



# PALM SUNDAY

HOSANNA TO THE KING OF KINGS | MATTHEW 21:9

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Palm Sunday  
9:30 Worship Celebration

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

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

March 29, 2026

### **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: PRACTICING THE WAY**

Join us as we explore nine ancient practices of the way of Jesus that promise to help root us in the faith and deepen our experience of God as we serve our world. When practiced regularly these keystone habits can powerfully guide our journey of spiritual growth, creating a rule of life that helps us become more like Jesus, transformed into the people we were created to be.

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# The Gathering

## OPENING SONG

### House of the Lord

We worship the God who was  
We worship the God who is  
We worship the God who evermore will be

He opened the prison doors  
He parted the raging sea  
My God, He holds the victory

*Chorus* There's joy in the house of the Lord There's joy in the house of the Lord today  
And we won't be quiet We shout out Your praise  
There's joy in the house of the Lord Our God is surely in this place  
And we won't be quiet We shout out Your praise

We shout out Your praise  
We sing to the God who heals  
We sing to the God who saves  
We sing to the God who always makes a way

'Cause He hung up on that cross  
Then He rose up from that grave  
My God's still rolling stones away (*Chorus*)

We were the beggars  
Now we're royalty  
We were the prisoners  
Now we're running free  
We are forgiven, accepted  
Redeemed by His grace  
Let the house of the Lord sing praise (*Repeat*) (*Chorus*)

We shout out Your praise  
We shout out Your praise  
We shout out Your praise

## **Good, Good Father**

Oh, I've heard a thousand stories of what they think You're like  
But I've heard the tender whisper of love in the dead of night  
And You tell me that You're pleased and that I'm never alone

*Chorus* You're a good, good Father  
It's who You are, it's who You are, it's who You are  
And I'm loved by You  
It's who I am, it's who I am, it's who I am

I've seen many searching for answers far and wide  
But I know we're all searching for answers only You provide  
'Cause You know just what we need before we say a word (*Chorus*)

You are perfect in all of Your ways  
You are perfect in all of Your ways  
You are perfect in all of Your ways to us (*Repeat*)

Oh, this love so undeniable  
I, I can hardly speak  
Peace so unexplainable  
I, I can hardly think  
As You call me deeper still  
As You call me deeper still  
As You call me deeper still into love, love, love (*Chorus*) (*Chorus*) (*Chorus*)

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

L: Everlasting God, in your endless love for the human race you sent our Lord Jesus Christ to take on our nature and to suffer death on the cross. In your mercy enable us to share in his obedience to your will and in the glorious victory of his resurrection, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## **WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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## The Word

### READING

Philippians 2:5-11

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,  
who, though he existed in the form of God,  
did not regard equality with God  
as something to be grasped,  
but emptied himself,  
taking the form of a slave,  
assuming human likeness.  
And being found in appearance as a human,  
he humbled himself  
and became obedient to the point of death—  
even death on a cross.

Therefore God exalted him even more highly  
and gave him the name  
that is above every other name,  
so that at the name given to Jesus  
every knee should bend,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
and every tongue should confess  
that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.

### RESPONSE

*please stand*

Blessing, Honor and Glory

Blessing, Honor, Glory to The Lamb  
Holy, righteous, worthy is the Lamb  
Death could not hold him down  
For he is risen Seated upon the throne  
He is the lamb of God  
Blessing, honor, Glory to the lamb  
Holy , Righteous, worthy is the lamb of God

## 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 they 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.”

## MESSAGE

Unstoppable | Pastor Rob

## PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

- A: Reconciled by God’s mercy and sustained by God’s presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.
- A: O God, you announce words of grace and truth. Give wisdom to all preachers in your church both globally and locally. Open our hearts to encounter the infinite life you offer in Jesus. Hear us, O God.
- C: Your mercy is great.**
- A: You hold the whole universe. Gather sun and moon, clouds and stars, land and sea, and plants and animals around the cross, so that all creation bears witness to your saving love. Hear us, O God.
- C: Your mercy is great.**
- A: Your ways show compassion. Let this same mind be in us as we enter Holy Week. Bless those here who will lead worship and tell the story of Jesus’ death and resurrection. 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: Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.
- C: Amen.**

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# The Meal

## SHARING OF THE PEACE

### OFFERING

## CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

P: God is with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift our hearts to God.**

P: Let us give thanks to God, our God!

