

THE LORD'S DAY

December 19, 2021
The Fourth Sunday in Advent



Christ Reformed Church
Rev. Nick Smith, Pastor

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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

(Upon entering the sanctuary, please remain silent as the congregation prepares for worship)

O God, you loved the world so much that you gave your only Son for us. Increase and strengthen our faith and fix it firmly on the mystery of your Word made flesh, that we may triumph over all evil through Christ 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 Revelation 7:15-17

Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence. They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat. For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.

†Opening Prayer

†Responsive Reading Rev. 1:4-5; Psa. 96

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!

Say among the nations, “The LORD reigns!

Yes, the world is established; it shall never be moved; he will judge the peoples with equity.”

Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;

Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; let the field exult, and everything in it!

Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy before the LORD,

For he comes, for he comes to judge the earth.

He will judge the world in righteousness,

And the peoples in his faithfulness.

†“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence” #292*

God Assures Us of Forgiveness

Call to Confession Matthew 22:35-40

Prayer of Confession

Most holy and merciful Father; We acknowledge and confess before you our sinful nature prone to evil and slothful in good and all our shortcomings and offenses. You alone know how often we have sinned: in wandering from your ways, in wasting your gifts, in forgetting your love. But you, O Lord, have pity upon us who are ashamed and sorry for all the ways in which we have displeased you. Teach us to hate our errors; cleanse us from our secret faults; And forgive our sins for the sake of your dear Son. And O most holy and loving Father, help us to live in your light and walk in your ways, according to the commandments of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon Zephaniah 3:14-17

Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! The LORD has taken away the judgments against you; he has cleared away your enemies. The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall never again fear evil. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Fear not, O Zion; let not your hands grow weak. The LORD your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will

rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing.

†Psalm 145C

Advent Prayer

Part I. Summons

Return to me with all your heart. Rend your hearts and not your garments. (Joel 2:12-13)

Let us test and examine our ways and return to the LORD! Let us lift up our hearts and hands to God in heaven. (Lam. 3:40-41)

For thus said the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel: In returning and rest you shall be saved. In quietness and in trust shall be your strength. (Isa. 30:15)

Behold, we come to you, for you are the LORD our God. Truly in the LORD our God is the salvation of Israel. (Jer. 3:22-23)

I have blotted out your transgressions like a cloud and your sins like mist. Return to me, for I have redeemed you. (Isa. 44:22)

The ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing. Everlasting joy shall be upon their heads. They shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away. (Isa. 51:11)

Return, O my soul, to your rest, for the LORD has dealt bountifully with you. For you have delivered my soul from death, my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling. (Psa. 116:7-8)

Part II. Petition

Return, O LORD! How long? Have pity on your servants! Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, that we may rejoice and be glad all our days. (Psa. 90:13-14)

The Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God and the dead in Christ will rise first, then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. Therefore encourage one another with these words. (Thess. 4:16-18)

How long, O God, is the foe to scoff? Is the enemy to revile your name forever? (Psa. 74:10)

Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me to repay everyone for what he has done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end. (Rev. 22:12-13)

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus! (Rev. 22:20)

The Advent Psalm

†Psalm 96

God Speaks to Us Through His Word

Old Testament Reading Jeremiah 31:1-20
This is the Word of the Lord. (p. 658)

Thanks be to God!

New Testament Reading Matthew 2:16-18
This is the Word of the Lord. (p. 808)

Thanks be to God!

Prayer for Illumination
Sermon

MATTHEW 2:16-18
THERE IS HOPE FOR YOUR FUTURE
EXPOSITION OF MATTHEW 1-2 #5
i. The Weeping of Rachel
ii. The Promise of Jeremiah
iii. The Message of Matthew

The Advent Hymn

†“Hark! the Herald Angels Sing”

#311

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: Building 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. Psa. 63:4, 1 Tim. 2:8

Invitation to the Lord's Supper

If you are visiting with us this morning, we invite you to participate in the Lord's Supper with us if the following is true of you:

1. you have received Christian baptism into the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit;
2. you have made a public profession of faith in Jesus Christ;
3. you have formal, committed membership in a true Christian church.

If you have any questions about this, please speak with an elder after the service.

EVENING CATECHISM SERVICE

5:00 PM

Prelude and Silent Prayer

(Upon entering the sanctuary, please remain silent as the congregation prepares for worship)

†Call to Worship Psalm 122:1-2

†Opening Prayer

†Responsive Reading Psa. 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 122A

†Confession of Faith The Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only begotten
Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the
Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary;
suffered under Pontius Pilate; was
crucified, dead, and buried; he
descended into hell;¹ the third day he
rose again from the dead; he ascended
into heaven, and sits at the right hand of
God the Father Almighty; from there he
shall come to judge the living and the
dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy
catholic² church; the communion of
saints; the forgiveness of sins; the
resurrection of the body; and the life
everlasting. Amen.**

†Gloria Patri #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 Philippians 2:1-11
p. 1070, Selection 55

Pastoral Prayer Psalm 92

**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!**

Hymn of the Month

†“Savior of the Nations, Come” #316*

Scripture Reading Jeremiah 31:31-40

This is the Word of the Lord. (p. 660)

Thanks be to God!

Prayer for Illumination

Sermon

HE SAVES US FROM OUR SINS

LORD'S DAY 11

THE HEIDELBERG CATECHISM

(TPH, p. 876)

†“Christ Shall Have Dominion” (Psalm 72) #421

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!

†“Angels We Have Heard on High” #318

Postlude

† = please stand, if able

bold = congregational response

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

¹ See Heidelberg Catechism, Q&A 44; Canons of Dort, 2.4.

² “Catholic” means universal; that is, there is one church across all times, places, and peoples (Belgic Confession, art. 27; Heidelberg Catechism, Q&A 54).