FOLLOW

LEARNING TO FOLLOW JESUS

Sixth Sunday after Epiphany
8:00 am worship service

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH | Inviting, Growing, Serving…

Becoming fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.

February 12, 2023

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: FOLLOW

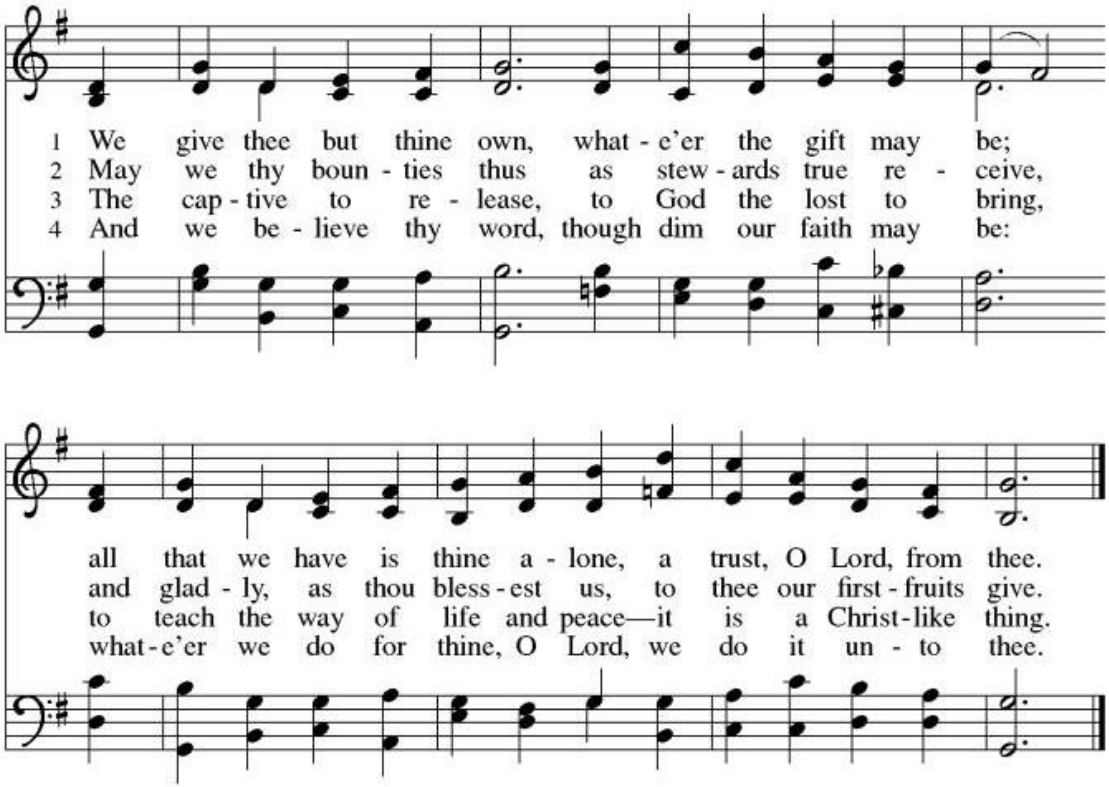
No matter what you believe, no matter how you behave, Jesus invites you to … follow.

The Gathering

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN We Give Thee but Thine Own | ELW #686

please stand

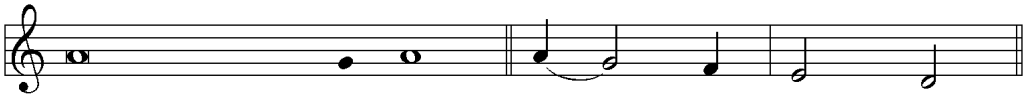


GREETING

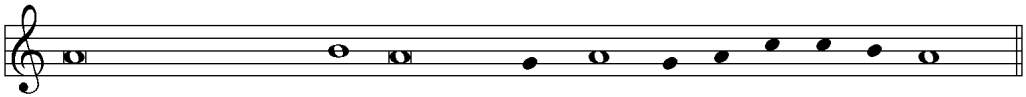
P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

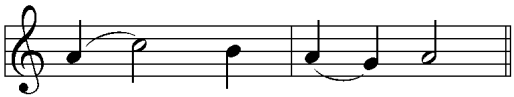
KYRIE



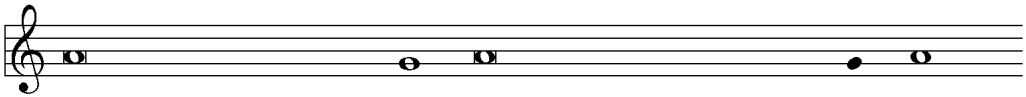
A In peace, let us pray to the Lord. C **Lord, have mer - cy.**



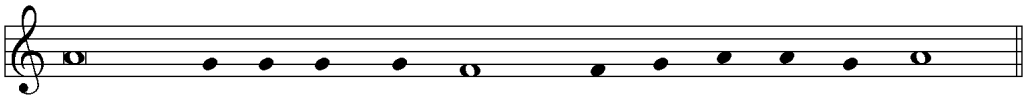
A For the peace from a- bove, and for our sal- vation, let us pray to the Lord.



