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Third Sunday of Easter  
8:00 am worship service

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

Becoming fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.

May 4, 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: THE JOY PROJECT**

Jesus promised that a consistent, constant, and steady joy can be ours. And fortunately, he also tells us how. Join us as embrace the way of life we were meant to live. This series will help us learn to be thankful and excited despite all the negativity we experience in this world. Weekly topics include optimism, gratefulness, encouragement, generosity, enthusiasm, and confidence. There's no limit to joy!

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# The Gathering

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS


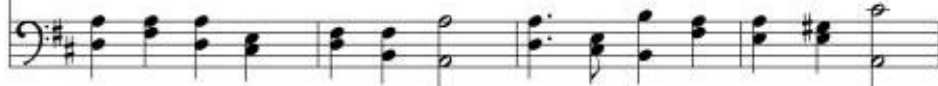
### OPENING HYMN

Hallelujah! Jesus Lives! | ELW #380


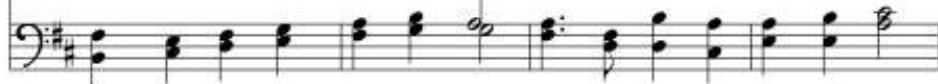
*please stand*




1 Hal-le - lu - jah! Je - sus lives! He is now the Liv - ing One;  
2 Je - sus lives! Why do you weep? Why that sad and mourn-ful sigh?  
3 Je - sus lives! And thus, my soul, life e - ter - nal waits for you;  
4 Je - sus lives! Let all re - joice. Praise him, ran-somed of the earth.  
5 Hal-le - lu - jah! An - gels, sing! Join with us in hymns of praise.



from the gloom-y halls of death Christ, the con-quer-or, has gone,  
Christ who died our broth-er here lives our broth-er still on high,  
joined to Christ, your liv-ing head, where he is, you shall be too;  
Praise him in a no-ble song, cher-u-bim of heav'n-ly birth.  
Let your cho-rus swell the strain which our fee-ble voic-es raise:



bright fore-run-ner to the skies of his peo-ple, yet to rise.  
lives for-ev-er to be-stow bless-ings on his church be-low.  
with the Lord, at God's right hand, as a vic-tor you shall stand.  
Praise the vic-tor king, whose sway sin and death and hell o-bey.  
Glo-ry to our God a-bove and on earth his peace and love!



## GREETING

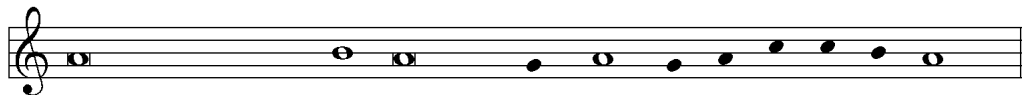
**P:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C:** And also with you.

## KYRIE



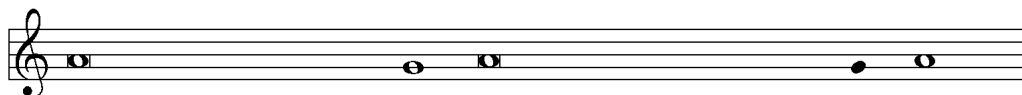
**A** In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



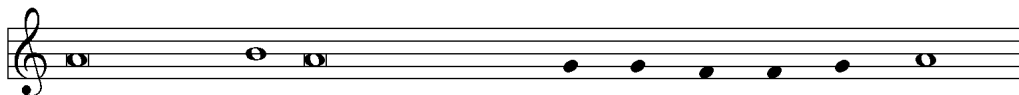
**A** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



♩ For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. ♩ Lord, have mer - cy.



♩ Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord. ♩ A - men

## 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:



## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray,

Eternal and all-merciful God, with all the angels and all the saints we laud your majesty and might. By the resurrection of your Son, show yourself to us and inspire us to follow 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 9:1-6**

Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" He asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do."

