!

P: He lived a life as one of us – a child, a youth, an adult.
He laughed with those who laughed,
he cried with those who cried.
In all of this, he walked the hard road –

C: the way of the Cross and the way of the Resurrection.

P: On the night before he was put to death,
he gathered for a meal of celebration with his friends.
There he recommitted himself to your love, and to his people.
He took bread, thanked You, and broke the bread,
giving it to his friends, saying,
“Take this and eat it. This is my body, given for you.
Each time you do this, remember me.”

C: We remember him.

P: After the meal was over, he took the cup of blessing,
thanked You, and poured the wine,
giving it to his friends, saying,
“Take this and drink it. This is my blood, given for you.
Each time you drink this, remember me.”

C: We remember him.

P: And so we do as he asked us, loving God.
We pray that your Spirit might fill these gifts,
and fill us – that all might be vessels of your love,
your hope and your life in the world.

C: **Come, Holy Spirit, come!**

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 COMMUNION

P: God’s love is poured out in Christ for you.
Open yourselves to receive it.

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. 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.

COMMUNION BLESSING *please stand*

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

C: **Amen.**

PASSION DRAMA

NARRATOR: Now Jesus stood before the Governor, and the Governor asked him,

PILATE: Are you the King of the Jews?

NARRATOR: Jesus answered, "You say so." But when he was accused by the chief priest and elders, he did not answer. Then Pilate said to him,

PILATE: Do you not hear how many accusation they make against you?

NARRATOR: But he gave them no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the Governor was accustomed to releasing a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted.

At that time they had a notorious prisoner called Barabbas. So after they had gathered, Pilate said to them:

PILATE: Whom do you want me to release for you, Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?

NARRATOR: And the people shouted...

CROWD: Barabbas! Barabbas!

PILATE: Then what should I do with Jesus, this man who is called the Messiah?

CROWD: Let him be crucified!

PILATE: Why, what evil has he done?

CROWD: Let him be crucified! Release Barabbas! Let him be crucified!!

NARRATOR: So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water, washed his hands before the crowd, saying...

PILATE: I am innocent of this man's blood— see to it yourselves.

NARRATOR: Then the people as a whole answered:

CROWD: His blood be on us and on our children!

NARRATOR: So he released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified. Then the soldiers of Pilate took Jesus into the Governor's headquarters and gathered the whole court around him. They stripped him; put a scarlet robe on him, and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him saying, "Hail, king of the Jews!"

They spat on him and took the reed; struck him on the head. After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. And when they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots and then they sat down there and kept watch over him. Over his head they put the charge against him, which read: "THIS IS JESUS, KING OF THE JEWS." Then two thieves were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying....

CROWD: You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross.

NARRATOR: From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

And when some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "This man called for Elijah". At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick and gave it for him to drink. But the others said, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to see him."

Then Jesus cried again and breathed his last.

At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook and the rocks were split. Now when the centurion and those with him, who were keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified and he said...

CENTURION: Truly, this man was God's Son!

The Sending

CLOSING SONG

Only King Forever

Our God and firm foundation
Our Rock the only solid ground
The 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

Unmatched in all Your wisdom
In love and justice You will reign
And ev'ry knee will bow
We bring our expectations
Our hope is anchored in Your name
The name of Jesus
Oh 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

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Share the good news.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE

Apr 1 | 7:00PM

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 SERVICES

Apr 2 | 7:00PM

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 SUNDAY

April 4 | 6:30, 8:00, 9:30 AM

At Faith, we want to experience the excitement of Easter with you. On April 4, join us at one of three worship services for some awesome music, an inspirational message, and a time for refreshments and making new friends in our café afterwards.

Come and celebrate Easter at Faith!



Pastor Rob Douglas
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