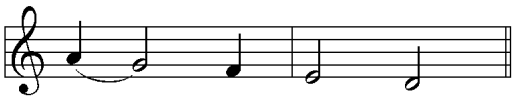
C **Lord, have mer - cy.**



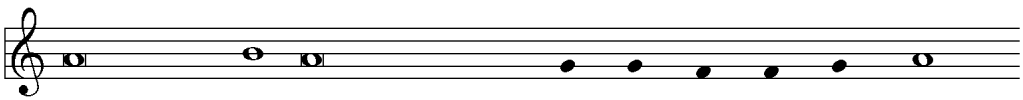
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



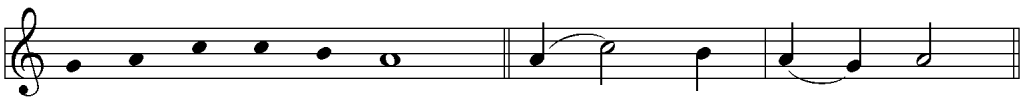
and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



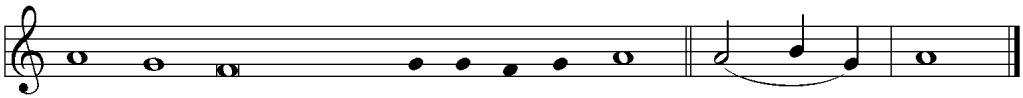
C **Lord, have mer - cy.**



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

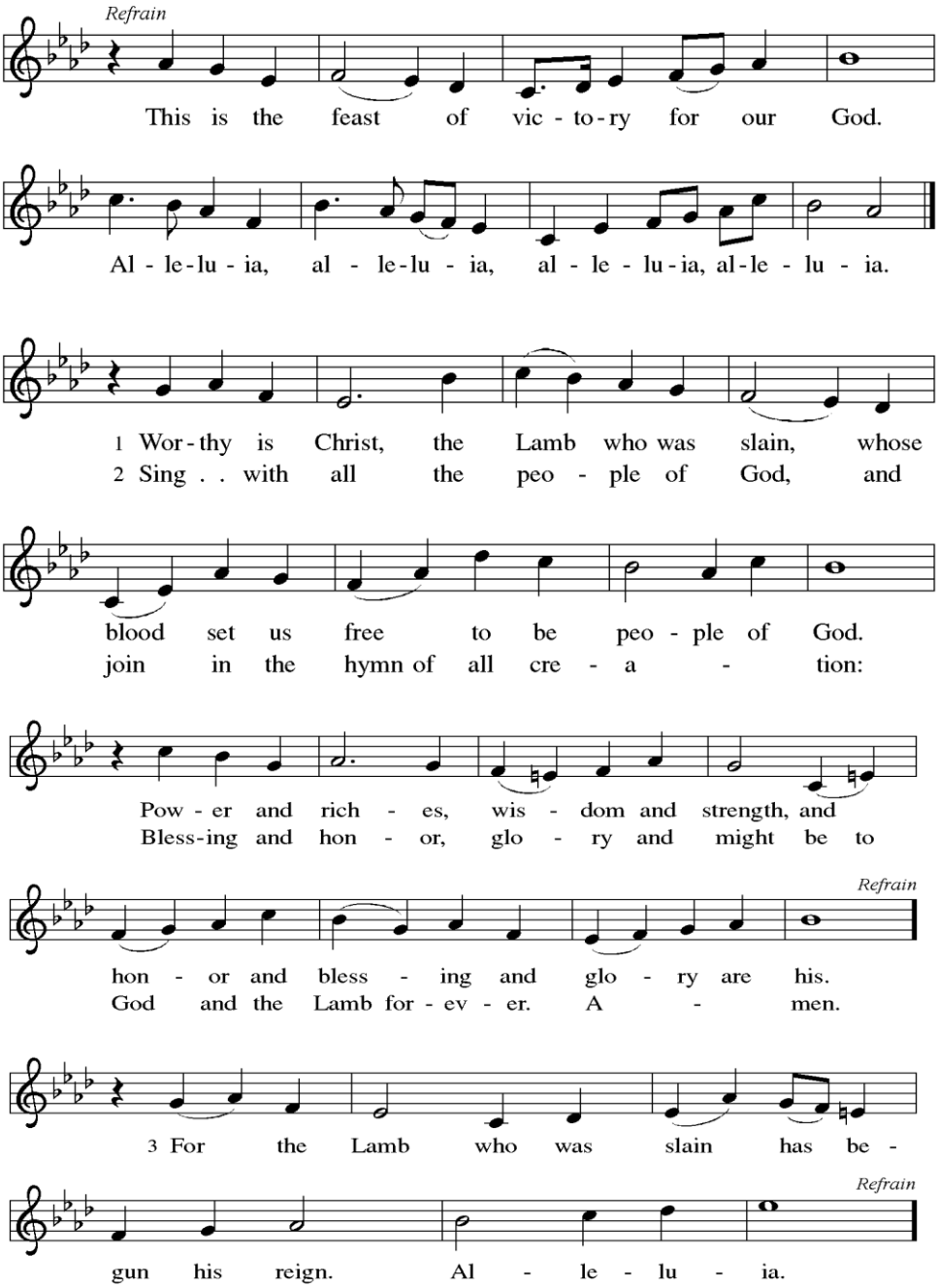


let us pray to the Lord. C **Lord, have mer - cy.**



A Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord. C **A - men**

HYMN OF PRAISE



PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray,
O God, the strength of all who hope in you, because we are weak mortals we accomplish nothing good without you. Help us to see and understand the things we ought to do, and give us grace and power to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

The Word

FIRST READING **Deuteronomy 30:15-20**

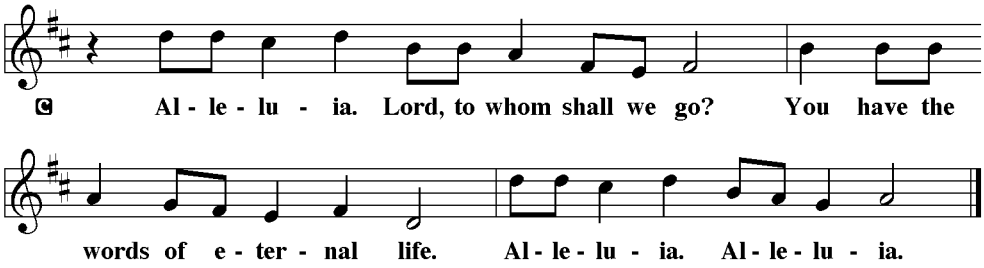
See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the Lord your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, loving the Lord your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the Lord swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

SECOND READING **1 Corinthians 3:1-9**

