

# THE LORD'S DAY

April 14, 2024  
Third Sunday of Easter



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

12693 Orchard Ave. Nampa, ID 83651 • 208-466-4444  
christreformednampa.org • 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))  
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      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; Psa. 73

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!**

You guide me with your counsel,

**And afterward you will receive me to glory.**

Whom have I in heaven but you?

**And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you.**

My flesh and my heart may fail,

**But God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.**

†“Come, Thou Almighty King”

#212\*

God Assures Us of Forgiveness

Call to Confession

1 John 1:5-10

Prayer of Confession      *(Book of Common Prayer, 1549)*

**Almighty and most merciful Father; we have erred, and strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against your holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done; and we have done those things which we ought not to have done; and so we are helpless without you. O Lord, have mercy upon us, miserable offenders. Spare us, as we confess our faults, restore us, as we are penitent, according to your promises declared to us in Christ Jesus our Lord, and grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake, that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and devout life, to the glory of your holy Name. Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

Psalm 103:9-13

He will not always chide, nor will he keep his anger forever. He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us. As a father shows compassion to his children, so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear him.

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 106A; 1-4, 8

Pastoral Prayer

†Psalm 51C; 1-4

God Speaks to Us Through His Word

Old Testament Reading Genesis 30:25 – 31:16

This is the Word of the Lord. (p. 24)

**Thanks be to God!**

New Testament Reading Colossians 1:15-20

This is the Word of the Lord. (p. 983)

**Thanks be to God!**

Prayer for Illumination

Sermon

GENESIS 30:25 – 31:55

IF GOD HAD NOT BEEN ON MY SIDE

EXPOSITION OF GENESIS #24

†“Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah” #414

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>: 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

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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 22:22-23

I will tell of your name to my brothers; in the midst of the congregation I will praise you:  
You who fear the LORD, praise him! All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him, and stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!

#### †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 82

#### †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 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\*

**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

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.

**Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight. (Ps. 51:4)**

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

**Come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker! (Ps. 95:6)**

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.

**O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise. (Ps. 51:15)**

Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.

**How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD of hosts! ... For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. (Ps. 84:1, 10)**

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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).

Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

**Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of your goodness, O LORD! (Ps. 25:7)**

You shall not murder.

**Search me, O God, and know my heart! Teach me and know my thoughts! And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting! (Ps. 139:23-24)**

You shall not commit adultery.

**You have set our iniquities before you, our secret sins in the light of your presence. (Ps. 90:8)**

You shall not steal.

**Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. (Ps. 51:1)**

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

**Put false ways far from me and graciously teach me your law! (Ps. 119:29)**

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

**Incline my heart to your testimonies, and not to selfish gain! (Ps. 119:36)**

Pastoral Prayer

Psalm 107

**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

A CERTAIN ORDER

ARTICLE 32

THE BELGIC CONFESSION

**We also believe that although it is useful and good for those who govern the churches to establish and set up a certain order among themselves for maintaining the body of the church, they ought always to guard against deviating from what Christ, our only Master, has ordained for us. Therefore we reject all human innovations and all laws imposed on us, in our worship of God, which bind and force our consciences in any way. So we accept only what is proper to maintain harmony and unity and to keep all in obedience to God. To that end excommunication, with all it involves, according to the Word of God, is required.**

†“Be Thou My Vision”

#446

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!**

†“By the Sea of Crystal”

(unannounced)

#473

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