

# THE LORD'S DAY

September 17, 2023  
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost



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

12693 Orchard Ave. Nampa, ID 83651 • 208-466-4444  
[christreformednampa.org](http://christreformednampa.org) • [office@christreformednampa.org](mailto:office@christreformednampa.org)  
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))  
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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)*

“To unite one’s heart and one’s voice with believers all around him as songs of praise are sung, prayers are offered up, confession is made, and the Scriptures are read, is indeed an experience which carries the soul beyond the reaches of individual worship and unites it with the Son of God who Himself leads the worship of those who gather in His name.” (Robert G. Rayburn).

#### Welcome and Announcements

#### God Calls Us to Worship

†Call to Worship                      Isaiah 41:17-20  
When the poor and needy seek water, and there is none, and their tongue is parched with thirst, I the LORD will answer them; I the God of Israel will not forsake them. I will open rivers on the bare heights, and fountains in the midst of the valleys. I will make the wilderness a pool of water, and the dry land springs of water. I will put in the wilderness the cedar, the acacia, the myrtle, and the olive. I will set in the desert the cypress, the plane and the pine together, that they may see and know, may consider and understand together, that the hand of the LORD has done this, the Holy One of Israel has created it.

#### †Opening Prayer

†Responsive Reading              Rev. 1:4-5; 7:9-12  
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!**

After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice,

**“Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!”**

And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, saying,

**“Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen.”**

†“Sing, Choirs of New Jerusalem”              #358\*

#### God Assures Us of Forgiveness

Call to Confession                      Matthew 22:35-40  
Prayer of Confession

**O eternal God and merciful Father, we humble ourselves before your great majesty, against which we have frequently and grievously sinned. We acknowledge our waywardness, and are heartily sorry for all our sins. Nevertheless, O Lord God and gracious Father, we know that you do not desire the death of the sinner, but rather that he should turn to you and live. Wash us in the pure fountain of Jesus’ blood, so that we may become clean and white as snow. Inscribe your law upon the tablets of our hearts. And give us the desire and strength to walk in the ways of your precepts. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever. Amen!**

Assurance of Pardon                      Ephesians 1:3-7  
Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places,

even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace.

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 22C

Pastoral Prayer

†Psalm 99A

### God Speaks to Us Through His Word

Old Testament Reading

Genesis 3

This is the Word of the Lord.

(p. 2)

**Thanks be to God!**

New Testament Reading

Revelation 12:1-11

This is the Word of the Lord.

(p. 1034)

**Thanks be to God!**

Prayer for Illumination

Sermon

GENESIS 3

HE SHALL BRUISE YOUR HEAD

EXPOSITION OF GENESIS #3

†“I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art”

#282

### 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

1<sup>st</sup>: General Fund

2<sup>nd</sup>: Building Capital 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

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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)*

Those who trust in the LORD are like Mount Zion, which cannot be moved, but abides forever. As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the LORD surrounds his people, from this time forth and forevermore. (Psalm 125:1-2)

### Welcome and Announcements

#### †Call to Worship Psalm 47:5-7

God has gone up with a shout, the LORD with the sound of a trumpet. Sing praises to God, sing praises! Sing praises to our King, sing praises! For God is the King of all the earth; sing praises with a psalm!

#### †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 24B

#### †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 (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 Colossians 3:1-17

If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.

**For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.**

Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming.

**In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. But now you must put**

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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).

**them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth.**

Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.

**Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all.**

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.

**And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.**

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

**And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.**

Pastoral Prayer

Psalm 106

**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 of the Month*

†Psalm 78; 1-6

Scripture Reading

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

Psalm 33

(p. 463)

Prayer for Illumination

Sermon

HE MAKES HIMSELF KNOWN

ARTICLE 2

THE BELGIC CONFESSION

Article 2: The Means by Which We Know God

**We know him by two means: First, by the creation, preservation, and government of the universe, since that universe is before our eyes like a beautiful book in which all creatures, great and small, are as letters to make us ponder the invisible things of God: his eternal power and his divinity, as the apostle Paul says in Romans 1:20. All these things are enough to convict men and to leave them without excuse.**

†“This Is My Father's World”

#252

Offering

General Fund

†Benediction

2 Corinthians 13:14

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**Amen!**

†“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”  
(unannounced)

#429

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