

# THE LORD'S DAY

April 21, 2024  
Fourth 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

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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)*

O Almighty God, who alone can order the unruly wills and affections of sinful men; Grant unto your people, that they may love that which you command, and desire that which you promise; that so, among the many changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed, where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Welcome and Announcements

God Calls Us to Worship

†Call to Worship Micah 4:1-2a

It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and it shall be lifted up above the hills; and peoples shall flow to it, and many nations shall come, and say: "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths."

†Opening Prayer

†Responsive Reading Rev. 1:4-5; 1 Cor. 15

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!**

For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet.

**The last enemy to be destroyed is death.**

Death is swallowed up in victory!

**O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?**

Thanks be to God!

**Who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!**

†"Holy God, We Praise Your Name" #229\*

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 Psalm 30:4-5

Sing praises to the LORD, O you his saints, and give thanks to his holy name. For his anger is but for a moment, and his favor is for a lifetime. Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning.

†Psalm 99B

Pastoral Prayer

†Psalm 37; 1-5



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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)*

Preserve me, O God, for in you I take refuge. I say to the LORD, “You are my Lord; I have no good apart from you.” You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore. (Psalm 16:1-2, 11)

### Welcome and Announcements

†Call to Worship                      Psalm 146:1-5

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.

†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 146

†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;<sup>1</sup> 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 catholic<sup>2</sup> church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. 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              Romans 13:8-14

Owe no one anything, except to love each other,

**For the one who loves another has fulfilled the law.**

For the commandments, “You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word:

**“You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”**

Love does no wrong to a neighbor;

**Therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.**

Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. The night is gone, the day is at hand.

**So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light.**

Let us walk properly, as in the daytime,  
**And put on the Lord Jesus Christ.**

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<sup>1</sup> See Heidelberg Catechism, Q&A 44; Canons of Dort, 2.4.

<sup>2</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).

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!**

*Psalm of the Month*

†Psalm 68A; 5-8, 12

Scripture Reading

This is the Word of the Lord.

Genesis 17

(p. 11)

**Thanks be to God!**

Prayer for Illumination

Sermon

STOOPING TO WEAKNESS FOR

A TANGIBLE FAITH

ARTICLE 33

THE BELGIC CONFESSION

**We believe that our good God, mindful of our crudeness and weakness, has ordained sacraments for us to seal his promises in us, to pledge his good will and grace toward us, and also to nourish and sustain our faith. He has added these to the Word of the gospel to represent better to our external senses both what he enables us to understand by his Word and what he does inwardly in our hearts, confirming in us the salvation he imparts to us.**

**For they are visible signs and seals of something internal and invisible, by means of which God works in us through the power of the Holy Spirit. So they are not empty and hollow signs to fool and deceive us, for their truth is Jesus Christ, without whom they would be nothing. Moreover, we are satisfied with the number of**

**sacraments that Christ our Master has ordained for us. There are only two: the sacrament of baptism and the Holy Supper of Jesus Christ.**

†Psalm 103E

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!**

†“My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less”

(unannounced)

#459

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