### SECOND READING

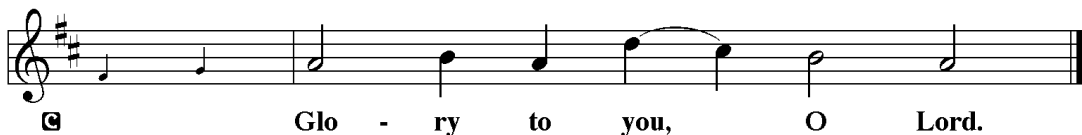
**Romans 8:38-39**

For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *please stand*



P: The Holy Gospel according to John, the 21<sup>st</sup> chapter.



## GOSPEL

John 21:1-19

After these things Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and he showed himself in this way. Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will go with you." They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing. Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to them, "Children, you have no fish, have you?" They answered him, "No." He said to them, "Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the sea. But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off. When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught." So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred fifty-three of them; and though there were so many, the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, "Who are you?" because they knew it was the Lord. Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." A second time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep." He said to him the third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" And he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep. Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not



wish to go.” (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, “Follow me.”

P:     The Gospel of the Lord.

A musical staff in G major (one sharp) with a treble clef. The melody consists of: a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, a half note B4 (with a slur over the next two notes), a quarter note C5, a half note B4 (with a slur over the previous note), a quarter note A4, a half note G4, and a final quarter note G4. The lyrics 'Praise to you, O Christ.' are written below the staff, aligned with the notes.

Praise to you, O Christ.