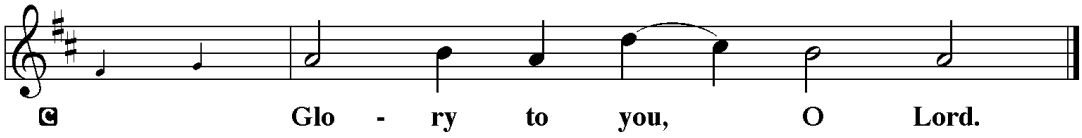
And so, brothers and sisters, I could not speak to you as spiritual people, but rather as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for solid food. Even now you are still not ready, for you are still of the flesh. For as long as there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not of the flesh, and behaving according to human inclinations? For when one says, "I belong to Paul," and another, "I belong to Apollos," are you not merely human?

What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you came to believe, as the Lord assigned to each. I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. The one who plants and the one who waters have a common purpose, and each will receive wages according to the labor of each. For we are God's servants, working together; you are God's field, God's building.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *please stand*



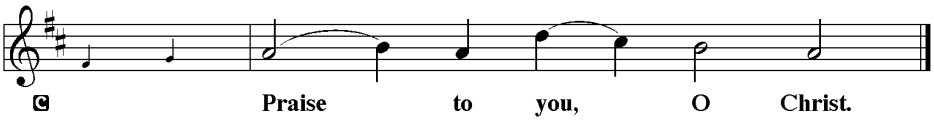
P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 15th chapter.



GOSPEL **Luke 15: 1-7**

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them." So he told them this parable: "Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.' Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