**C: We give God our thanks and our praise!**

P: On this day of celebration –  
on this day of renewing our faith –  
on this day of walking with the Christ,  
to Jerusalem... to Golgotha... and beyond –  
we give you thanks, great and loving God.

**C: Thank you, loving God!**

P: From the very beginning, you have loved us.  
You created all that is, calling it into being.  
With the *ruach* – the Spirit – with the Wind and the Word,  
you saw what you had created,  
and called it, “Good!”

**C: Thank you, loving God!**

P: But, time and time again, in history and in our story,  
we have turned away from your love.  
We have turned away from your hope.  
We have turned away from you.  
We have wandered away, thinking we knew best.

**C: But you never left us to walk by ourselves, loving God.  
Even when we turn away.**

## **You walk the road with us.**

P: Through prophets, priests and storytellers,  
through mothers and grandmothers,  
through fathers and grandfathers,  
through teens and children and infants,  
you called us back to your love.

**C: Thank you, loving God!**

P: There came a time when you sent Jesus to speak to the world.  
To speak to us. To teach us your love.  
To give abundant life.  
To make us new.

**C: Thank you, loving God!**

P: He lived a life as one of us – a child, a youth, an adult.  
He laughed with those who laughed,  
he cried with those who cried.  
In all of this, he walked the hard road –

**C: the way of the Cross and the way of the Resurrection.**

P: On the night before he was put to death,  
he gathered for a meal of celebration with his friends.  
There he recommitted himself to your love, and to his people.  
He took bread, thanked You, and broke the bread,  
giving it to his friends, saying,  
“Take this and eat it. This is my body, given for you.  
Each time you do this, remember me.”

**C: We remember him.**

P: After the meal was over, he took the cup of blessing,  
thanked You, and poured the wine,  
giving it to his friends, saying,  
“Take this and drink it. This is my blood, given for you.  
Each time you drink this, remember me.”

**C: We remember him.**

**P:** And so we do as he asked us, loving God.  
We pray that your Spirit might fill these gifts,  
and fill us – that all might be vessels of your love,  
your hope and your life in the world.

**C:** **Come, Holy Spirit, come!**

## **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:** Come to the table.  
Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

**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 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.**

## **PASSION DRAMA**

NARRATOR: Now Jesus stood before the Governor, and the Governor asked him,

PILATE: Are you the King of the Jews?

NARRATOR: Jesus answered, "You say so." But when he was accused by the chief priest and elders, he did not answer. Then Pilate said to him,

PILATE: Do you not hear how many accusation they make against you?

NARRATOR: But he gave them no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the Governor was accustomed to releasing a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted.

At that time they had a notorious prisoner called Barabbas. So after they had gathered, Pilate said to them:

PILATE: Whom do you want me to release for you, Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?

NARRATOR: And the people shouted....

**CROWD: Barabbas! Barabbas!**

PILATE: Then what should I do with Jesus, this man who is called the Messiah?

**CROWD: Let him be crucified!**

PILATE: Why, what evil has he done?

**CROWD: Let him be crucified! Release Barabbas! Let him be crucified!!**

NARRATOR: So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water, washed his hands before the crowd, saying...

PILATE: I am innocent of this man's blood— see to it yourselves.

NARRATOR: Then the people as a whole answered:

**CROWD: His blood be on us and on our children!**

NARRATOR: So he released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified. Then the soldiers of Pilate took Jesus into the Governor's headquarters and gathered the whole court around him. They stripped him; put a scarlet robe on him, and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him saying, "Hail, king of the Jews!"

They spat on him and took the reed; struck him on the head. After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. And when they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots and then they sat down there and kept watch over him. Over his head they put the charge against him, which read: "THIS IS JESUS, KING OF THE JEWS." Then two thieves were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying....

