

Faith and Rock Creek Lutheran Churches
September 27, 2026
Pastor Bethany Walker



Today's radio broadcast is sponsored by

In thanksgiving to Faith and Rock Creek for their support

Call to Worship **Forever Good based on Psalm 23**

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 **For the Fruit of All Creation WOV 760**

For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God.

For these gifts to ev'ry nation, thanks be to God.

For the plowing, sowing, reaping, silent growth while we are sleeping,
future needs in earth's safe keeping, thanks be to God.

In the just reward of labor, God's will is done.

In the help we give our neighbor, God's will is done.

In the worldwide task of caring for the hungry and despairing,

In the harvests we are sharing, God's will is done.

For the harvests of the Spirit, thanks be to God.

For the good we all inherit, thanks be to God.

For the wonders that astound us, for the truths that still confound us,
most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.

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 to live and love. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Children's Message

Centering Song **Bigger Table by Matt Maher**

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

Luke 14:7-23

When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. “When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host, and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, ‘Give this person your place,’ and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, ‘Friend, move up higher’; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

He said also to the one who had invited him, “When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers and sisters or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. And you will be blessed because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

One of the dinner guests, on hearing this, said to him, “Blessed is anyone who will eat bread in the kingdom of God!” Then Jesus^[a] said to him, “Someone gave a great dinner and invited many. At the time for the dinner he sent his slave to say to those who had been invited, ‘Come, for everything is ready now.’ But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, ‘I have bought a piece of land, and I must go out and see it; please accept my regrets.’ Another said, ‘I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to try them out; please accept my regrets.’ Another said, ‘I have just been married, and therefore I cannot come.’ So the slave returned and reported this to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry and said to his slave, ‘Go out at once into the streets and lanes of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind, and the lame.’ And the slave said, ‘Sir, what you ordered has been done, and there is still room.’ Then the master said to the slave, ‘Go out into the roads and lanes, and compel people to come in, so that my house may be filled.’

Sermon

Hymn of the Day Lord, You Give the Great Commission ELW 579

Lord you give the Great Commission heal the sick and preach the word lest the church neglect its mission and the gospel go unheard help us witness to your purpose with renewed integrity with the Spirit's gifts empower us for the work of ministry

Lord you call us to your service in my name baptize and teach that the world may trust your promise life abundant meant for each give us all new fervor draw us closer in community with the Spirit's gifts empower us for the work of ministry

Lord you make the common holy this my body this is my blood let us all for earth's true glory daily lift life heavenward asking that the world around us share your children's liberty with the Spirit's gift empower us for the work of ministry

Lord you show us love's true measure Father what they do forgive yet we hoard as private treasure all that you so freely give may your care and mercy lead us to a just society with the Spirit's gifts empower us for the work of ministry

Lord you bless with words assuring I am with you to the end faith and hope and love restoring may we serve as you intend and amid the cares that claim us hold in mind eternity with the Spirit's gifts empower us for the work of ministry.

New Members - Faith Quilt Blessing - Rock Creek

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 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

Children of the Heavenly Father LBW 474

Children of the heav'nly Father, Safely in His bosom gather

Nestling bird or star in Heaven, Such a refuge e'er was given

God his own doth tend and nourish, in his holy courts they flourish from all evil things he spares them, in his mighty arms he bears them.

Neither life nor death shall ever from the Lord, His children sever

Unto them His grace He showeth and their sorrows all He knoweth
Though He giveth or He taketh God His children ne'er forsaketh
His, the loving purpose solely to preserve them, pure and holy.

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