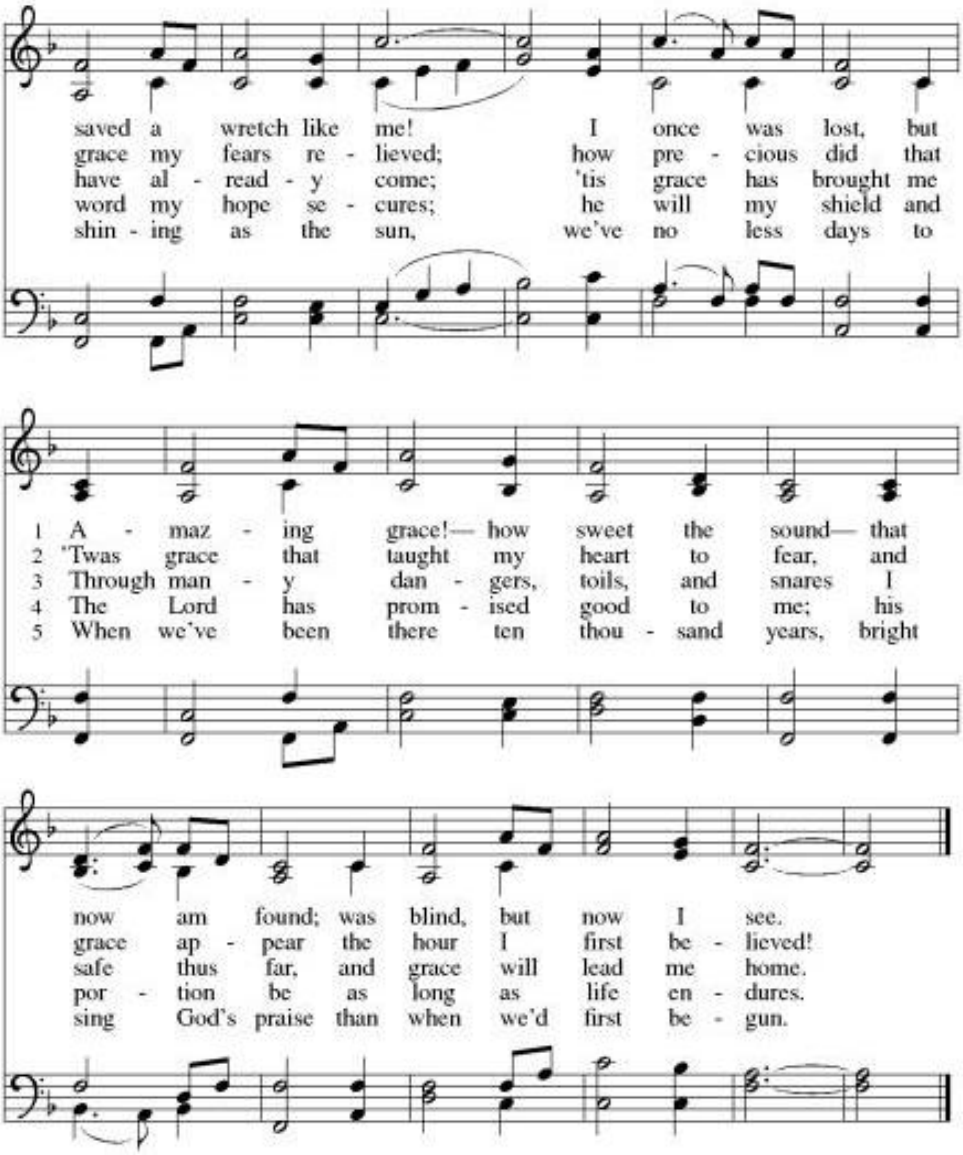
P: The Gospel of the Lord.



MESSAGE A New Way of Seeing | Pastor Rob

HYMN OF THE DAY Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound | ELW #779

please stand



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: Called together to follow Jesus, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A: Inspire your church that it may be a sign of life throughout the world. From the exploration of faith with children and new believers to missionaries and bishops, shape lives of faithfulness, so that all find abundant life in your ways. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Nourish your creation. Accompany all who plant and water. Bless the work of farmers; provide for subsistence farmers facing drought and climate change. Guide the work of agricultural scientists toward sustainable ways to feed the world. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Give growth where there seems to be no hope for life. In nations and regions where reconciliation seems impossible, empower peacemakers with your Spirit. Where death holds sway through violence, disease, and hunger, equip relief workers to bring hope. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Nurture all in need. Bring healing to all who experience trauma caused by systems of injustice and destructive relationships. Give courage to those struggling to repent and those seeking reconciliation. Sustain all who work for restoration. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Encourage this congregation. Call us to a common purpose and keep us from quarrelling. Turn our hearts toward you and guide our leaders, so that our choices may be lifegiving for all. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: Gracious and loving God, we pray for the family and friends of Faith… Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: We bring to you our needs and hopes, O God, trusting your wisdom and power revealed in Christ crucified.

C: Amen.

