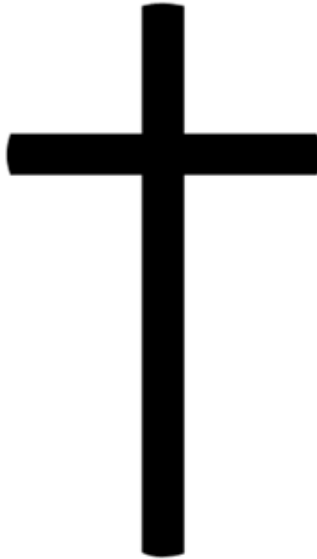


# THE LORD'S DAY

March 19, 2023  
Fourth Sunday in Lent



**Christ Reformed Church**  
**Rev. Nick Smith, Minister**

12693 Orchard Ave. Nampa, ID 83651 • 208-466-4444  
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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](http://www.urna.org))  
North American Presbyterian and Reformed Council ([www.naparc.org](http://www.naparc.org))  
International Council of Reformed Churches ([www.icrconline.com](http://www.icrconline.com))

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## MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE

10:15 AM

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### Prelude and Silent Prayer

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

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid; Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### Welcome and Announcements

#### God Calls Us to Worship

†Call to Worship Isaiah 12:4-6

And you will say in that day: “Give thanks to the LORD, call upon his name, make known his deeds among the peoples, proclaim that his name is exalted. Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously; let this be made known in all the earth. Shout, and sing for joy, O inhabitant of Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.”

†Opening Prayer

†Responsive Reading Rev. 1:4-5; Psa. 86

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!**

Incline your ear, O LORD, and answer me,  
**for I am poor and needy.**

Preserve my life, for I am godly;  
**save your servant, who trusts in you—you are my God.**

Be gracious to me, O Lord,  
**for to you do I cry all the day.**

Gladden the soul of your servant,  
**for to you, O Lord, do I lift up my soul.**

†“God Himself Is with Us”

#164\*

#### God Assures Us of Forgiveness

Call to Confession Matthew 22:35-40

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 Psalm 65:2-4

O you who hear prayer, to you shall all flesh come. When iniquities prevail against me, you atone for our transgressions. Blessed is the one you choose and bring near, to dwell in your courts! We shall be satisfied with the goodness of your house, the holiness of your temple!

†Psalm 68B

Pastoral Prayer

†Psalm 90A

## God Speaks to Us Through His Word

Old Testament Reading Exodus 33:7 - 34:9

This is the Word of the Lord. (p. 73)

**Thanks be to God!**

New Testament Reading John 1:14-18

This is the Word of the Lord. (p. 886)

**Thanks be to God!**

Prayer for Illumination

Sermon

JOHN 1:14-18

A CEASELESS STREAM OF GRACE

EXPOSITION OF JOHN 1-2 #3

†“O Savior, Precious Savior” #263

Offering 1<sup>st</sup>: General Fund  
2<sup>nd</sup>: Missions & Mercy 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

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## EVENING CATECHISM SERVICE

5:00 PM

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Prelude and Silent Prayer

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

Welcome and Announcements

†Call to Worship                      Psalm 25:1-2, 4-5

†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 115A

†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 one holy catholic<sup>1</sup> 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                                      #571\*

**Glorify 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                      John 15:1-17

I am the true vine, and my Father is the  
vinedresser. Every branch in me that does not  
bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that  
does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more  
fruit.

**Already you are clean because of the word  
that I have spoken to you. Abide in me,  
and I in you. As the branch cannot bear  
fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine,  
neither can you, unless you abide in me.**

I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever  
abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears  
much fruit, for apart from me you can do  
nothing. If anyone does not abide in me he is  
thrown away like a branch and withers; and the  
branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and  
burned.

**If you abide in me, and my words abide in  
you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be  
done for you. By this my Father is  
glorified, that you bear much fruit and so  
prove to be my disciples.**

As the Father has loved me, so have I loved  
you. Abide in my love. If you keep my  
commandments, you will abide in my love, just  
as I have kept my Father's commandments and  
abide in his love. These things I have spoken to

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<sup>1</sup> "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, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

**This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.**

You are my friends if you do what I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you.

**You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. These things I command you, so that you will love one another.**

#### 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!**

#### *Psalms of the Month*

†Psalm 130B

Scripture Reading Romans 7:7 - 8:11  
This is the Word of the Lord. (p. 943)

**Thanks be to God!**

Prayer for Illumination

Sermon

THE LAW, IN CONCLUSION  
LORD'S DAY 44B  
THE HEIDELBERG CATECHISM

113 Q. What is God's will for you in the tenth commandment?

**A. That not even the slightest desire or thought contrary to any one of God's**

**commandments should ever arise in our hearts. Rather, with all our hearts we should always hate sin and delight in all righteousness.**

114 Q. But can those converted to God keep these commandments perfectly?

**A. No. In this life even the holiest have only a small beginning of this obedience. Nevertheless, with all seriousness of purpose, they do begin to live according to all, not only some, of God's commandments.**

115 Q. Since no one in this life can keep the Ten Commandments perfectly, why does God want them preached so pointedly?

**A. First, so that all our life long we may more and more come to know our sinful nature and thus more eagerly seek the forgiveness of sins and righteousness in Christ. Second, so that we may never stop striving and never stop praying to God for the grace of the Holy Spirit, so that we may be renewed more and more after God's image, until after this life we reach our goal: perfection.**

†“Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me” #452

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!**

†“Abide with Me” #159

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