

# “LAST WORDS”

JESUS'S LAST WORDS FROM THE CROSS

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Fourth Sunday of Lent  
9:30 am worship service

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

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

March 10, 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.

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# The Gathering

## OPENING SONGS *please stand*

### **Hosanna, Praise is Rising**

Praise is rising, eyes are turning to You We turn to You

Hope is stirring, hearts are yearning for You We long for You

Pre- Chorus Cause when we see You, we find strength to face the day  
In Your presence all our fears are washed away Washed away

Chorus Hosanna, Hosanna  
You are the God who saves us  
Worthy of all our praises  
Hosanna, Hosanna  
Come have Your way among us  
We welcome you here, Lord Jesus

Hear the sound of hearts returning to You We turn to You  
In your kingdom, broken lives are made new You make us new

(Pre-Chorus) (Chorus)

(Pre-Chorus) (Pre-Chorus)

(Chorus) (Chorus)

## **Gratitude**

All my words fall short  
I got nothing new  
How could I express  
All my gratitude?

I could sing these songs  
As I often do  
But every song must end  
And You never do

*Chorus 1*    So I throw up my hands    And praise You again and again  
              'Cause all that I have is a hallelujah    Hallelujah

*Chorus 2*    And I know it's not much    But I've nothing else fit for a King  
              Except for a heart singing hallelujah    Hallelujah

I've got one response  
I've got just one move  
With my arm stretched wide  
I will worship You    (*Chorus 1*) (*Chorus 2*)

*Bridge*    Come on, my soul    Oh, don't you get shy on me  
              Lift up your song    'Cause you've got a lion inside of those lungs  
              Get up and praise the Lord (*Repeat 2x*) (*Chorus 1*) (*Chorus 2*)

## **OPENING PRAYER**

A: O God, rich in mercy, by the humiliation of your Son you lifted up this fallen world and rescued us from the hopelessness of death. Lead us into your light, that all our deeds may reflect your love, 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**

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# The Word

## FIRST LESSON

## Ephesians 2:1-10

You were dead through the trespasses and sins in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else.

But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Thy Word

*please stand*

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path  
Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path

When I feel afraid Think I've lost my way  
Still you're there right beside me And nothing will I fear  
As long as you are near Please be near me to the end

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path *(Repeat)*  
Here in the love of Christ I stand.

## GOSPEL

**Mark 15: 25-39**

It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him. The inscription of the charge against him read, "The King of the Jews." And with him they crucified two bandits, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, "Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself, and come down from the cross!" In the same way the chief priests, along with the scribes, were also mocking him among themselves and saying, "He saved others; he cannot save himself. Let the Messiah, the King of Israel, come down from the cross now, so that we may see and believe." Those who were crucified with him also taunted him.

When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "Listen, he is calling for Elijah." And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down." Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, "Truly this man was God's Son!"

## MESSAGE

Forsaken | 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: Gracious God, your love unites. Give vision to the global church and foster cooperation in mission. Increase inter-religious understanding and ecumenical dialog. Make your church a sanctuary for all fleeing persecution, disaster, and war. Hear us, O God.
- C: Your mercy is great.**

A: Creating God, your love enlivens. Restore balance to the earth's fragile habitats. Preserve wilderness lands, rainforests, and wildlife. Cleanse oceans and rivers. Make us good stewards of the earth. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: Righteous God, your love liberates. We give thanks for those who courageously witness to your liberating love. Free all people from the evils of racism, religious strife, and hatred. Hear us, O God..

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: Merciful God, your love heals. Care tenderly for all whose loved ones perished from pandemic disease in every nation. Strengthen health care workers, first responders, and caregivers. Relieve all who live with chronic illness and pain. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: Incarnate God, your love enlightens. Open our hearts and minds to fresh understandings of our faith. Deepen our love for you and for one another. Teach us to pray for our enemies. 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*

Crown Him with Many Crowns

Crown Him with many crowns  
The Lamb upon His throne  
Hark how the heavenly anthem drowns  
All music but its own  
Awake, my soul, and sing  
Of Him who died for thee  
And hail Him as thy matchless King  
Through all eternity

## 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.**

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## *The Meal*

P: God's love for the world was so great that He gave us His Son, so that anyone  
who believes in Him should not die  
but receive eternal life.  
We come to this table in need;  
We are weak and need strength;  
We are broken and need healing;  
We are hardened and need softening;  
We are poor in spirit and need care.

**C: We give thanks for Your compassion, O God;  
We rejoice at Your invitation to share in this meal,  
and we receive again Your abundant grace.**

P: So, let's remember how Jesus gave Himself for us;  
At supper, on the night of His betrayal, Jesus took bread,  
gave thanks, broke it and shared it with His friends, saying:  
This is my body, given for you. Take it, eat it, and remember Me.

**C: Amen.**

P: After supper, Jesus took the cup,  
gave thanks and shared it with His friends, saying:  
This is my blood shed for you. Take it, drink it and remember Me.

**C: Amen.**

P: In this bread and in this wine we receive again  
the generous, and costly gift of life,  
offered to us through the sacrifice of Jesus.  
This meal is a proclamation of God's goodness, a thanksgiving for God's grace  
and a sharing in God's life.

**C: And we will keep celebrating in this way until Jesus returns. 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.**

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## *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

## Mighty to Save

Everyone needs compassion  
Love that's never failing  
Let mercy fall on me  
Everyone needs forgiveness  
The kindness of a savior  
The hope of nations

*Chorus*    Saviour, He can move the mountains  
              My God is mighty to save  
              He is mighty to save  
              Forever, author of salvation  
              He rose and conquered the grave  
              Jesus conquered the grave

So take me as you find me  
All my fears and failures  
Fill my life again  
I give my life to follow  
Everything I believe in  
Now I surrender    (*Chorus*)

Shine your light and  
Let the whole world see  
We're singing  
For the glory  
Of the risen King... Jesus    (*Chorus*) (*Chorus*)

## DISMISSAL

**L:** Go in peace. Serve the Lord.  
**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!

### **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: 3/13, 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**

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**

**Tuesdays | 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 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!

## **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](http://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](mailto: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.

## **HELICOPTER DROPPED EASTER EGG HUNT**

**Sat 3/30 | 11:00 AM**

*Be a part of the excitement!*

Join us for our Annual Easter Egg Drop on March 30<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/easteregg hunt](http://www.discoveringfaith.com/easteregg hunt).

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!

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

**Sat 4/13 | 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).

## **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!

## **Living Generously**

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.

2024 YTD Giving \$

2024 YTD Budget \$

2024 YTD Expenses \$

## **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

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