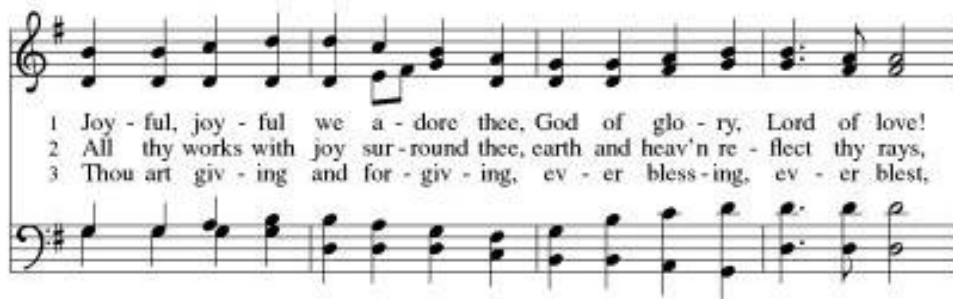
MESSAGE

Choosing Joy | Pastor Rob

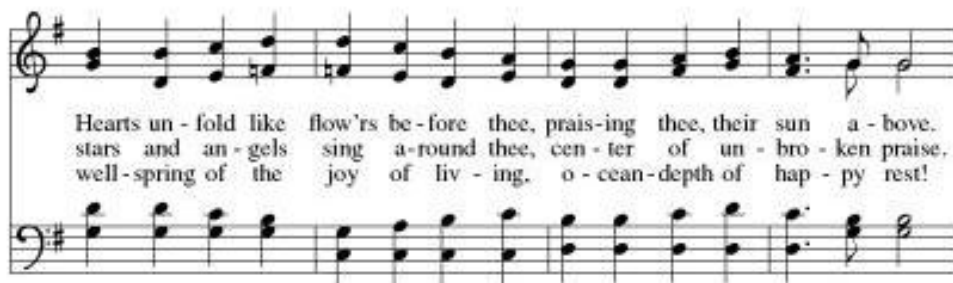
## HYMN OF THE DAY

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee | ELW #836

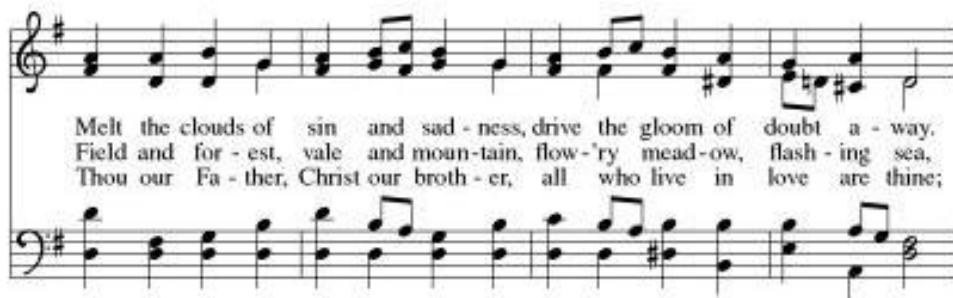
*please stand*



1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!  
2 All thy works with joy sur - round thee, earth and heav'n re - flect thy rays,  
3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,



Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore thee, prais - ing thee, their sun a - bove.  
stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise,  
well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean - depth of hap - py rest!



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the gloom of doubt a - way,  
Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, flow - 'ry mead - ow, flash - ing sea,  
Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our broth - er, all who live in love are thine;



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.  
chant - ing bird, and flow - ing foun - tain call us to re - joice in thee,  
teach us how to love each oth - er, lift us to the joy di - vine!

## 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: Your love sustains the church and its ministries. By that love, equip youth directors, Sunday school teachers, and all who guide formation in the church to nurture vibrant, living faith among your people. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: Your abundance is made known throughout creation. Preserve oceans and rivers, lakes and estuaries so that all creatures living in them might flourish. Make us wise stewards of our local watersheds. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: Your wisdom guides all who strive for justice and peace. Strengthen the work of grassroots organizers, especially among communities on the frontlines of justice work. Amplify the voices of those most in need, that their leadership guides the way forward. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: You invite all people to your table of grace. Make this a community of radical hospitality where all feel loved and celebrated. Show us how to better welcome visitors and bless the ministries of hospitality in this place. 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 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

## PEACE

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

C: And also with you.

## OFFERING

### OFFERING RESPONSE *please stand*



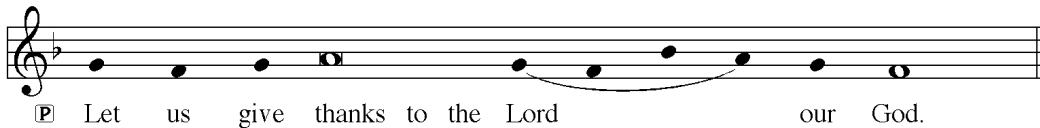
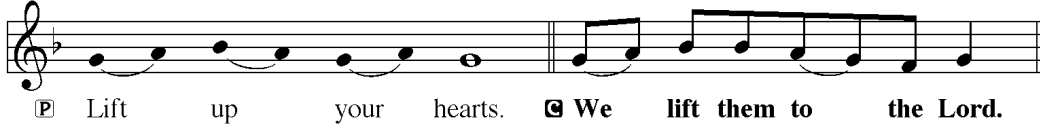
Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our  
cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the  
seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.  
Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the  
prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your  
pres - ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

