

THE LORD'S DAY

April 7, 2024
Second Sunday of Easter



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

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

“Glorious things of thee are spoken, Zion, city of our God; he whose word cannot be broken formed thee for his own abode; on the Rock of Ages founded, what can shake thy sure repose? With salvation’s walls surrounded, thou may’st smile at all thy foes.” (John Newton, 1779)

Welcome and Announcements

God Calls Us to Worship

†Call to Worship Revelation 19:6-9

Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the roar of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, crying out, “Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready; it was granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure”—for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints. And the angel said to me, “Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.” And he said to me, “These are the true words of God.”

†Opening Prayer

†Responsive Reading Rev. 1:4-5; Psa. 16

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!

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices;

My flesh also dwells secure.

For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol,

Or let your holy one see corruption.

You make known to me the path of life;

In your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

†“God Himself Is with Us”

#164*

God Assures Us of Forgiveness

Call to Confession

Micah 6:6-8

Prayer of Confession

Our Father, we are sinful and you are holy. Your word has shown us how often we have offended you in thought, word and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. There is nothing in us that gives us reason for hope. Our hearts are filled with the love of the world; our minds are dark and are assailed by doubts; our wills are too often given to selfishness and our bodies to laziness and unrighteousness. By sinning against our neighbors, we have also sinned against you, in whose image they were created. Our Father, although you are a holy God who cannot look upon sin, look upon Christ our Savior and forgive us for the sake of his blood and righteousness. We ask also that you would give us an increase of the grace of your Holy Spirit, so that we may walk in your ways, for your glory and the good of our neighbor; in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Romans 6:5-11

For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. For one who has died has been set free from sin.

Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

†Psalm 98C

Pastoral Prayer

†Psalm 46C

God Speaks to Us Through His Word

Old Testament Reading Genesis 29:1 – 30:24
This is the Word of the Lord. (p. 23)
Thanks be to God!

New Testament Reading Galatians 4:1-7
This is the Word of the Lord. (p. 974)
Thanks be to God!

Prayer for Illumination
Sermon

GENESIS 29:1 – 30:24
THE LORD HEARD AND REMEMBERED
EXPOSITION OF GENESIS #23

†“Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness” #200

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: 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. Ps. 63:4, 1 Tim. 2:8

EVENING CATECHISM SERVICE

5:00 PM

Prelude and Silent Prayer

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

O LORD, be gracious to us; we wait for you. Be our arm every morning, our salvation in the time of trouble. The LORD is exalted, for he dwells on high; he will fill Zion with justice and righteousness, and he will be the stability of your times, abundance of salvation, wisdom, and knowledge; the fear of the LORD is Zion's treasure. (Isaiah 33:2, 5-6)

Welcome and Announcements

†Call to Worship Psalm 70:4-5

May all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you! May those who love your salvation say evermore, "God is great!" But I am poor and needy; hasten to me, O God! You are my help and my deliverer; O LORD, do not delay!

†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 70

†Confession of Faith Apostles' Creed, #560

Heidelberg Catechism, Lord's Day 1

1 Q. What is your only comfort in life and in death?

A. That I am not my own, but belong—body and soul, in life and in death—to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood, and has delivered me from the tyranny of the devil. He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall

from my head without the will of my Father in heaven; in fact, all things must work together for my salvation. Because I belong to him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit, also assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.

God's Will for Our Lives Proverbs 28

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Pastoral Prayer Psalm 146

Praise the LORD!

Praise the LORD, O my soul!

I will praise the LORD as long as I live

I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

Put not your trust in princes,

In a son of man, in whom there is no salvation.

When his breath departs he returns to the earth;

On that very day his plans perish.

Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob,

Whose hope is in the LORD his God,

Who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them,

Who keeps faith forever;

Who executes justice for the oppressed,

Who gives food to the hungry.

The LORD sets the prisoners free;

The LORD opens the eyes of the blind.

The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;

The LORD loves the righteous.

The LORD watches over the sojourners; he upholds the widow and the fatherless,

But the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

The LORD will reign forever,

Your God, O Zion, to all generations.

Praise the LORD!

We pray in the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray, saying:

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 68A; 1-4, 12

Scripture Reading Ephesians 4:1-16
This is the Word of the Lord. (p. 977)
Thanks be to God!

Prayer for Illumination
Sermon

GETTING OFFICE RIGHT
ARTICLE 31
THE BELGIC CONFESSION

We believe that ministers of the Word of God, elders, and deacons ought to be chosen to their offices by a legitimate election of the church, with prayer in the name of the Lord, and in good order, as the Word of God teaches. So everyone must be careful not to push himself forward improperly, but he must wait for God's call, so that he may be assured of his calling and be certain and sure that he is chosen by the Lord. As for the ministers of the Word, they all have the same power and authority, no matter where they may be, since they are all servants of Jesus Christ, the only universal bishop, and the only head of the church.

Moreover, to keep God's holy order from being violated or despised, we say that everyone ought, as much as possible, to hold the ministers of the Word and elders of the church in special esteem, because of the work they do, and be at peace with them, without grumbling, quarreling, or fighting.

†“I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord” #405

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!

†“For All the Saints”
(unannounced) #408; 1-3, 5, 8*

Postlude

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