**CROWD: You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross.**

NARRATOR: From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

And when some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "This man called for Elijah". At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick and gave it for him to drink. But the others said, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to see him." Then Jesus cried again and breathed his last.

At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook and the rocks were split. Now when the centurion and those with him, who were keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified and he said...

CENTURION: Truly, this man was God's Son!

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## *The Sending*

### **SENDING PRAYER**

A: God of our salvation,  
we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls,  
reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey.  
Through the body and blood of your Son,  
may we become Christ's body in the world,  
bearing witness to your love for all creation,  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: **Amen.**

## CLOSING SONG

## King of Kings

In the darkness we were waiting Without hope, without light  
'Til from Heaven You came running There was mercy in Your eyes  
To fulfill the law and prophets To a virgin came the word  
From a throne of endless glory To a cradle in the dirt

*Chorus* Praise the Father, praise the Son  
Praise the Spirit, three in one  
God of glory, Majesty  
Praise forever to the King of Kings

To reveal the kingdom coming And to reconcile the lost  
To redeem the whole creation You did not despise the cross  
For even in your suffering You saw to the other side  
Knowing this was our salvation Jesus for our sake you died (*Chorus*)

And the morning that You rose All of Heaven held its breath  
'Til that stone was moved for good For the Lamb had conquered death  
And the dead rose from their tombs And the angels stood in awe  
For the souls of all who'd come To the Father are restored (*Chorus*)

And the church of Christ was born Then the Spirit lit the flame  
Now this gospel truth of old Shall not kneel, shall not faint  
By His blood and in His name In His freedom I am free  
For the love of Jesus Christ Who has resurrected me (*Chorus*)

## DISMISSAL

**A:** Go in peace. Believe the good news.  
**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!

### **FAITH SPRING CLEANING EVENT**

**Today!**

11:00 - 1:00pm

Join us today at 11:00am to get our church shiny and clean for Holy Week and Easter. We'll be doing inside cleaning: windows, waxing, clearing out dust bunnies, etc. Come and stay as long as you can.

### **Giving Hope Project Update**

Thank you to everyone that donated items and their time to the Giving Hope Project. We were able to donate 6 SUV loads of items to Sharing Connections, as well as a truck of furniture. We donated 1 full SUV of kitchen items, 1 Full Suv of clothing, 2 SUVs of small furniture, 1 Full truck of baby items, 1 Full SUV of bedding, bath, new soaps and toiletries. We donated a couch, 4 chairs/recliners, 2 kitchen chairs, several bookshelves, lamps, mirrors, metal bed frames etc. We were able to help so many people from your donations. Thank you again for spreading God's love through our hands and feet into the world.

## **HOLY WEEK 2026**

### **Maundy Thursday**

**April 2 | 7:00 PM**

Lent concludes as we gather around the table and a new commandment that Jesus gives, "Love one another as I have loved you." Join us as we begin the three day journey to the resurrection. Communion will be celebrated.

### **Good Friday**

**April 3 | 12:00 & 7:00 PM**

Join us for our Good Friday service of gathering darkness. We gather together at the foot of the cross to remember the depth of God's love for us. Services will be held in the auditorium.

### **Easter Celebration Worship**

**Sunday April 5 | 6:30, 8:00 & 9:30 AM**

At Faith, we want to experience the excitement of Easter with you. On March 31, join us at one of our worship services for some awesome music, an inspirational message, and a time for refreshments and fellowship in our café afterwards. Come and celebrate Easter at Faith!

## HELICOPTER DROPPED EASTER EGG HUNT

Sat 4/4 | 11:00 AM

*Be a part of the excitement!*

Join us for our Annual Easter Egg Drop on April 4<sup>th</sup>, at 11:00am. This event has become an anticipated community event which all of our friends in the Fox Valley look forward to each year. While it is intended to bring focus to Faith and celebrate the renewal of spring time and the blessings of Easter... it is also a magical day in which children revel in the excitement and anticipation of the Easter Bunny and all of his goodies... which is magnified by the special delivery from a helicopter! Reserve your free tickets today! Visit: [www.discoveringfaith.com](http://www.discoveringfaith.com).