The Meal

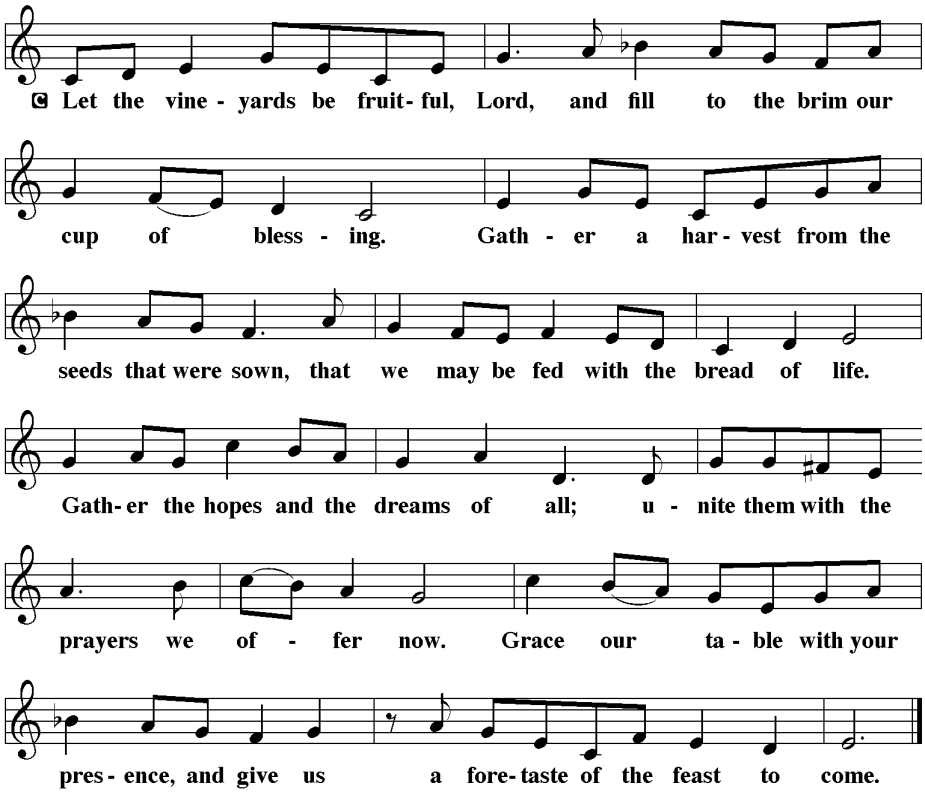
PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

