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Seventh Sunday of Easter  
8:00 am worship service

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

## **Becoming fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.**

May 21, 2023

### **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: LIVING WITH MARGIN**

Have you ever said, "I'm overloaded. I just can't get it all done. I can't catch up"? Many of us feel like we're chronically rushed, chronically late, and chronically exhausted. We're overwhelmed by activities, choices, work, debt, and more, and we feel a constant strain on ourselves and our relationships. Join us for this four-part series where you'll learn how God designed your body to follow a regular cycle of work and rest, and how building margin into your life will lower your stress and tension and increase your peace of mind. Find out how living with margin will give you a healthier life, as well as make you available to be used and blessed by God.

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# The Gathering

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### OPENING HYMN

Give to Our God Immortal Praise! | ELW #848

*please stand*

1 Give to our God im - mor - tal praise! Mer - cy and  
2 He sent his Son with pow'r to save from guilt and  
3 Give to the Lord of lords re - nown; the King of

truth are all his ways. Won - ders of grace to  
dark - ness and the grave. Won - ders of grace to  
kings with glo - ry crown. His mer - cies ev - er

God be - long; re - peat his mer - cies in your song.  
God be - long; re - peat his mer - cies in your song.  
shall en - dure when lords and kings are known no more!

The image shows a three-part musical score for the hymn 'Give to Our God Immortal Praise!'. It consists of three systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line of each system. The first system contains the first three lines of the hymn. The second system contains the next three lines. The third system contains the final three lines, which end with a double bar line.

### 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.



# 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



*Refrain*

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 -



*Refrain*

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

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray,  
O God of glory, your Son Jesus Christ suffered for us and ascended to your right hand. Unite us with Christ and each other in suffering and in joy, that all the world may be drawn into your bountiful presence, 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 1: 6-14**

So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day’s journey away. When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

## SECOND READING

1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you. Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you.

Discipline yourselves, keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering.

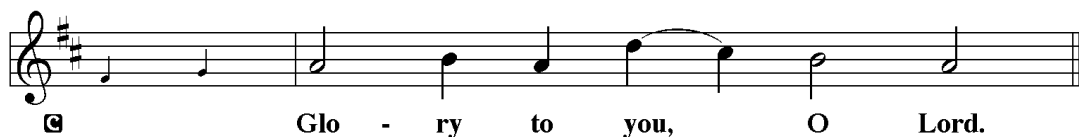
And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. To him be the power forever and ever. Amen.

## 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 Matthew, the 6<sup>th</sup> chapter.



Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

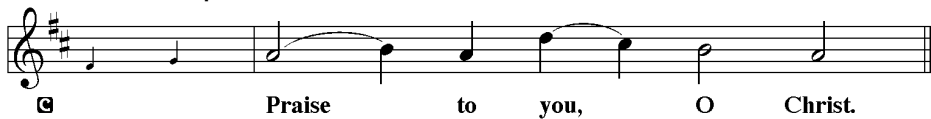
## GOSPEL

**Matthew 6: 19-24**

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

“The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light; but if your eye is unhealthy, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness! “No one can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.



