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Fifth Sunday After Epiphany  
8:00 am worship service

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

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

February 4, 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: THE ESSENTIALS**

With so many denominations and opinions on what it means to be a Christian, it can be difficult to determine what are the foundations to our faith. We'll look at what's essential, and what's not, when it comes to following Jesus.

# The Gathering

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### OPENING HYMN

Oh, Worship the King | ELW #842

please stand

1 Oh, wor - ship the King, all - glo - rious a - bove.  
2 The earth with its store of won - ders un - told,  
3 Your boun - ti - ful care what tongue can re - cite?  
4 Frail chil - dren of dust, and fee - ble as frail,  
5 O mea - sure - less might, in - ef - fa - ble love,

Oh, grate - ful - ly sing God's pow - er and love;  
Al - might - y, your pow'r has found - ed of old;  
It breathes in the air, it shines in the light,  
in you do we trust, nor find you to fail;  
while an - gels de - light to hymn you a - bove,

our shield and de - fend - er, the An - cient of Days,  
es - tab - lished it fast by a change - less de - cree,  
it streams from the hills, it de - scends to the plain,  
your mer - cies, how ten - der, how firm to the end,  
the hum - bler cre - a - tion, though fee - ble their lays,

pa - vil - ioned in splen - dor, and gird - ed with praise.  
and round it has cast, like a man - tle, the sea.  
and sweet - ly dis - tills in the dew and the rain.  
our mak - er, de - fend - er, re - deem - er, and friend.  
with true ad - o - ra - tion shall sing to your 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.



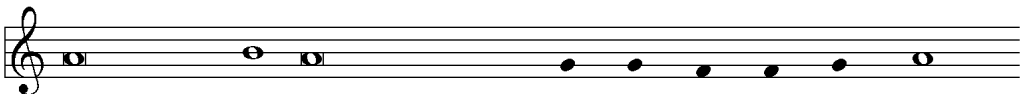
**A** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



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



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



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



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

# 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,  
Everlasting God, you give strength to the weak and power to the faint. Make us agents of your healing and wholeness, that your good news may be made known to the ends of your creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

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## *The Word*

### FIRST READING

**Isaiah 40:21-31**

Have you not known? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth? It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to live in; who brings princes to naught, and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing. Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth, when he blows upon them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble. To whom then will you compare me, or who is my equal? says the Holy One. Lift up your eyes on high and see: Who created these? He who brings out their host and numbers them, calling them all by name; because he is great in strength, mighty in power, not one is missing.

Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, “My way is hidden from the Lord, and my right is disregarded by my God”? Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless. Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

## SECOND READING

## 1 Corinthians 9:16-23

If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel! For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission. What then is my reward? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel.

For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them. To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law. To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law) so that I might win those outside the law. To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

## 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 28<sup>th</sup> chapter.

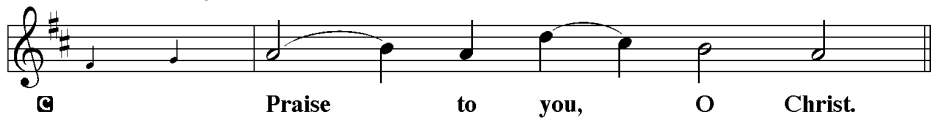
Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

## GOSPEL

**Matthew 28: 16-20**

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.



## MESSAGE

Go | Pastor Rob



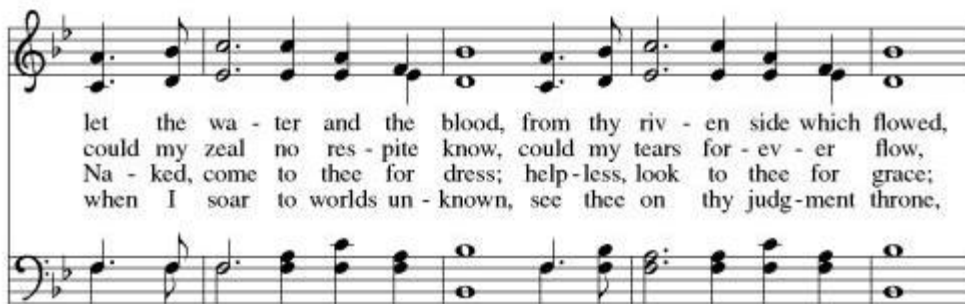
# HYMN OF THE DAY

Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me | ELW #623

*please stand*



1 Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee;  
2 Not the la - bors of my hands can ful - fill thy law's de - mands;  
3 Noth - ing in my hand I bring; sim - ply to thy cross I cling.  
4 While I draw this fleet - ing breath, when mine eye - lids close in death,



let the wa - ter and the blood, from thy riv - en side which flowed,  
could my zeal no res - pite know, could my tears for - ev - er flow,  
Na - ked, come to thee for dress; help - less, look to thee for grace;  
when I soar to worlds un - known, see thee on thy judg - ment throne,



be of sin the dou - ble cure; cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.  
all for sin could not a - tone; thou must save, and thou a - lone.  
foul, I to the foun - tain fly; wash me, Sav - ior, or I die.  
Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee.

## 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:** As we celebrate Christ embodied in human form, we pray for God's blessing  
on the church, the world, and all of creation.

