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Fifth Sunday of Easter  
8:00 am worship service

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

Becoming fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.

April 28, 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: CLIMATE CHANGE**

Every relationship has a climate, sunny, stormy, or even icy. And the current climate dictates the forecast. The problem is that many of us are unaware of the emotional climates we carry around with us. Join us we will discover how we affect the emotional climate when we arrive home or step into a meeting at work, and we will look at three of the most significant climate shapers in any relationship.


# The Gathering

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### OPENING HYMN

Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing | ELW #389

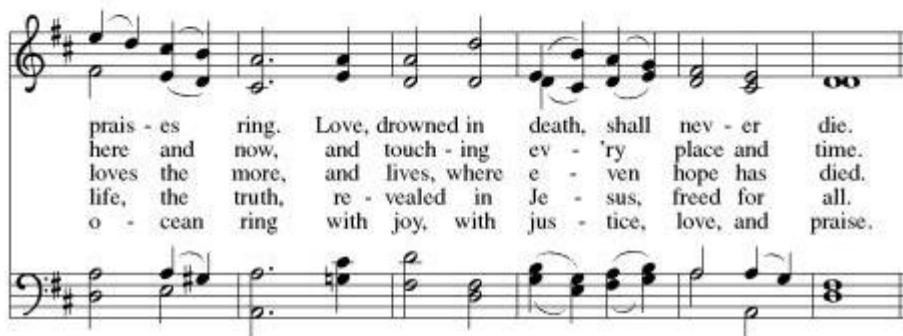
*please stand*



1 Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing. The cross stands  
2 Christ is a - live! No long - er bound to dis - tant  
3 In ev - 'ry in - sult, rift, and war, where col - or,  
4 Wom - en and men, in age and youth, can feel the  
5 Christ is a - live, and comes to bring good news to



emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with  
years in Pal - es - tine, but sav - ing, heal - ing,  
scorn, or wealth di - vide, Christ suf - fers still, yet  
Spir - it, hear the call, and find the way, the  
this and ev - 'ry age, till earth and sky and



prais - es ring. Love, drowned in death, shall nev - er die.  
here and now, and touch - ing ev - 'ry place and time.  
loves the more, and lives, where e - ven hope has died.  
life, the truth, re - vealed in Je - sus, freed for all.  
o - cean ring with joy, with jus - tice, love, and praise.

## GREETING

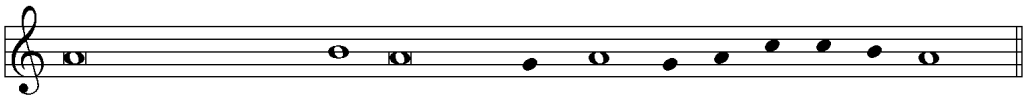
**P:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**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.



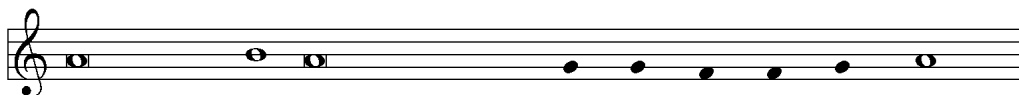
**A** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



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:

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.

3 For the Lamb who was slain has be -

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

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray,  
O God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, through 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 8:26-40**

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.” So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: “Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.” The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?” He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

## SECOND READING

## Romans 5: 1-5

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

## 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 John, the 15<sup>th</sup> chapter.

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

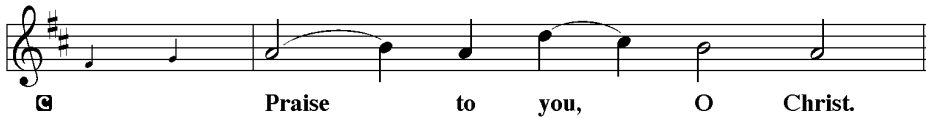


## GOSPEL

John 15:1-8

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.



## MESSAGE

The Sun Will Come Out | Pastor Rob

# HYMN OF THE DAY

Now the Green Blade Rises | ELW #379

*please stand*



1 Now the green blade ris - es from the bur - ied grain,  
2 In the grave they laid him, love by ha - tred slain,  
3 Forth he came at Eas - ter like the ris - en grain,  
4 When our hearts are win - try, griev - ing, or in pain,



wheat that in dark earth man - y days has lain;  
think - ing that he would nev - er wake a - gain,  
he that for three days in the grave had lain;  
your touch can call us back to life a - gain,



love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been;  
laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un - seen;  
raised from the dead, my liv - ing Lord is seen;  
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;



love is come a - gain like wheat a - ris - ing green.