OFFERING

OFFERING RESPONSE *please stand*

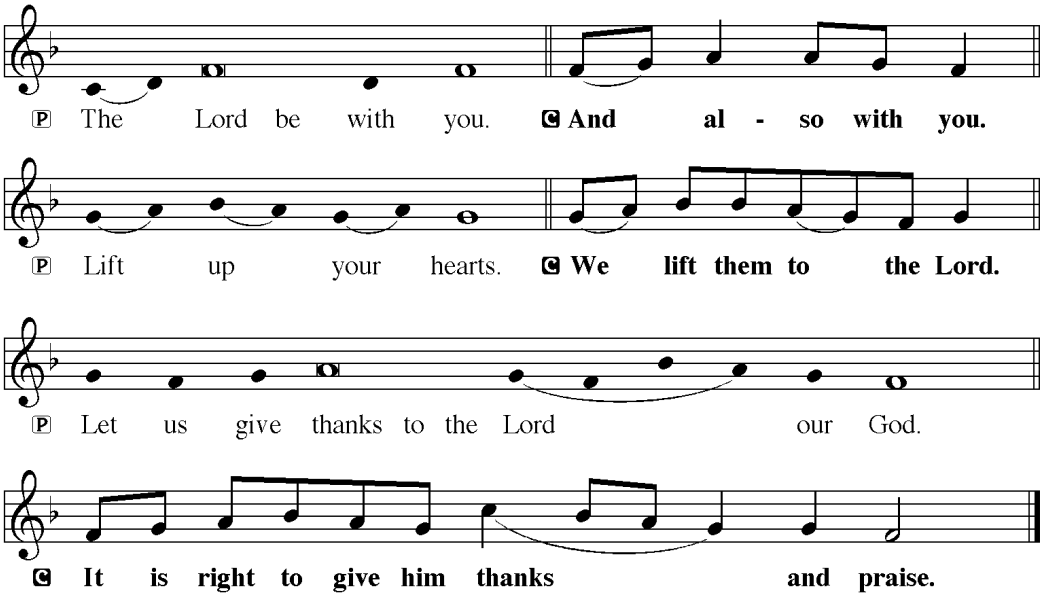


OFFERTORY PRAYER

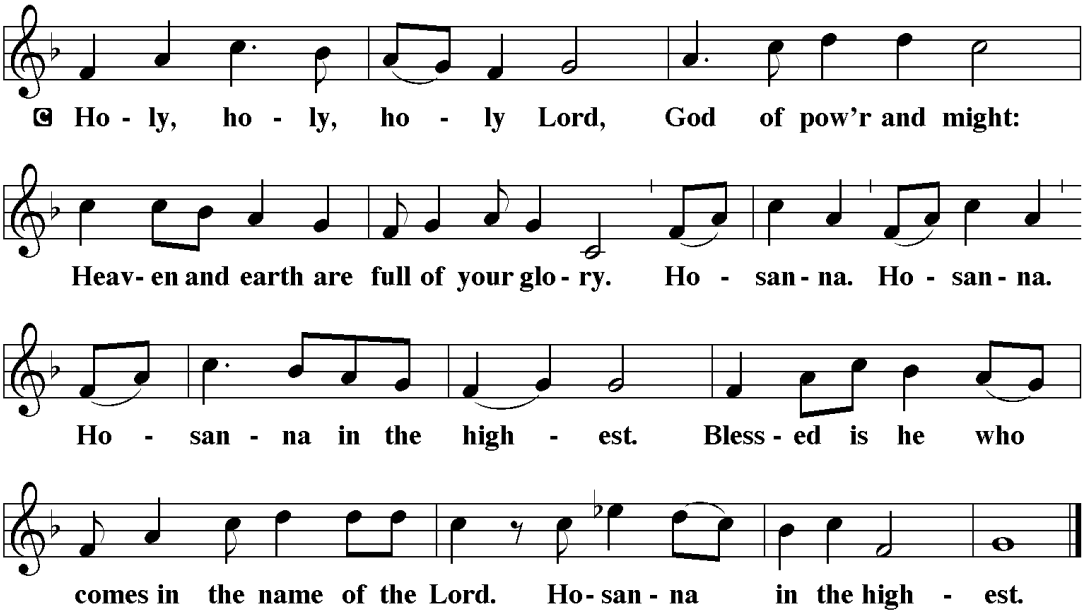
A: Liberating God,
you break the bonds of injustice
and let the oppressed go free.
Receive these offerings in thanksgiving
for all your works of merciful power,
and shape us as people of your justice and freedom.
You we magnify and adore, through Jesus our Savior,

C: Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING



P: It is indeed right and salutary . . .we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



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

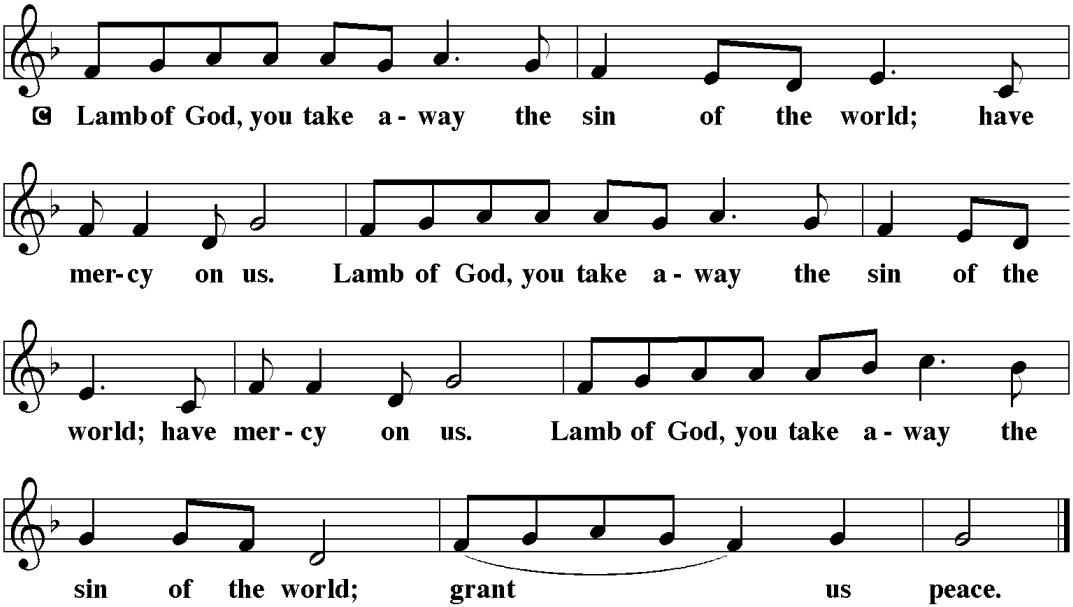
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Come and taste the joy of God!
C: Thanks be to God.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

