



“LAST WORDS”

JESUS'S LAST WORDS FROM THE CROSS

Third Sunday of Lent
9:30 am worship service

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

Becoming fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.

March 3, 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 MESSAGE SERIES : LAST WORDS

There's something powerful about someone's last words. And that is especially true of the final words Jesus spoke from the cross. The gospel writers recorded seven sayings of Jesus from the cross, seven last words, and these sayings are the focus of our Lent series. As we prepare our hearts for the celebration of resurrection on Easter Sunday, we are taking a closer look at these final words Jesus spoke before he died on the cross and discover their significance for us today.

The Gathering

OPENING SONGS *please stand*

Open Up the Heavens

We've waited for this day, we're gathered in Your name
Calling out to you
Your glory like a fire, awakening desire
Will burn our hearts with truth

Pre-Chorus You're the reason we're here
You're the reason we're singing

Chorus Open up the heavens, we want to see you
Open up the floodgates, a mighty river
Flowing from your heart
Filling every part of our praise

Your presence in this place, Your glory on our face
We're looking to the sky
Descending like a cloud, You're standing with us now
Lord, unveil our eyes (*Pre-Chorus*) (*Chorus*)

Show us, show us Your glory
Show us, show us Your power
Show us, show us Your glory, Lord
Show us, show us Your glory
Show us, show us Your power
Show us, show us Your glory, Lord (*Chorus*) (*Chorus*)

Come Thou Fount, Come Thou King

Come Thou Fount of ev'ry blessing Tune my heart to sing Thy grace
Streams of mercy never ceasing Call for songs of loudest praise
Teach me some melodious sonnet Sung by flaming tongues above
Praise the mount I'm fixed upon it Mount of Thy redeeming love

I was lost in utter darkness 'Til You came and rescued me
I was bound by all my sin when Your love came and set me free
Now my soul can sing a new song Now my heart has found a home
Now Your grace is always with me And I'll never be alone

Chorus Come Thou Fount come Thou King
 Come Thou precious Prince of Peace
 Hear Your bride to You we sing
 Come Thou Fount of our blessing
 Come Thou Fount come Thou King
 Come Thou precious Prince of Peace
 Hear Your bride to You we sing
 Come Thou Fount of our blessing

O to grace how great a debtor Daily I'm constrained to be
Let Thy goodness like a fetter Bind my wand'ring heart to Thee
Prone to wander Lord I feel it Prone to leave the God I love
Here's my heart Lord take and seal it Seal it for Thy courts above

(Chorus)

OPENING PRAYER

A: Holy God, through your Son you have called us to live faithfully and act courageously. Keep us steadfast in your covenant of grace, and teach us the wisdom that comes only through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Word

FIRST LESSON

1 Corinthians 1: 18-25

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.” Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

In Christ Alone

please stand

In Christ alone my hope is found
He is my light my strength my song
This Cornerstone this solid Ground
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm
What heights of love what depths of peace
When fears are stilled when strivings cease
My Comforter my All in All
Here in the love of Christ I stand

GOSPEL

John 19: 17-27

and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha. There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus between them.

Pilate also had an inscription written and put on the cross. It read, “Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.” Many of the Jews read this inscription, because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, in Latin, and in Greek. Then the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, “Do not write, ‘The King of the Jews,’ but, ‘This man said, I am King of the Jews.’” Pilate answered, “What I have written I have written.” When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four parts, one for each soldier. They also took his tunic; now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top. So they said to one another, “Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see who will get it.” This was to fulfill what the scripture says, “They divided my clothes among themselves, and for my clothing they cast lots.” And that is what the soldiers did. Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, “Woman, here is your son.” Then he said to the disciple, “Here is your mother.” And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

MESSAGE

Family | Pastor Rob

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

- A: Trusting in God’s promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need.
- A: You alone are God. We thank you for the gift of sabbath rest. Awaken the church to the mystery of your presence and give us glad hearts as we receive the good news of your deliverance. Hear us, O God.
- C: **Your mercy is great.**

