

Faith and Rock Creek Lutheran Churches
September 6, 2026
Pastor Bethany Walker



Today's radio broadcast is sponsored by Don and Jane Rahman
Thankful for our many blessings

Call to Worship Endless Mercy based on Psalm 136

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the Holy Trinity, one God, who forgives all our sins, **whose mercy endures forever. Amen.**

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. **Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, who is the Way, the Truth and the Life. Amen.**

Trusting in God's goodness, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God, our lives are to be marked with the signs of discipleship. You call us to encourage and invite yet we judge and exclude. You call us to study, pray and worship yet we busy our minds and lives with noise that distract us from hearing your still, small voice. You call us to give and serve yet we take and demand without counting the cost. Forgive us O Lord for our ways and teach us

yours. Mark us once again with your grace and lead us on the road to new life in you for the sake of Jesus, our savior and Lord. Amen.

God meets us on the road of life and walks us into wholeness. Take heart, all your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Let us now worship with hearts pointed to the Truth North, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Opening Hymn

Come to the Water of Life ACS 955

All who are thirsty for mercy, all who are thirsty for love, all who are thirsty for love, for mercy come, come to the Water of life.

All who are thirsty for healing all who are thirsty for touch; all who are thirsty for touch, for healing come, come to the Water of life.

All who are thirsty for beauty; all who are thirsty for truth; all who are thirsty for truth, for beauty come, come to the Water of life

All who are thirsty for justice; all who are thirsty for peace, all who are thirsty for peace, for justice come, come to the Water of life.

Greeting

Prayer of the Day

God of the Journey, always you are leading us into fuller faithfulness and deeper devotion. Guide us step by step as we walk on the road of discipleship. We follow Jesus trusting the Spirit to guide us in the ways you desire for us live and love. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Children's Message

Centering Song

Meet Me in the Valley by Tasha Layton

Welcome the Word

Will You Come and Follow Me ELW

Lord I will come and follow you when you but call my name.

Let me turn and walk with you and never be the same.

In Your company I'll go where Your love and footsteps show.

Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

Scripture Reading

I Thessalonians 5:9-24

For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

But we appeal to you, brothers and sisters, to respect those who labor among you and have charge of you in the Lord and admonish you; esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves. And we urge you, brothers and sisters, to admonish the idlers, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with all of them. See that none of you repays evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to all. Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil.

May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely, and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

Sermon

Hymn of the Day

Blessed Assurance WOV 699

Blessed Assurance, Jesus is mine, Oh what a foretaste of glory divine.
Heir of salvation, purchase of God, born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long;
This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.

Perfect submission, perfect delight, visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
angels descending bring from above, echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long;
This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.

Perfect submission, all is at rest, I in my Savior, am happy and blest, watching
and waiting, looking above, filled with his goodness, lost in his love.
This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long;
This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.

Apostles' Creed

Prayers of Intercession

Merciful God, receive our prayer

Peace

Offering

Offertory Response

Praise God from whom all blessings flow

Praise God all creatures here below

Praise God above ye heavenly host

Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost

Offering Prayer

God of Abundance, on this road of life you continually provide for us our daily bread. In thanksgiving for your faithfulness we return to you this portion. Use it to bless your people and your world even as we prepare to be blessed at this holy table, by Jesus, the bread of life. It is in his name we pray. Amen.

Words of Consecration

Following Jesus' death and resurrection he took a long walk on a road with a couple of his first disciples. They did not recognize him, for they thought he was still dead. It was not until they gathered at a table and Jesus broke bread that their eyes were opened as they recalled gathering for a similar meal just days before with Jesus who took bread...bless O Lord these gifts of Christ's body and blood, let your Holy Spirit move over, in and through them so that as we receive them we might, like the disciples on the road to Emmaus, recognize Jesus is with us, the who taught us to pray,

The Lord's Prayer

Communion Hymn

Communion Distribution

Post Communion Blessing

Post Communion Prayer

God of Grace, in the sharing of this sacred meal our hearts have been strangely warmed by Christ's presence. In this time of worship the scriptures have been opened to us. Send us now, fed and nourished, on the road of discipleship readied to be your people in your world in Jesus' name.

Announcements

Blessing

On the road of your faith life may you be encouraged in your discipleship by Jesus who meets you at the crossroads and guides your every step. Be blessed on your journey in the name of the Triune God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Sending Hymn

Be Thou My Vision WOV 776

Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art
Thou my best thought, by the day and by night
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom and thou my true word
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord.
Thou my soul's shelter thou my high tower
Rais thou me heav'ward O Pow'r of my pow'r.

Riches I need not, nor man's empty praise
Thou mine inheritance, now and always
Thou and thou only, first in my heart
Great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.

Light of my soul after victory won
May I reach heaven's joys, O heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart whatever befall
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

Dismissal Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God!