## 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:** We pray for the church around the world, for all ministers, and for the mission of the gospel. Keep all the newly baptized and confirmed in your care. Cleanse our hearts with your word and help us to abide in you always. God of grace,

**C:** hear our prayer.

**A:** For the well-being of the earth and of all created things: for rivers and lakes, streams and estuaries, melting glaciers and polluted waters. Renew the face of the earth and shower us with your goodness. God of grace,

**C:** hear our prayer.

A: For the nations and all those in authority: for local, state, and national leaders, for elected representatives at every level, and for international organizations, that justice and peace may reign. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: For all those in need: for any experiencing homelessness or unemployment, for those fleeing from oppression or seeking asylum, and for all who are ill or suffering. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: For this congregation: for the caring ministries of this faith community, for all who visit and minister to one another, for all who take communion to homes or care centers, and for all who seek to share your love with the world. 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*



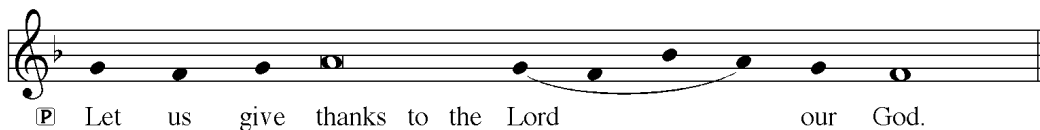
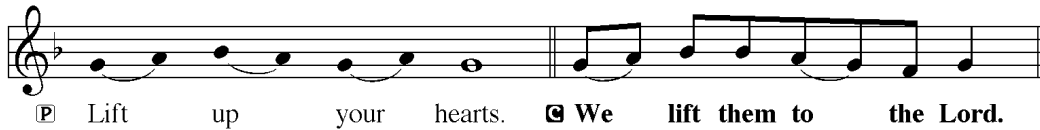
Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our  
cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the  
seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.  
Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the  
prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble 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: It is indeed right and salutary . . .we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



## **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.*

**C** 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.**

**C** Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.  
Let all who seek the Lord re - jice 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

Thine Is the Glory | ELW #376

1 Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con-qu'ring Son; end - less is the  
 2 Lo, Je - sus meets thee, ris - en from the tomb! Lov - ing - ly he  
 3 No more we doubt thee, glo - rious Prince of life; life is naught with-

vic - t'ry thou o'er death hast won! An - gels in bright rai - ment  
 greets thee, scat - ters fear and gloom; let his church with glad - ness  
 out thee; aid us in our strife; make us more than con-qu'rors,

rolled the stone a - way, kept the fold - ed grave - clothes  
 hymns of tri - umph sing, for the Lord now liv - eth;  
 through thy death - less love; bring us safe through Jor - dan

*Refrain*  
 where thy bod - y lay,  
 death hath lost its sting! Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con-qu'ring  
 to thy home a - bove.

Son; end - less is the vic - t'ry thou o'er death hast won!

## **DISMISSAL**

A: Alleluia! 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!

### **LAUGH ALL NIGHT COMEDY CONCERT**

**Sat May 4 | 7:00 PM**

#### **A Free Comedy Event for the Entire Family**

Join us for a night laughter and outrageous fun as Faith hosts “Laugh All Night Comedy Concert” featuring comedian, Rik Roberts, from Nashville, TN. This free comedy event is for the entire family and will be held in the auditorium. An offering will be received benefiting New Missions.

### **MOM’S GROUP: A Moment for Mom**

**Sat 5/11 | 10:00 AM**

We are hosting moms of children infants-elementary school to come together for a time of learning, laughter, and treats. Take a moment to connect with other moms, while enjoying a yummy breakfast, hearing from a knowledgeable speaker on topics related to parenting, and building your mom village along the way. Our group meets the 2nd Saturday of each month, through May, 10:00 AM - 12:15 PM. For more information about our guest speaker and topic lineup, and to register for events, please visit [www.discoveringfaith.com/amomentformom](http://www.discoveringfaith.com/amomentformom).

### **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

## 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)

## 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

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

Sundays | 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!

## 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.

2024 YTD Giving. \$81,234

2024 YTD Budget \$98,466

2024 YTD Expenses \$111,413

\*Expenses include \$7500 music equipment, donation was received in 2023.

## 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

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