

THE LORD'S DAY

April 28, 2024
Fifth 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)

Prove me, O LORD, and try me; test my heart and my mind. For your steadfast love is before my eyes, and I walk in your faithfulness. I wash my hands in innocence and go around your altar, O LORD, proclaiming thanksgiving aloud, and telling all your wondrous deeds. O LORD, I love the habitation of your house and the place where your glory dwells. My foot stands on level ground; in the great assembly I will bless the LORD (Psalm 26:2-3, 6-8, 12).

Welcome and Announcements

God Calls Us to Worship

†Call to Worship 1 Chronicles 16:8-13

Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon his name; make known his deeds among the peoples! Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wondrous works! Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice! Seek the LORD and his strength; seek his presence continually! Remember the wondrous works that he has done, his miracles and the judgments he uttered, O offspring of Israel his servant, children of Jacob, his chosen ones!

†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.

†“Praise the Savior Now and Ever” #335*

God Assures Us of Forgiveness

Call to Confession

Psalm 15

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

Titus 3:4-7

But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

†Psalm 23A

Pastoral Prayer

†Psalm 34A; 3, 5-7

God Speaks to Us Through His Word

Old Testament Reading Psalm 34
This is the Word of the Lord. (p. 463)
Thanks be to God!

New Testament Reading 1 Peter 3:8-22
This is the Word of the Lord. (p. 1015)
Thanks be to God!

Prayer for Illumination
Sermon

1 PETER 3:8-22
GOD'S BLESSINGS AND PILGRIM LIFE
EXPOSITION OF 1 PETER #13

†“Nearer, Still Nearer” #531

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)

Welcome and Announcements

†Call to Worship Psalm 135:1-2

Praise the LORD! Praise the name of the LORD,
give praise, O servants of the LORD, who stand
in the house of the LORD, in the courts of the
house of our 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 22C

†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 catholic¹ 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

Proverbs 29

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Pastoral Prayer

Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
we give You praise and thanks for all Your
goodness and tender mercies. We bless You for
the love that created us, and that sustains us
day by day. We praise You for the gift of Your
Son, our Savior, through whom You have
made known Your will and grace. We thank
You for the Holy Spirit, our Comforter; for the
holy Church, for the means of grace, for the
lives of all faithful and godly people, and for
the hope of the life to come. Help us to treasure
in our hearts all that our Lord has done for us,
and enable us to show our thankfulness by
lives that are given wholly to Your service.
Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Save and defend Your Church universal,
purchased with the precious blood of Jesus
Christ. Give to her pastors and ministers

¹ "Catholic" means universal; that is, there is one church across all times, places, and peoples (Belgic Confession, art. 27; Heidelberg Catechism, Q&A 54).

endowed with Your Holy Spirit, and strengthen her through the Word and the holy sacraments. Make her mature in love and in all good works, and establish her in the faith delivered to the saints. Sanctify and unite Your people in all the world, that one holy, catholic, and apostolic Church may bear witness to You, the God and Father of all. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

We humbly entreat You for all sorts and conditions of men, that You would be pleased to make Your ways known unto them, Your salvation to all nations. Send forth Your light and Your truth into all the earth. Raise up, we pray, faithful servants to labor in the gospel at home and in distant lands. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Preserve our nation in righteousness and in true honor, and grant Your blessings to us as a people, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. Grant health and favor to all who bear office in our land, and cause them to acknowledge and obey Your holy will. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

God of all comfort and protection, we bring before You all who are in any way afflicted, all persons oppressed with poverty, sickness, unemployment, or other trouble of body or mind. Grant them the consolations of which they have need, and overrule their present sufferings to their eternal good. Remember those who suffer persecution for the faith. Have mercy upon those to whom death draws near. Bring consolation to those in sorrow or mourning. And to all grant a measure of Your love, taking them into Your tender care. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

We remember with thanksgiving those who have loved and served you in your church on earth, who now rest from their labors. Keep us in fellowship with all your saints, and bring us at length to the joy of your heavenly kingdom; All these things, and whatever else you see that we need, grant us, O Father, for the sake of

your Son Jesus Christ, 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; 9-12

Scripture Reading Romans 6:1-14

This is the Word of the Lord. (p. 942)

Thanks be to God!

Prayer for Illumination

Sermon

ALL THOSE WHO BELONG TO HIM

ARTICLE 34

THE BELGIC CONFESSION

(TPH, p. 868)

†“In Christ Alone” #265

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!

†“The Sands of Time Are Sinking”
(unannounced) #471

Postlude

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* = the congregation is invited to lift hands (during last stanza); cf. Ps. 63:4, 1 Tim. 2:8