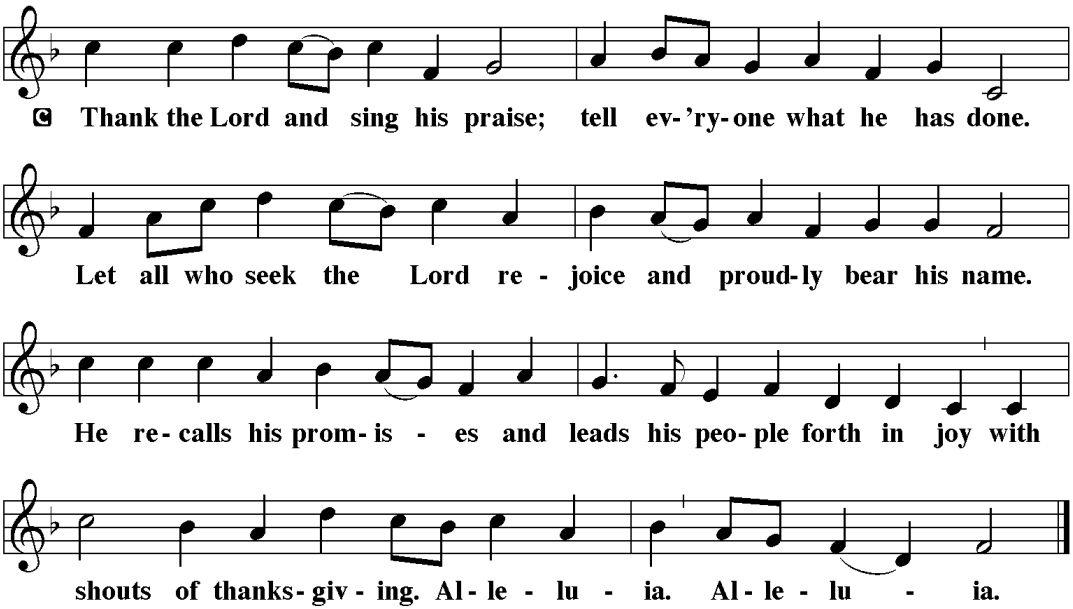
AN INVITATION

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 the usher stand, please ask an usher to assist you.



P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace.

C: Amen.



POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

please stand

A: Holy One,
we thank you for the healing
that springs forth abundantly from this table.
Renew our strength to do justice,
love kindness,
and journey humbly with you.

