

Faith and Rock Creek Lutheran Churches
January 18, 2026
Pastor Bethany Walker



Today's radio broadcast is sponsored by Annette Huppert In honor of birthdays for Annette Huppert and Jean Hermann

Call to Worship
[Audio](#)

[Scripture - Psalm 40 \(Official](#)

Confession and Forgiveness

Gathered in this holy space let us pause to reflect on the ways we have fallen short in our call to be God's faithful people

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of the helpless, you meet us in this place, holding up a mirror to our lives. Where we are called to reflect your love too often we reflect our own brokenness in ways that cause more harm. Where we are called to care too often we judge and leave people worse than we found them. Turn our hearts back to you O God and your ways so that we might reflect grace on our neighbors whose lives bear your

image. Teach us to mirror your mercy and love for the sake of all creation.

God, in whose image you were created, sees only your belovedness. In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit you are forgiven, freed from the burden of sin and claimed once again by God's saving grace. In the freedom of this fresh start let us now worship God mindful that our lives of faith reflect God's love for all the world.

Opening Hymn

Arise Your Light Has Come WOV

652

Arise, your light has come! The Spirit's call obey;
show forth the glory of your God which shines on you today.

Arise, your light has come! Fling wide the prison door;
Proclaim the captive's liberty, good tidings to the poor.

Arise, your light has come! All you in sorrow born,
Bind up the brokenhearted ones and comfort those who mourn.

Arise, your light has come! The mountains burst in song! Rise up
like eagles on the wing, God's power will make us strong.

Greeting

Prayer of the Day

God of our lives, as we open scripture to learn from the lives of the faithful, open our hearts to reflect on your faithfulness in our lives too. Make this season of living in the unforced rhythms of grace one of reflecting on the good news that is ours through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Children's Message

Centering Song **[Video](#)**

[Nichole Nordeman - Dear Me \(Lyric](#)

Welcome the Word

Let us build a house where prophets speak, the Word is strong and true, where all God's children can reflect on God's reign made a new. Here the cross shall stand as witness and as symbol of God's grace; here as one we claim the faith of Jesus; All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Scripture Reading

John 12:1-9

Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those reclining with him. Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus's feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" (He said this not because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

When the great crowd of the Jews learned that he was there, they came not only because of Jesus but also to see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead

Word of God. Word of Life. Thanks be to God!

Sermon

Hymn of the Day

Beautiful Savior

LBW 518

Beautiful Savior, King of creation, Son of God and Son of Man!

Truly I'd love Thee, truly I'd serve thee, Light of my soul, my Joy,
my Crown.

Fair are the meadows, Fair are the woodlands,
Robed in flow'rs of blooming spring;
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer; He makes our sorr'wing spirit sing.

Fair is the sunshine, Fair is the moonlight, Bright the sparkling
stars on high;
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer than all the angels in the
sky.

Beautiful Savior, Lord of the nations, Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor, Praise, adoration, Now and forevermore be Thine!

Apostles' Creed

Prayers of Intercession

Merciful God, receive our prayer

Peace

Offering

Offertory Response

Let us build a house where love is found in water, wine and wheat; a
banquet hall on holy ground where peace and justice meet. Here the
love of God, through Jesus, is revealed in time and space; as we
reflect the Christ that feeds us; All are welcome. All are welcome. All
are welcome in this place.

Offering Prayer

God of all hope and help, these gifts given freely reflect our trust in
you and our commitment to share your good news with the world.
Use them in forgotten places and sacred spaces that need to know
your love. Prepare us now to eat this holy meal with Jesus as host.

Ready us to reflect on what love looks like when it is served at an ever-expanding table of your grace in Jesus' name. Amen.

Words of Consecration

In Paul's letter to the Corinthians he writes, "For now we see only a reflection, as in a mirror, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known." Jesus' first followers were blessed to know Jesus face to face. As they traveled, laughed, cried, prayed and lived life together they became fully known to Jesus. On the night Jesus was handed over he gathered with his disciples to share a meal...through this holy meal we know in part the sacredness of our relationship to God. Lord let your Holy Spirit be poured out on this sacred food and drink, reflecting your unending love for your people. Strengthen us in this meal until we see you face to face. Make us fully known as we eat of this bread, drink of this cup and pray the prayer that Jesus taught us...

The Lord's Prayer

Communion Distribution

Post Communion Blessing

Post Communion Prayer

God of Faithfulness, you have hosted a meal that fed our spirits and restored our souls. Strengthened by this sacred gift make us willing to reflect your mercy, grace and love into the lives of all whom we encounter. May we make you fully known in how we live and move and have our being. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Announcements

Blessing

Sending Hymn The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve WOV 723

The Spirit sends us forth to serve; we go in Jesus' name to bring
glad
tidings to the poor, God's favor to proclaim.

We go to comfort those who mourn and set the burdened free;
where
hope is dim, to share a dream and help the blind to see.

We go to be the hands of Christ, to scatter joy like seed and all our
days to cherish life, to do the loving deed.
Then let us go to serve in peace, the Gospel to proclaim, God's Spirit
has empowered us; we go in Jesus' name.

Dismissal

We go now to reflect on God's love and share it with the world!
Thanks be to God!