A: You renew creation. Drive out those who would make the earth a marketplace. Protect rainforests, mountaintops, oceans, and wilderness areas from commercial exploitation. Unite nations, policymakers, and businesses in efforts to reduce carbon emissions. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: You judge the nations. We pray for an end to war and strife in every land. Strengthen international efforts to negotiate peace and provide humanitarian aid to people fleeing from conflict. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: You bring healing and hope. We give thanks for physicians, nurses, researchers, therapists, and public health workers who prevent and treat illness. We pray for any who are sick. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: You abide with your people. Sustain any in this community undergoing life transitions: marriage, divorce, childbirth, adoption, moving, graduation, employment change, or a death in the family. We pray for those preparing for baptism. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Gracious and loving God, we pray for the family and friends of Faith... Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C: Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING

OFFERING RESPONSE

please stand

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heav'n to earth come down!
Fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation,
enter ev'ry trembling heart

OFFERTORY PRAYER

- A: Jesus, you are the bread of life
and the host of this meal.
Bless these gifts that we have gathered
that all people may know your goodness.
Feed us not only with this holy food
but with hunger for justice and peace.
We pray this in your name.
- C: **Amen.**

The Meal

P: The earth is the Lord's and everything in it,
The trees of the field clap their hands,
the birds of the air sing songs of praise.
And so, we lift up our hearts, and we lift up our voices
And we offer thanksgiving and adoration to the Lord the Creator of all.

Blessed are you, Sovereign of the Universe, for from seeds sown into the earth you have given us the gift of bread to feed and nourish us. And at Jesus' last meal with his friends, before facing the cross, Our Lord took bread, blessed it and broke it. Then he passed it among them saying:

This is my body, broken for you.
Take and eat, and do this to remember me.

Blessed are you, Sovereign of the Universe,
for from grapes which grow ripe and sweet on the vine,
you have given us the gift of wine to refresh and heal us.
And at Jesus' last meal with his friends before facing the cross,
Our Lord took the cup of wine and blessed it.
Then he passed it among them saying:

This is my blood shed for you.
Take and drink, and do this to remember me.

And now we come to your table again, Jesus,
Mindful of how you laid your life down,
so that we and creation could be born anew;
Mindful of how you took your life up again,
so that we and creation could be filled with your abundant life.
May your Spirit work in these fruits of earth,
so that they may become for us a sharing in Christ's body and blood.
May your Spirit work in us, so that we may be transformed into Christ's
body, carrying his life, his care, and his salvation to all creation.

C: **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread;
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those
who sin against us;
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE MEAL

P: Bread for the journey.
A feast for hungry hearts. Come!

C: **Thanks be to God.**

DISTRIBUTION

AN INVITATION

We invite you to share in Holy Communion this morning, regardless of your church background or lack thereof. We believe that God is present in the bread and wine as it becomes the body and blood of Jesus Christ and that this presence is a gift of grace in the lives of those who receive it. All are welcomed to the table enjoy this gift of God's love and mercy. Grape juice is in the center of the communion tray. Gluten free wafers available at 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.**

The Sending

SENDING PRAYER

A: Generous God,
at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace.
As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread,
now make us one loaf to feed the world;
in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life.

C: **Amen**

CLOSING SONG

Only King Forever

Our God and firm foundation
Our Rock the only solid ground
The nations rise and fall
Kingdoms once strong now shaken
We trust forever in Your name
The name of Jesus
We trust in the name of Jesus

Chorus You are the only King forever
 Almighty God we lift You higher
 You are the only King forever
 Forevermore You are victorious

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

We lift our banner high
We lift the name of Jesus
From age to age You reign
Your kingdom has no end (*Chorus*)

DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. Share your bread.

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!