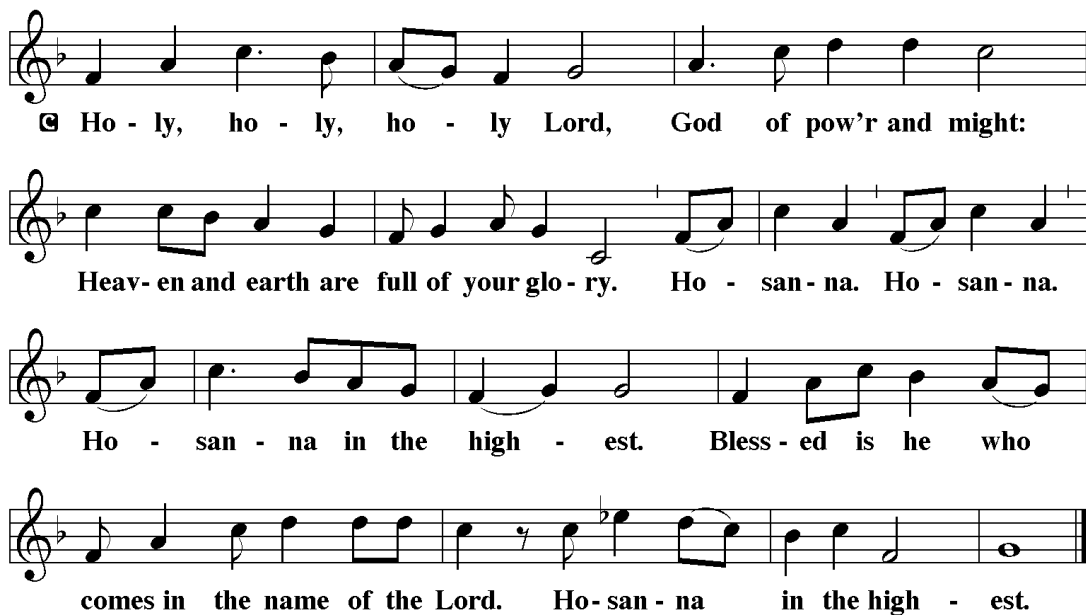
A: Risen One,  
you have gathered us around your table of grace  
along with these gifts we bring.  
Come among us again,  
breathe your life into us,  
and enliven us with this meal,  
that we may live as your risen body in the world.

C: **Amen.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING



P: It is indeed right and salutary . . .we praise your name and join their  
unending hymn:



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**

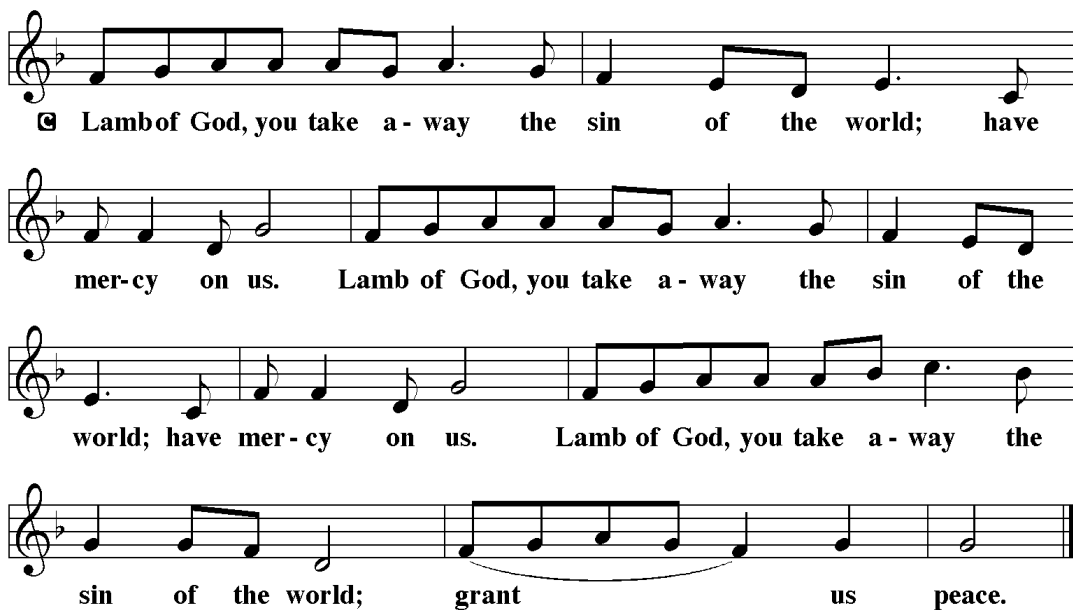
**P: Come to the table of grace. Receive the gift of new life.**

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## **COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION**

