

THE LORD'S DAY

December 14, 2025
Third Sunday in Advent



Christ Reformed Church
Rev. Nick Smith, Minister

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Morning Worship Service: 10:15 AM • Evening Catechism Service: 5:00 PM

Member of:

United Reformed Churches in North America (www.urna.org)
North American Presbyterian and Reformed Council (www.naparc.org)
International Council of Reformed Churches (www.icrconline.com)

MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE

10:15 AM

Prelude and Silent Prayer

(Once the prelude begins, please remain silent as the congregation prepares for worship)

Faithful God, our heavenly Father, your promises stand unshaken through all generations; renew us in hope, that we may be awake and alert, watching for the glorious coming of Jesus Christ, our Judge and Savior, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen!

Welcome and Announcements

God Calls Us to Worship

†Call to Worship Hebrews 12:22-24, 28-29
But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel. Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire.

†Opening Prayer

†Responsive Reading Rev. 1:4-5; 22:16-17, 20
Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth.

Amen!

I, Jesus, have sent my angel to testify to you about these things for the churches.

I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star.

The Spirit and the Bride say, "Come."

And let the one who hears say, "Come."

And let the one who is thirsty come;

Let the one who desires take the water of life without price.

He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon."

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

†"Savior of the Nations, Come"

#316*

God Assures Us of Forgiveness

Call to Confession

1 John 1:5-10

Prayer of Confession

Psalm 51:1-10

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin! For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment. Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me. Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being, and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have broken rejoice. Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me; in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

1 Corinthians 15:3-4

For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he

was buried, that he was raised on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.

Response of Praise

O Lord, open my lips,

and my mouth will declare your praise.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is right, our duty and our joy, always and
everywhere to give thanks to you, Father
Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

**Therefore we praise you, joining our
voices with Angels and Archangels and
with all the company of heaven, who for
ever sing to proclaim the glory of your
Name!**

†Psalm 98A

Pastoral Prayer

Psalm of the Month

†Psalm 119X (insert)

God Speaks to Us Through His Word

Old Testament Reading 1 Chronicles 16:8-33

This is the Word of the Lord. (p. 347)

Thanks be to God!

New Testament Reading Luke 2:8-21

This is the Word of the Lord. (p. 857)

Thanks be to God!

Prayer for Illumination

Sermon

Rev. Nick Smith

1 CHRONICLES 16:23-33

DECLARE HIS GLORY AMONG THE NATIONS

EXPOSITION OF 1-2 CHRONICLES #12

†“Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come” #299

God Communes with Us
in the Lord's Supper

Preparation and Prayer of Consecration

By the promise of God this bread and wine are
for us the body and blood of Christ. Lift up
your hearts!

We lift them up to the Lord!

Distribution of the Bread and Wine

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Offering

1st: General Fund

2nd: Benevolence Fund

God Blesses Us and
Sends Us to Be a Blessing

†Benediction

Numbers 6:24-26

The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD
make his face to shine upon you and be
gracious to you; the LORD lift up his
countenance upon you and give you peace.

Amen!

†Doxology (unannounced)

#568*

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Postlude

† = please stand, if able

bold = congregational response

* = the congregation is invited to lift hands
(during last stanza); cf. Ps. 63:4, 1 Tim. 2:8

EVENING CATECHISM SERVICE

5:00 PM

Prelude and Silent Prayer

(Once the prelude begins, please remain silent as the congregation prepares for worship)

To you I lift up my eyes, O you who are enthroned in the heavens! Behold, as the eyes of servants look to the hand of their master, as the eyes of a maidservant to the hand of her mistress, so our eyes look to the LORD our God, till he has mercy upon us. (Psalm 123:1-2)

Welcome and Announcements

†Call to Worship Psalm 65:1, 5-8

Praise is due to you, O God, in Zion, and to you shall vows be performed. By awesome deeds you answer us with righteousness, O God of our salvation, the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas; the one who by his strength established the mountains, being girded with might; who stills the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves, the tumult of the peoples, so that those who dwell at the ends of the earth are in awe at your signs. You make the going out of the morning and the evening to shout for joy.

†Opening Prayer

†Responsive Reading Psalms 124:8; Eph. 1:2

Our help is in the name of the LORD,

Who made heaven and earth.

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen!

†Psalm 67B

†Confession of Faith The Nicene Creed

**I believe in one God, the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth, and of all
things visible and invisible.**

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds; God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God; begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made. Who, for us men and for our salvation, came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried; and the third day he rose again, according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of the Father; and he shall come again, with glory, to judge the living and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life; who proceeds from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy catholic¹ and apostolic church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

†Gloria Patri (unannounced) #571*

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.

God's Will for Our Lives Deut. 5:6-21

I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. You shall have no other gods before me.

You shall not make for yourself a carved image.... You shall not bow down to them or serve them.

¹ "Catholic" means universal; that is, there is one church across all times, places, and peoples (Belgic Confession, art. 27; Heidelberg Catechism, Q&A 54).

You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain.

Observe the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.

Honor your father and your mother, as the LORD your God commanded you, that your days may be long, and that it may go well with you in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

You shall not covet... anything that is your neighbor's.

Pastoral Prayer

Our Father who is in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen!

†Psalm 16A

Scripture Reading

Romans 5:1-11

This is the Word of the Lord.

(p. 942)

Thanks be to God!

Prayer for Illumination

Sermon

Rev. Nick Smith

THE TRIUNE GOD, PART 2

LORD'S DAY 8

THE HEIDELBERG CATECHISM

24 Q. How are these articles divided?

A. Into three parts: God the Father and our creation; God the Son and our deliverance; and God the Holy Spirit and our sanctification.

25 Q. Since there is only one divine being, why do you speak of three: Father, Son and Holy Spirit?

A. Because that is how God has revealed himself in his Word: these three distinct persons are one, true, eternal God.

†“All Glory Be to Thee, Most High”

#208

Offering

General Fund

†Benediction

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

Amen!

†“Silent Night! Holy Night!”
(unannounced)

#315

Postlude

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(during last stanza); cf. Psa. 63:4, 1 Tim. 2:8