## MESSAGE

Money | Pastor Rob



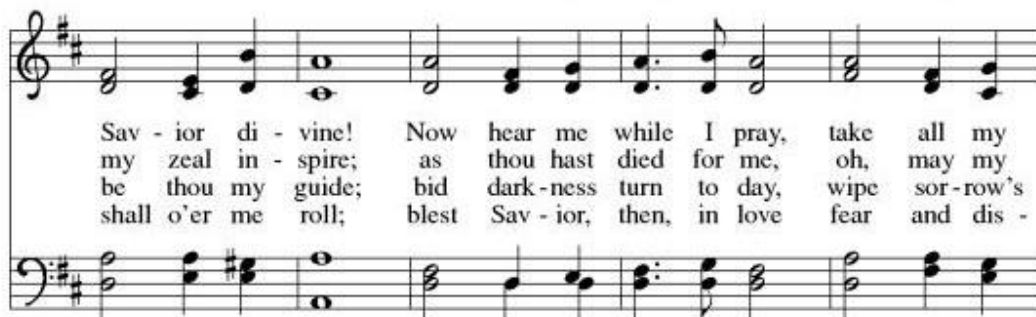
# HYMN OF THE DAY

## My Faith Looks Up to Thee | ELW #759

please stand



1 My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Cal - va - ry,  
2 May thy rich grace im - part strength to my faint - ing heart,  
3 While life's dark maze I tread and griefs a - round me spread,  
4 When ends life's tran - sient dream, when death's cold, sul - len stream



Sav - ior di - vine! Now hear me while I pray, take all my  
my zeal in - spire; as thou hast died for me, oh, may my  
be thou my guide; bid dark - ness turn to day, wipe sor - row's  
shall o'er me roll; blest Sav - ior, then, in love fear and dis -



guilt a - way, oh, let me from this day be whol - ly thine!  
love to thee pure, warm, and change - less be, a liv - ing fire!  
tears a - way, nor let me ev - er stray from thee a - side.  
trust re - move; oh, bear me safe a - bove, a ran - somed soul!

## 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:** United in the hope and joy of the resurrection, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

**A:** God of harmony, as you drew your son to your side, you draw us to you and unite us with the planet and one another. Weave your church together in a web of mutual love for the sake of the world. Hear us, O God.

**C:** **Your mercy is great.**

**A:** As your Spirit hovered over the waters of creation, so your Spirit hovers over all that you have made. Bless the water that sustains the planet and grant wisdom to use it wisely. Hear us, O God.

**C:** **Your mercy is great.**

A: You empower your people with the fire of your Spirit. Challenge activists and organizers, teachers and politicians, and all in leadership to speak a message of peace and justice. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: You care for all your children. Show your steadfast love to those suffering isolation, especially exiles, refugees, or prisoners. Break the chains of all held fast by systemic oppression of any kind. Comfort all who are afraid or suffering from illness. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: We give thanks that humankind serves as your body in the world, stewarding your abundant gifts. Guide this congregation's leaders as they seek your will. We pray for our staff and council. 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: Rejoicing in the victory of Christ's resurrection, we lift our prayers and praise to you, almighty and eternal God; through Jesus Christ, our risen 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: Generous God,  
in this meal you offer your very self.  
We give thanks for these gifts of the earth.  
In the breaking of this bread  
reveal to us the Risen One.  
In the pouring of this wine  
pour us out in service to the world;  
through Christ our Lord.
- C: **Amen.**


## GREAT THANKSGIVING



**P** The Lord be with you. **C** And al - so with you.



**P** Lift up your hearts. **C** We lift them to the Lord.



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



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

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



**C** 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 and know Christ,  
broken and poured out for you.

**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: Gracious God,  
in you we live and move and have our being.  
With your word and this meal of grace,  
you have nourished our life together.  
Strengthen us to show your love  
and serve the world in Jesus' name.

**C: Amen**

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## *The Sending*

### **BLESSING**

P: The God of all,  
who raised † Jesus from the dead,  
bless you by the power of the Holy Spirit  
to live in the new creation.

**C: Amen.**



## CLOSING HYMN

We Praise You, O God | ELW #870



1 We praise you, O God, our re - deem - er, cre - a - tor;  
2 We wor - ship you, God of our fa - thers and mo - thers;  
3 With voic - es u - nit - ed our prais - es we of - fer



in grate - ful de - vo - tion our trib - ute we bring.  
through tri - al and tem - pest our guide you have been.  
and glad - ly our songs of thanks - giv - ing we raise.



We lay it be - fore you; we kneel and a - dore you;  
When per - ils o'er - take us, you will not for - sake us,  
With you, Lord, be - side us, your strong arm will guide us.



we bless your ho - ly name; glad prais - es we sing.  
and with your help, O Lord, our strug - gles we win.  
To you, our great re - deem - er, for - ev - er be praise!

## DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Serve the Risen One.

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!

### **A New Mom's Group coming to Faith**

**Mtg Today | 9:00 AM**

#### **"A Moment for Mom"**

We are looking to launch a moms group this fall, that will meet once a month on Saturday mornings and provide a moment for moms to learn, connect, and recharge. There will be a speaker on a mom related topic, a meal and childcare. If you are interested in learning more, or would like to serve on the team, indicate your interest on a connection card, or contact the church office. An informational meeting is today at 9:00am, fireside.

### **NEXT**

**Sun 5/21 | 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 we call NEXT. This informal gathering lasts only about 20 minutes. It 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 at the church after each service.

### **INTERESTED IN SERVING IN MUSIC MINISTRY?**

**Tues 5/23 | 8:00 PM**

#### ***Open Jam Session with Danny Singh***

Do you play an instrument, or enjoy singing, and have been interested in sharing your gifts at Faith. Danny Singh, Faith's new worship leader, will be hosting an open jam/rehearsal session on Tuesday, May 23 where you'll have the chance to learn about opportunities to serve in our music ministry. This gathering will also include an informal jam/rehearsal session. Come meet Danny, ask questions, and have fun connecting with other musicians at Faith. For more information contact Danny at: [Danny@discoveringfaith.com](mailto:Danny@discoveringfaith.com).

## **VBS -Stellar**

**7/10 - 7/14 | 9:00 AM**

Join us at Stellar VBS, where we'll explore rugged moonscapes, colorful constellations, and lunar landers as we dig into God's great love! 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)

## **MISSION TRIP 2023 – UGANDA**

**June 1-13 | Donate today!**

It's just around the corner! The team is assembled and making preparations to leave for Kampala Uganda on June 1st. What an extraordinary opportunity to serve God alongside our ministry partner Watoto . There are a number of needs that have yet to be met, including travel expenses and ministry supplies.

Show your support by considering a donation today – [discoveringfaith.com/missionuganda2023](http://discoveringfaith.com/missionuganda2023)

## **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

- The children's ministry team is looking for volunteers to join us for VBS this summer, July 10-14. We are looking for both teen and adult volunteers for the week. Please contact [jenn@discoveringfaith.com](mailto:jenn@discoveringfaith.com) if you're interested in serving this summer!

## **KIDWERKS Summer Schedule**

**Sundays at 9:30am**

June: 4 & 18

July: 2, 16 & 30

August 13 & 27

We will continue to meet this summer every other week in the auditorium. Join us for a summer of fun and learning! To register go to [discoveringfaith.com](http://discoveringfaith.com) or for more information please contact [jenn@discoveringfaith.com](mailto:jenn@discoveringfaith.com)

## **DOWNTOWN ALIVE!**

**Concerts at RiverEdge in Aurora | 8:00 PM**

**7<sup>th</sup> Heaven Fri 7/7 \$2 through May 31, \$5 after May 31**

**Stayin' Alive Sat 8/5 \$12 through May 31, \$20 after May 31**

We're gathering inside the park in the grass closer to the river. We'll be flying red balloons to make it easier to find us. Tickets must be purchased at RiverEdge Park website. All general admission. No seating provided. Gates open at 6:00 PM. Come join us!

## **FLOCKING FLAMINGO'S FUNDRAISER**

**May**

*April Showers bring May Flamingos*

Flamingo season is in full swing here at Faith. Yes, two flocks of those lovely, tacky, plastic, pink flamingo lawn ornaments have descended upon the lawns of various families of Faith. Fortunately, we have a trained team of flamingo handlers 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 \$10. Get someone before they get you! So choose wisely, and have fun playing the game all month long!

Want to insure against the removal cost of these pesky birds? 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 Uganda Mission Trip team. Details, special requests, and insurance certificates are available at the Pink Flamingo Table, or online.

Thanks for playing, and for your support.

### **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  
DISCOVERINGFAITH.COM

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