LENTEN MIDWEEK MEAL

Wednesdays | 6:30 PM

Each Lenten season we provide a fellowship opportunity for people of faith to gather around a table and share a meal at 6:30PM. This meal is intended to be simple and provide some time for us to slow down and care for one another. Everyone who attends shares in the responsibility of providing different components for the meal. Volunteers sign up each week to provide a gallon of soup for the evening. The remainder of the attendees provide either bread or cookies. Beverages and table service will be provided. The Lenten Meal will be offered at 6:30 PM on Wednesdays: 3/6, 3/13, 3/20. Our worship series begins after this fellowship time at 7:15PM. Sign up at the welcome center or online at www.discoveringfaith.com

MIDWEEK LENTEN WORSHIP – “Things Jesus Never Said”

Wednesdays | 7:15 PM

These days it's easy to see life the way we want to. We can filter our images, pick the news we want to hear, and listen only to the viewpoints that agree with us. When we do that, we start to distort our view of the world. The same thing can happen to our view of God. We reshape our perception of Him into what we want to believe, or what we want to think about others. Jesus came to bring us the truth about God and His plan for us, and it doesn't always sound like what you may think.

HOLY WEEK 2024

Maundy Thursday

March 28 | 7:00 PM

Good Friday

March 29 | 12:00 PM, 7:00 PM

Easter Celebration Worship

Sunday March 31 | 6:30, 8:00, 9:30 AM

ADULT ONLINE STUDY GROUP

Begins Tues 3/5 | 7:00 PM

Why Easter Matters

Have you ever been at odds with God? Have you resisted, defied, or tried to bargain your way out of what you thought God wanted? You aren't alone. Scripture documents similar stories. In this Easter Study Andy Stanley looks at some of the people whose lives intersected with Jesus in the weeks leading to his crucifixion. Each of them had an agenda that put them at odds with God and Jesus. As you'll see, there's a little bit of them in all of us.

This 4-week online study will be facilitated by Becky Marchiando. Please register at the welcome center so that we may send you Zoom credentials required to participate. Come join us!

CANDY DONATIONS NEEDED!!

Individually wrapped bite size candy donations are needed to fill our 15,000 eggs! If you are able to donate some bags of candy, please drop them off at the welcome center.

EGG STUFFING PARTIES!

March 6, 13 & 20 | 7:30 PM

Come join the fun and help make our egg drop a huge success. Volunteers are needed to stuff eggs. We will be having an Egg Stuffing Party in the cafe on Wednesday evenings 3/6, 3/13, 3/20 from 7:30 - 9:00pm. Come join the fun!

MOM'S GROUP: A Moment for Mom

Sat 3/9 | 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.

ST PATRICKS DAY PARTY – (21+ Event)

Sat 3/16 | 5:00 PM

DJ, bagpipes, Irish dancers, food, drinks, and more! Tickets on sale online and at the welcome center. \$25 per person or \$45 per couple. Invite your friends and neighbors!

EASTER FLOWERS

Orders Due Mar 17

Once again a variety of spring flowers will be offered to adorn our altar for the Easter services. If you would like to honor the memory of a loved one or just celebrate the Glory of God please fill out an order form and place it in the offering plate or in the church office. Order forms available at the welcome center or online at www.discoveringfaith.com

NEXT

Sun 3/17 | 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

FIRST COMMUNION WORKSHOP

Sat 3/23 | 9:00 AM

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 March 28, at 7:00 p.m. For further information, contact Pastor Rob at pastor@discoveringfaith.com. Sign up today at the welcome center.

THE EASTER JOURNEY

Sat 3/23 | 3:30 PM

Join us as we journey from Palm Sunday to the great celebration of Easter. Your family will travel with Jesus and his disciples through those final days. Through live actors, storytelling, and music, your whole family will have the chance to experience the depth and beauty of God's love in a new and exciting way. The Easter Journey will be held at the church on Saturday, March 23, and starts at 3:30 PM. The journey will conclude with an egg hunt, Easter crafts, and treats. We can't wait to see the whole family! Spaces are limited, so reserve your ticket today.

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

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!

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

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

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

3000 LIBERTY ST. AURORA, IL. 60502 | (630) 862-3500 | OFFICE@DISCOVERINGFAITH.COM