



Palm Sunday
9:30 Worship Celebration

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

Becoming fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.

April 13, 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.

The Gathering

OPENING SONG

Hosanna, Praise is Rising

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)

King of My Heart

Let the King of my heart
Be the mountain where I run
The fountain I drink from
Oh He is my song
Let the King of my heart
Be the shadow where I hide
The ransom for my life
Oh He is my song

You are good good oh You are good good oh
You are good good oh You are good good oh

Let the King of my heart
Be the wind inside my sails
The anchor in the waves
Oh He is my song
Let the King of my heart
Be the fire inside my veins
The echo of my days
Oh He is my song

You're never gonna let Never gonna let me down (*Repeat 3x*)

When the night is holding on to me
God is holding on
When the night is holding on to me
God is holding on

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: 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. Amen.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Word

READING

1 Peter 4: 8-11

Above all, maintain constant love for one another, for love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another without complaining. Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. Whoever speaks must do so as one speaking the very words of God; whoever serves must do so with the strength that God supplies, so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ. To him belong the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen.

RESPONSE

He is Exalted

please stand

He is exalted, the King is exalted on high; I will praise him.
He is exalted, forever exalted, and I will praise his name.
Jesus is Lord, forever his truth shall reign;
heaven and earth rejoice in his holy name.
He is exalted, the King is exalted on high!

GOSPEL

Luke 19:28-40

After he had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, saying, "Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it.'" So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?" They said, "The Lord needs it." Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, saying, "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!" Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him,

“Teacher, order your disciples to stop.” He answered, “I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out.”

MESSAGE

Service: Pathway to Purpose & Fulfillment | Pastor Rob

Service of Holy Baptism

P: In Holy Baptism our gracious heavenly Father liberates us from sin and death by joining us to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are born children of a fallen humanity; in the waters of Baptism we are reborn children of God and inheritors of eternal life. By water and the Holy Spirit we are made members of the Church which is the body of Christ. As we live with him and with his people, we grow in faith, love and obedience to the will of God.

Sponsors: We present Violet Laura Sester to receive the Sacrament of Holy Baptism.

P: In Christian love you have presented this child for Holy Baptism. You should, therefore, faithfully bring her to the services of God’s house and teach her the Lord’s Prayer, the Creed and the Ten Commandments. As she grows in years, you should place in her hands the Holy Scriptures and provide for her instruction in the Christian faith, that, living in the covenant of her Baptism and in communion with the Church, she may lead a godly life until the day of Jesus Christ.

Do you promise to fulfill these obligations?

R: I do.

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

P: Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father: We give you thanks, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and you created heaven and earth. By the gift of water you nourish and sustain us and all living things.

By the waters of the flood you condemned the wicked and saved those whom you had chosen, Noah and his family. You led Israel by the pillar of cloud and fire through the sea, out of slavery into the freedom of the promised land. In the

waters of the Jordan your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Spirit. By the baptism of His own death and resurrection your beloved Son has set us free from the bondage to sin and death, and has opened the way to the joy and freedom of everlasting life. He made water a sign of the kingdom and of cleansing and rebirth. In obedience to His command, we make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, so that this child who is here baptized may be given new life. Wash away her sin and cleanse her by this water and bring her forth as an inheritor of Your glorious kingdom.

To You be given praise and honor and worship through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C: Amen.

P: I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the Church, the faith in which we baptize. Do you renounce all the forces of evil, the devil, and all his empty promises?

S: I do.

P: Do you believe in God the Father?

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

P: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

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

P: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

C: 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.

P: Violet, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we give you thanks for freeing your sons and daughters from the power of sin and for raising them up to a new life through this holy sacrament. Pour your Holy Spirit upon Violet: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence.

Violet, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

A: Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

O God, the giver of all life, look with kindness upon Ryan & Jen. Let them ever rejoice in the gift you have given them. Make them teachers and examples of righteousness for Violet. Strengthen them in their own Baptism so they may share eternally with their children the salvation you have given them, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

P: Through Baptism God has made this new sister a member in the priesthood we all share in Christ Jesus, that we may proclaim the praise of God and bear His creative and redeeming Word to all the world.

C: We welcome you into the Lord's family. We receive you as a fellow member of the body of Christ, a child of the same Heavenly Father, and a worker with us in the kingdom of God.

The Meal

SHARING OF THE PEACE

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!

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.

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

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

King of Kings

In the darkness we were waiting Without hope, without light
'Til from Heaven You came running There was mercy in Your eyes
To fulfill the law and prophets To a virgin came the word
From a throne of endless glory To a cradle in the dirt

Chorus Praise the Father, praise the Son
 Praise the Spirit, three in one
 God of glory, Majesty
 Praise forever to the King of Kings

To reveal the kingdom coming And to reconcile the lost
To redeem the whole creation You did not despise the cross
For even in your suffering You saw to the other side
Knowing this was our salvation Jesus for our sake you died (*Chorus*)

And the morning that You rose All of Heaven held its breath
'Til that stone was moved for good For the Lamb had conquered death
And the dead rose from their tombs And the angels stood in awe
For the souls of all who'd come To the Father are restored (*Chorus*)

And the church of Christ was born Then the Spirit lit the flame
Now this gospel truth of old Shall not kneel, shall not faint
By His blood and in His name In His freedom I am free
For the love of Jesus Christ Who has resurrected me (*Chorus*)

DISMISSAL

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

BAPTISM TODAY

Today we celebrated the baptism of Violet Laura Sester, daughter of Ryan & Jen Sester. Please welcome her into God's family!

HOLY WEEK 2025

Maundy Thursday

April 17 | 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

April 18 | 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 April 20 | 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!

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. Sign up today at the welcome center.

HESED HOUSE SERVING

Wed 4/16 | 6:00 PM

Faith's next serving opportunity at Hesus House is April 16. We will need roughly 5 to 10 volunteers to help with meal setup, serving, and cleanup. Volunteers can conveniently sign up online or at the welcome center. All that's needed is a serving heart. Sign up today!

HELICOPTER DROPPED EASTER EGG HUNT

Sat 4/19 | 11:00 AM

Be a part of the excitement!

Join us for our Annual Easter Egg Drop on April 19th, 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.

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!

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! Meets 1st and 3rd Sundays in the auditorium. Register online- discoveringfaith.com

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

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

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.

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 or for more information please contact jenn@discoveringfaith.com PreK – 5th grade

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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