

Faith and Rock Creek Lutheran Churches
September 20, 2026
Pastor Bethany Walker



Today's radio broadcast is sponsored by
Tim & Kris Bignell
In honor of their 25th Wedding Anniversary

Call to Worship Faithful Through Night based on Psalm 92

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

All Are Welcome ELW 641

Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live, a place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive. Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the love of Christ shall end divisions;

All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where prophets speak, and words are strong and true, where all God's children dare to seek to dream God's reign 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.

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 share in Christ the feast that frees us; All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where hands will reach beyond the wood and stone to heal and strengthen, serve and teach, and live the Word they've known. Here the outcast and the stranger bear the image of God's face; let us bring an end to fear and danger;

All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and visions heard and loved and treasured, taught and claimed as words within the Word. Built of tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith and songs of grace, let this house proclaim from floor to rafter;

All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

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 Let Us be the Church - Jon Guerra

**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

Matthew 20:20-28

Then the mother of the sons of Zebedee came to him with her sons, and kneeling before him, she asked a favor of him. And he said to her, "What do you want?" She said to him, "Declare that these two sons of mine will sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your kingdom." But Jesus answered, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink?" They said to him, "We are able." He said to them, "You will indeed drink my cup, but to sit at my right hand and at my left, this is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared by my Father."

When the ten heard it, they were angry with the two brothers. But Jesus called them to him and said, "You know that the rulers of the gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. It will not be so among you, but whoever wishes to be great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be your slave, just as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve and to give his life a ransom for many."

Sermon

Hymn of the Day**God's Work Our Hands LBW 558**

God's work, our hands: working together, building a future, repairing the world,
raising up homes, planting new gardens, feeding the hungry and shelt'ring the
cold. Bless, God, our hands as we work in your name, sharing the good news of
your Gospel.

God's work, our feet: trav'ling together, following Jesus to places unknown,
walking as friends, marching for freedom, running the race with God's future the
goal. Bless, God, our feet as we follow your way, sharing the good news of your
Gospel.

God's work, our voice: singing together, praising, proclaiming to all who will
hear,
praying for peace, shouting for justice, claiming God's love for the lost and the
least. Bless, God, our voice as we speak in your name, sharing the good news of
your Gospel.

God is at work in and around us: seedlings are sprouting and bread's on the rise!
Washed and set free, humbled and honored, gifted by grace, we respond in God's
love. Bless, God, our lives as we answer your call, sharing the good news of your
Gospel.

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 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

Bind Us Together WOV 748

Bind us together, Lord, bind us together with cords that cannot be broken.
Bind us together, Lord, bind us together, Lord; bind us together in love.

There is only one God. There is only one King.
There is only one Body; that is why we can sing:

Bind us together, Lord, bind us together with cords that cannot be broken.
Bind us together, Lord, bind us together, Lord; bind us together in love.

You are the family of God. You are the promise divine.
You are God's chosen desire, you are the glorious new wine.

Bind us together, Lord, bind us together with cords that cannot be broken.
Bind us together, Lord, bind us together, Lord; bind us together in love.

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