### **AN INVITATION**

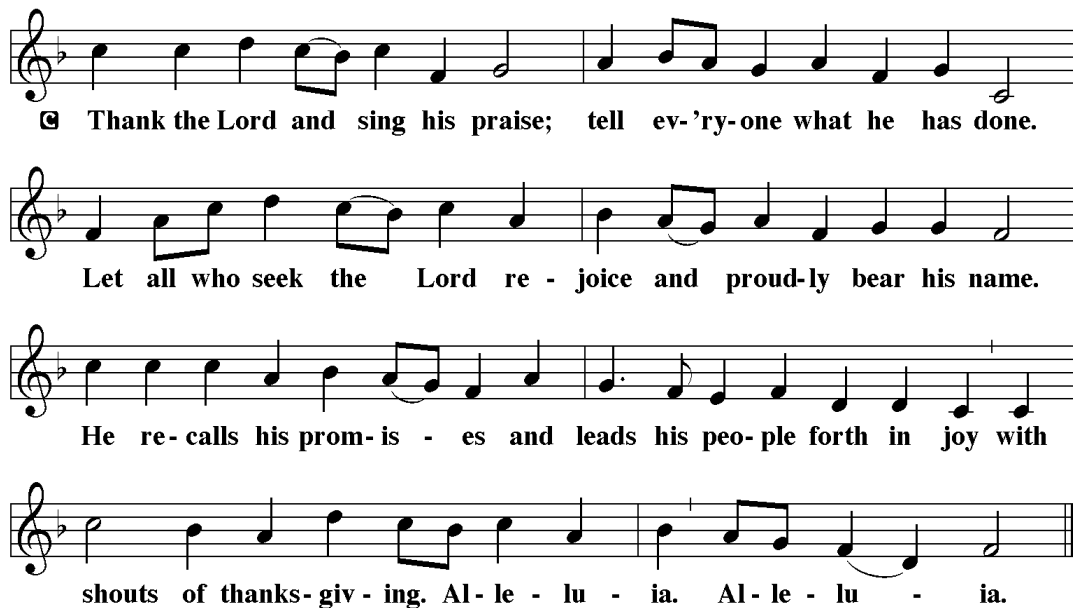
*We invite you to share in Holy Communion this morning, regardless of your church background or lack thereof. We believe that God is present in the bread and wine as it becomes the body and blood of Jesus Christ and that this presence is a gift of grace in the lives of those who receive it. All are welcomed to the table 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.*



**L**amb 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.**



**T**hank 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: 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**

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## *The Sending*

### BLESSING

P: The triune God,  
who was, who is, and who is to come,  
Sovereign, † Savior, and Spirit,  
light your way with resurrection dawn,  
now and always.

C: **Amen.**

## CLOSING HYMN

How Great Thou Art | ELW #856

*please stand*



- 1 O Lord my God, when I in awe-some won-der con-sid-er
- 2 When through the woods and for-est glades I wan-der, I hear the
- 3 But when I think that God, his Son not spar-ing, sent him to
- 4 When Christ shall come, with shout of ac-cla-ma-tion, and take me



all the works thy hand hath made, I see the stars, I hear the might-y  
birds sing sweet-ly in the trees; when I look down from loft-y moun-tain  
die, I scarce can take it in, that on the cross my bur-den glad-ly  
home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in hum-ble ad-o-



thun-der, thy pow'r through-out the u-ni-verse dis-played;  
gran-deur and hear the brook and feel the gen-tle breeze;  
bear-ing he bled and died to take a-way my sin;  
ra-tion and there pro-claim, "My God, how great thou art!"

*Refrain*



Then sings my soul, my Sav-ior God, to thee, how great thou



art! How great thou art! Then sings my soul, my Sav-ior God, to



thee, how great thou art! How great thou art!

## **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!

### **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

## ADULT ONLINE STUDY GROUP

Tuesdays | 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!

## 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 5/4 & 5/18 | 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)

## **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

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