



“LAST WORDS”

JESUS'S LAST WORDS FROM THE CROSS

Second Sunday of Lent
9:30 am worship service

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

Becoming fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.

February 25, 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*

Praise to the Lord the Almighty

Praise to the Lord the Almighty The King of creation
O my soul praise Him For He is thy health and salvation
All ye who hear now to His temple draw near
Praise Him in glad adoration

Praise to the Lord Who over all things So wondrously reigneth
Shelters thee under His wings Yea so gently sustaineth
Hast thou not seen how thy desires ever have been
Granted in what He ordaineth

Praise to the Lord Who doth prosper Thy work and defend thee
Surely His goodness and mercy here daily attend thee
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do
If with His love He befriend thee

Praise to the Lord Who When tempests their warfare are waging
Who when the elements madly around thee are raging
Biddeth them cease turneth their fury to peace
Whirlwinds and waters assuaging

Praise to the Lord Who When darkness of sin is abounding
Who when the godless do triumph All virtue confounding
Sheddeth His light chaseth the horrors of night
Saints with His mercy surrounding

Praise to the Lord O let all that is in me adore Him
All that hath life and breath Come now with praises before Him
Let the amen sound from His people again
Gladly for all we adore Him

O Come to the Altar

Are you hurting and broken within
Overwhelmed by the weight of your sin
Jesus is calling
Have you come to the end of yourself
Do you thirst for a drink from the well
Jesus is calling

Chorus O come to the altar
The Father's arms are open wide
Forgiveness was bought with
The precious blood of Jesus Christ

Leave behind your regrets and mistakes
Come today there's no reason to wait
Jesus is calling
Bring your sorrows and trade them for joy
From the ashes a new life is born
Jesus is calling (*Chorus*)

Oh what a Savior
Isn't he wonderful
Sing alleluia Christ is risen
Bow down before him
For He is Lord of all
Sing alleluia Christ is risen (*Chorus*)

Bear your cross as you wait for the crown
Tell the world of the treasure you've found

OPENING PRAYER

A: O God, by the passion of your blessed Son you made an instrument of shameful death to be for us the means of life. Grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ that we may gladly suffer shame and loss for the sake of your Son, 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

Romans 4:13-25

For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”) —in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become “the father of many nations,” according to what was said, “So numerous shall your descendants be.” He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah’s womb. No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. Therefore his faith “was reckoned to him as righteousness.”

Now the words, “it was reckoned to him,” were written not for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

please stand

Come Let Us Worship and Bow Down

Come let us worship and bow down
Let us kneel before the Lord,
Our God, our Maker Come let us worship and bow down
Let us kneel before the Lord, Our God, our Maker

For He is our God
And we are the people of His pasture
And the sheep of His hand And the sheep of His hand

GOSPEL

Luke 23: 39-43

One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, “Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!” But the other rebuked him, saying, “Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.” Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” He replied, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.”

MESSAGE

Paradise | 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: We turn to you for meaning, holy God. Nurture in your children the gifts of the Spirit poured out in baptism and let the mind of Christ guide the church. Give wisdom and discernment to our bishops, pastors, deacons, teachers, and leaders. Hear us, O God.
- C: Your mercy is great.**

A: We turn to you for renewal. Save lives and ecosystems threatened by pollution and a changing climate. Cleanse the earth's waters and restore the soil. Preserve rainforests, deserts, and wildlife, that generations to come may cherish your creation. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: We turn to you for justice. Uphold the worth and dignity of every person, especially any who experience hatred and rejection because of gender, ability, sexual orientation, color, ethnicity, or religion. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: We turn to you for healing. Send compassionate helpers to any who suffer because of war and violence. Shelter unhoused people, befriend those who are lonely, bring hope to any in despair, and console the bereaved. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: We turn to you for purpose. Remind us of your faithfulness to this congregation. Increase our trust in your guidance and keep us near the cross. Grant that our acts of service will express Christ's sacrificial love. 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

We Are An Offering

We lift our voices, we lift our hands
We lift our lives up to You, We are an offering
Lord, use our voices, Lord use our hands
Lord, use our lives, they are Yours
We are an offering!

All that we have, all that we are
All that we hope to be,
We give to You, we give to You
We lift our voices, we lift our hands
We lift our lives up to You,
We are an offering We are an offering

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

Praise God From Whom all blessings flow
Praise Him All creatures here below
Praise Him above Ye heav'nly host
Praise Father Son and Holy Ghost

Chorus Praise the Father Praise the Son
Praise the Spirit Now with us
Every moment all our days God be praised
Oh God be praised

Praise God With morning's breaking light
Praise Him Through darkness of the night
Praise Him With every breath of life
Praise Him my soul With all your might (*Chorus*)

Praise God In face to face we see
The One who died To set us free
The One Who rose in victory
Praise now forever Christ our King (*Chorus*) (*Chorus*)

God be praised Oh God be praised
Praise God From Whom all blessings flow
Praise Him All creatures here below
Praise Him above Ye heav'nly host
Praise Father Son and Holy Ghost

DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. Share your bread.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Doxology

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: 2/28, 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

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