C: Amen

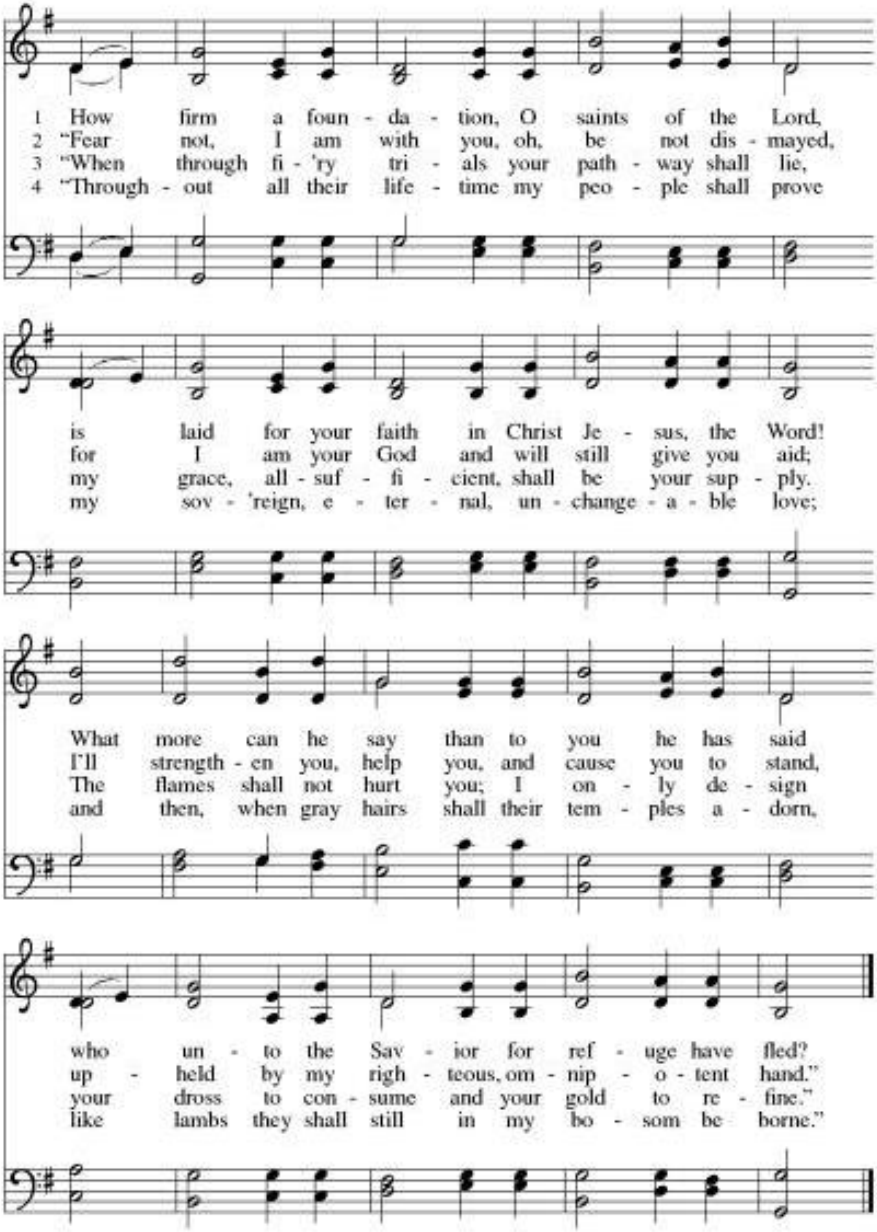
The Sending

BLESSING

P: The God who faithfully brings forth justice
and breaks the oppressor's rod
† bless, strengthen, and uphold you,
today and always.

C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN How Firm a Foundation | ELW #796



DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus.

C: Thanks be to God.

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to Faith!
We are so glad that you have chosen to worship with us today! Have questions about Faith? Wondering how to get connected or get more involved? We'd love to help. No matter where you are in life or how many times you've visited, we're here to guide you towards your next best step. Stop by the welcome center located near the main entrance. If this is your first time at Faith, let us know, we've got a special gift just for you!

MEMBERSHIP AT FAITH **Mon 2/13 & 2/20 | 6:30 PM**
This two-part course 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 an expectation of those who wish to become members at Faith. Register online or sign up at the welcome center.

CANDYGRAM FOR VALENTINES DAY FUNDRAISER
The 2023 Uganda mission team is hosting a Candy Gram fundraiser for this coming Valentine's Day. You can order your custom candy gram that will be delivered including your choice of candy, rose, and personal message. You can also upgrade to a singing candy gram and team members, including Pastor Rob, will deliver the candy gram with your song of choice. To order your candy gram, go to www.discoveringfaith.com/candygram, or stop by the welcome center. All proceeds go to benefit our mission team that will be serving orphaned and abandoned children in Uganda through our ministry partner Watoto Church.

GROUPLINK **Wed 2/15 | 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.

ADULT ONLINE STUDY GROUP: COLOSSIANS **Tuesdays | 7:00 PM**

Back in the first century the church was dealing a massive challenge that has never gone away...the problem of division. Throughout history, and in every part of the world, people can be divided because of ethnicity, gender, social class, religion, and a long list of other things. The world might be divided over these things, but Christians should not be.
Join us for our 6-part online study group that meets Tuesdays from 7:00 – 8:15pm.

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE **Wed 2/22 | 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.

MIDWEEK WORSHIP – The Power to Become **Wednesdays | 7:15 PM**

Begins 3/1/23

Few things in life are more frustrating than knowing you need to change, trying to change, but not actually changing. It's possible to find the power to become so you can start living the life you want. We'll discover together how to master the habits that matter the most so that we can become all that God has made us to be. Don't miss this inspiring journey!

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: 3/1, 3/8, 3/15, 3/22, and 3/29. Our worship series begins after this fellowship time at 7:15PM.
You may sign up at the welcome center or online at www.discoveringfaith.com

KIDWERKS **Sundays at 9:30 AM**

Kidwerks~in person AND online!
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. To register go to discoveringfaith.com or 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!
Register online- discoveringfaith.com

UPCOMING REVOLUTION DATES
Sunday 2/19 – Groups
Sunday 2/26 – Gathering
Sunday 3/5 – Groups

SCOUT SUNDAY – Today!

The Scouting program at FLC is more than just an activity for youth to learn about the outdoors. The Aims of Scouting are character development, leadership development, citizenship training, and personal fitness. This prepares them to become responsible, participating citizens and leaders in our community. Our two scouting units, Troop 508 & Pack 643 will be participating in the Traditional Service on February 12th to commemorate the anniversary of the Scouting movement as well as celebrate Scout Sunday.

CHIME IN CHOIR

Hand chimers needed. Come make a joyful noise with us on the first three Saturdays of the month at 11am to 12 noon. No musical experience needed. Inquire at the welcome desk about this fun and uplifting group!

BRIGHT BEGINNINGS REGISTRATION

Registration is now open for preschool classes which will begin Fall 2023. There is a 5% tuition discount for church members. Information and forms for registration are available on the church website discoveringfaith.com/bright-beginnings. Feel free to call the church (630) 862-3500 and leave a message for Jenn at extension 103 or email jenn@discoveringfaith.com.

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 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.

FAITH
Lutheran Church

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