

Faith and Rock Creek Lutheran Churches
February 15, 2026
Pastor Bethany Walker



Today's radio broadcast is sponsored Steve and Barb Fedie In support of radio ministry

Call to Worship

[Psalm 2](#)

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

Lift High the Cross LBW 377

(refrain) Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim till all the world adore his sacred name.

Come, Christians, follow, where our Savior trod, our King victorious, Christ, the Son of God. (refrain)

Led on their way by this triumphant sign, the hosts of God in conquering ranks combine. (refrain)

All newborn servants of the Crucified bear on their brow the seal of Christ who died. (refrain)

O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree, as thou hast promised, draw us all to thee. (refrain)

So shall our song of triumph ever be; Praise to the Crucified for victory.

(refrain)

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

[Michael Gabriel Monroe - Some Things I've Been Learning About God \(Lyric Video\)](#)

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

Matthew 16:13-26

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" 14 And they said, "Some say John the Baptist but others Elijah and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." 15 He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" 16 Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah,[a] the Son of the living God." 17 And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. 18 And I tell you, you are Peter,[b] and on this rock[c] I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. 19 I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." 20 Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was[d] the Messiah.

21 From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes and be killed and on the third day be raised. 22 And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." 23 But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance[f] to me, for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things." Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. 25 For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. 26 For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?"

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

Sermon

Hymn of the Day My Life Flows on in Endless Song WOV 781

My life flows on in endless song, above earth's lamentation, I catch the sweet though far-off hymn that hails a new creation. (refrain)

(refrain) No storm can shake my inmost calm, while to that Rock I'm clinging. Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?

Through all the tumult and the strife, I hear that music ringing. It finds an echo in my soul. How can I keep from singing? (refrain)

What though my joys and comforts die? The Lord my Savior liveth. What though the darkness gather round? Songs in the night he giveth. (refrain)

The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a fountain ever springing! All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from singing? (refrain)

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.