**A:** Everlasting God, you bring your healing power to the church. Give your church  
a spirit of unity and prayer, that we discern your way for us in the world. God  
of grace,

**C:** receive our prayer.

**A:** Creator of the ends of the earth, you make the grass grow and send rain for  
the soil. Bring your creation into harmony and balance. Give animals their food  
and provide healthy shelter for your people. Inspire us to honor the  
miraculous beauty of all you have made. God of grace,

**C:** receive our prayer.

A: God without equal, your steadfast love endures forever. Bring the leaders, elected officials, and peacekeepers of our towns and countries into understanding and unity. Guide them to serve with compassion and understanding. God of grace,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: God who strengthens, you lift up with your hand any who are suffering. Heal those who are brokenhearted and strengthen the weak and all in need. God of grace,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: God who gives power to the faint, challenge us to share the faith stories of what God has done in our lives. Open us to receive the unique ways God is at work in your people, especially those whose perspectives challenge our own. God of grace,

**C: receive our prayer.**

P: Gracious and loving God, we pray for the family and friends of Faith... God of grace,

**C: receive our prayer.**

P: Knowing the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we offer these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

**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: Blessed are you, Holy One,  
for all good things come from you.  
In bread and cup you open heaven to us.  
Meet us at this table,  
that we receive what we seek  
and follow your Son, Jesus,  
in whose name we pray.

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:** At Jesus' table, heaven and earth are joined as one.  
Come and see.

**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. 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 - 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: Giver of every gift,  
Christ's body is our food, and we are Christ's body.  
Raise us to life by your power  
for the benefit of all and to your glory,  
now and forever.

**C: Amen**

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## *The Sending*

### **BLESSING**

P: God who names you,  
Christ who claims you,  
and the Holy Spirit who dwells in you,  
† bless you and remain with you always.

**C: Amen.**



## CLOSING HYMN

My Faith Looks Up to Thee | ELW #759

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!

## DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. You are God's beloved.

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!

### **MOM'S GROUP: A Moment for Mom**

**Sat 2/10 | 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).

### **ANNUAL CHILI COOK OFF**

**Sat 2/10 | 5:00 PM**

Community Life team is hosting Faith's Annual Chili Cook-Off. Do you make the best Chili? Enter your Chili today! Don't Cook? Join us in the tasting and judge your favorite Chili! Sign up at the welcome center. Open to all ages.

### **SCOUT SUNDAY**

**Sun 2/11**

Scout Sunday will be observed on February 11th. Faith Lutheran Church's Cub Scout Pack 643 and Boy Scout Troop 508 will be present at both services to greet Parishioners and assist with the service. This is a great opportunity for our congregation and our Scouts to come together. We would also like to invite members of ANY Scouting organization, past or present to wear your uniform, or paraphernalia to service on the 11th so we can recognize your contributions.

The Boy Scouts of America designates a Sunday that falls in February to recognize the contributions of young people and adults to Scouting. This coincides with the anniversary of the creation of the Scouts BSA Program.

Mark your calendars and we hope to see you there!

## **MEMBERSHIP @ FAITH**

**Mon Feb 12, 19 | 6:30 PM**

The New Year is a time of new beginnings and renewal. For those of you seeking a new faith journey or looking to strengthen your faith journey, Faith will offer a membership course in February. Membership @ Faith invites participants to explore the vision, mission and values of Faith, as well as a broad overview of the Christian faith from a Lutheran perspective. Participants will also discover their unique gifts and how they can use them in serving others. This course is open to everyone and is required of those who wish to become members at Faith. The course meets on Monday nights at 6:30 p.m. for two weeks (2/12 and 2/19). Sign up on line or at the welcome center.

## **ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE**

**Wed 2/14 | Noon & 7:00 PM**

During the Christian church year, there are two major celebrations. One is Christmas where we celebrate Jesus' birth, and the other is Easter, when we celebrate His death and resurrection. There is a time before Easter where we often prepare ourselves for Jesus' death and resurrection. This time is known as Lent. Lent consists of the 40 days before Easter, not counting Sundays— because they are always celebrations of Jesus' resurrection. Thus, the first day of Lent is always a Wednesday. In ancient times, people marked times of fasting, prayer, and repentance by placing ashes on their foreheads. Today we do it as a reminder of who we are and what we are—forgiven sinners.

## **NEXT**

**Sun 2/18 | 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

## **GROUPLINK**

**Tues 2/20 | 7:00 PM**

If you are interested in learning how to connect to a community group here at Faith please plan on attending GroupLink. In a community group, people study God's Word together and discuss the issues and challenges of life. It's also where they pray, care for one another, and are missed if they don't show up. Life change happens best in these small groups! Sign up at the welcome center or online at [www.discoveringfaith.com](http://www.discoveringfaith.com)

## 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: 2/21, 2/8, 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](http://www.discoveringfaith.com)

## MIDWEEK LENTEN WORSHIP – “Things Jesus Never Said”

Wednesdays | 7:15 PM

Begins 2/21/23

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.

## ADULT ONLINE STUDY GROUP

Tuesdays | 7:00 PM

### Becoming a Contagious Christian

Learn how to share the gospel in natural and effective ways, being the person God made you to be. By applying training principles learned in this study to real-life situations and relationships, you'll identify and develop an evangelism style that's effective for you. This 6 week online study will be facilitated by Becky Marchiando. Please sign up 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!

## **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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