This event is only possible by the many gifted volunteers who help prepare the entire experience. Volunteer opportunities include the stuffing thousands of eggs, set up, traffic directors, music, photography, leaders and tear down. There is no doubt YOU have something to offer!

For more volunteer information, please email [eggdrop@discoveringfaith.com](mailto:eggdrop@discoveringfaith.com).

Be sure to invite your friends and neighbors to this incredible event!

## A MOMENT FOR MOM

Sat 4/11 | 10:00 AM

A Moment for Mom is a group for moms of kiddos ages 0-10 that meets the 2nd Saturday each month through May 2026. Sessions provide a delicious breakfast and amazing speakers on topics relating to motherhood. We offer affordable childcare while you attend. Our website is ready for you to explore our speakers and costs for the 2025-2026 year. Come join us and other moms to laugh, learn, and connect. Register today and/or reach out to us for more information at [www.discoveringfaith.com/amomentformom](http://www.discoveringfaith.com/amomentformom).

## ROCKSTAR BINGO FUNDRAISER FOR TROOP 643

Sat 4/11 | 7:00PM

Bring your friends and family to this fun, musical, fundraising event hosted by Pack 643! Our Faith Lutheran Cub Scout pack 643 is hosting their 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Rockstar Bingo fundraiser. When bingo, and music come together, everyone wins! A silent auction, prizes after each round, food, drinks and a 50/50 make it a winning night for everyone! This is a perfect date night, parents' night out or fun night with co-workers!

## NEXT

Sun 4/12 | 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 approximately 20 minutes and will provide you with an overview of our mission, strategy, and environment to help you determine your best next step in continuing your faith journey. Pastor Rob and Jenn Richardson, Faith's volunteer coordinator, will be on hand for conversation and to welcome you to Faith. Meets fireside.

## HESED HOUSE SERVING

Wed 4/15 | 6:00 PM

Faith's next serving opportunity at Hesed House is April 16. We will need roughly 5 to 10 volunteers to help with meal setup, serving, and cleanup. Volunteers can conveniently sign up online or at the welcome center. All that's needed is a serving heart. Sign up today!

## REVOLUTION

Sun 4/19 | 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!

## TUESDAY AM WOMENS BIBLE STUDY

Tuesdays | 9:00 AM

*It's Good to Be Queen* by Liz Curtis Higgs

This book chronicles the Queen of Sheba's intentional journey to seek wisdom from a godly source, King Solomon, and challenges the readers to become as bold, gracious and wise as the Queen. The workbook will be made available at the meetings (\$12). It is also available in Kindle format. For additional information contact Sue Boozell at [sue.boozell@discoveringfaith.com](mailto:sue.boozell@discoveringfaith.com).

## KIDWERKS

Sundays at 9:30 AM

Join us in the auditorium 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. To register go to [discoveringfaith.com](http://discoveringfaith.com) or for more information please contact [jenn@discoveringfaith.com](mailto:jenn@discoveringfaith.com) PreK – 5<sup>th</sup> grade

## TRIVIA NIGHT

Sat 4/25 | 5:00PM

Join us on Saturday, April 25, 2026 at 5:00pm for Trivia Night. Our own Matt Clemm will be our Trivia Guide. Teams of 4-6 will compete for fun and prizes. Please bring an appetizer to share. Pop, water and coffee will be provided. BYOB. Sign up today at the Welcome Center or online. Bring your friends for a great night of Trivia and fun!

## Save the Date!

Sat 4/25 | 1:30 PM

Mother's Day make & take event!

Calling all dad/uncles/grandpas or other special adults! Join us for a special afternoon of crafting & curating the perfect Mother's Day gift for the woman who does it all! This afternoon is intended for dad or (anyone besides Mom) to bring their kiddos to. Together we'll make/create some one of a kind items to give on Mother's Day! Registration link coming soon! Please contact Jenn ([jenn@discoveringfaith.com](mailto:jenn@discoveringfaith.com)) with any questions!

## **Living Generously (through February 2026)**

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.

YTD Revenue: \$73,372

YTD Budget: \$76,200

YTD Expenses: \$81,626

## **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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