

Faith and Rock Creek Lutheran Churches
January 26, 2026
Pastor Bethany Walker



Today's radio broadcast is sponsored by Al and Donna Johnson In memory of Evelyn Johnson whose birthday was 1-25-1916

Call to Worship
[Light](#)

[Psalm 27 Song | The Lord Is My](#)

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

Christ, Be Our Light ELW 715

Longing for light, we wait in darkness. Longing for truth, we turn to you. Make us your own, your holy people, light for the world to see. (refrain) Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today. Longing for peace, our world is troubled. Longing for hope, many despair. Your world alone has pow'r to save us. Make us your living voice. (refrain)

Longing, for food, many are hungry. Longing for water, many still thirst. Make us your bread, broken for others, shared until all are fed. (refrain)

Longing for shelter, many are homeless. Longing for warmth, many are cold. Make us your building, sheltering others, walls made of living stone. (refrain)

Many the gifts, many the people, many the hearts that yearn to belong. Let us be servants to one another, signs of your kingdom come. (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
(ft. Estera Bretan)

Come Jesus Come - Laura Bretan

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

Acts 16:9-15

uring the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them.

We therefore set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days. On the Sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer, and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. A certain woman named Lydia, a worshiper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home." And she prevailed upon us.

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

Sermon

Hymn of the Day

Baptized in Water WOV 693

Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit, cleansed by the blood of Christ our king; heirs of salvation, trusting his promise, faithfully now God's praise we sing.

Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit, dead in the tomb with Christ our king; one with his rising, freed and forgiven, thankfully now God's praise we sing.

Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit, marked with the sign of Christ our king; born of the Spirit, we are God's children; joyfully now God's praise we sing.

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

Rise, Shine You People LBW 393

Rise, shine you people Christ the Lord has entered our human story

God in him is centered. He comes to us by death and sin
surrounded,
with grace unbounded.
See how he sends the powers of evil reeling, he brings us freedom,
light and life and healing. All men and women, who by guilt are
driven, now are forgiven
Come, celebrate your banners high unfurling; your songs and
prayer
against the darkness hurling. To all the world go out and tell the
story
of Jesus' glory.
Tell how the Father sent his Son to save us. Tell of the Son, who life
and freedom gave us. Tell how the Spirit calls from every nation.
His
new creation.

Dismissal

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