

# THE LORD'S DAY

July 14, 2024

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost



**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](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

*(Once the prelude begins, 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 10:19-22

Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

†Opening Prayer

†Responsive Reading              Rev. 1:4-5; Psa. 103

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!**

As for man, his days are like grass; he flourishes like a flower of the field;

**for the wind passes over it, and it is gone, and its place knows it no more.**

But the steadfast love of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear him,

**and his righteousness to children's children,**

to those who keep his covenant  
**and remember to do his commandments.**  
The LORD has established his throne in the heavens,  
**and his kingdom rules over all.**

†“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”              #216\*

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                      Malachi 3:16-4:2

Then those who feared the LORD spoke with one another. The LORD paid attention and heard them, and a book of remembrance was written before him of those who feared the LORD and esteemed his name. “They shall be mine, says the LORD of hosts, in the day when I make up my treasured possession, and I will spare them as a man spares his son who serves him. Then once more you shall see the distinction between the righteous and the wicked, between one who serves God and one who does not serve him. “For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble. The day that is coming shall set them ablaze, says

the LORD of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall.

†Psalm 99B

Pastoral Prayer

†Psalm 8A

God Speaks to Us Through His Word

Old Testament Reading Psalm 8  
This is the Word of the Lord. (p. 450)  
**Thanks be to God!**

New Testament Reading Ephesians 1:15-23  
This is the Word of the Lord. (p. 976)  
**Thanks be to God!**

Prayer for Illumination  
Sermon

PSALM 8  
WHAT IS MAN?  
EXPOSITION OF THE PSALMS #99

†“All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name!” #374

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

**Heavenly Father, we who trust in Jesus and have received these pledges of his love, thank you for assuring us of your love and forgiveness. Thank you that we, together**

**with all your faithful people, are true members of his body and of each other in him. Thank you for the assurance that we shall eat and drink with Christ when he comes in the glory of his kingdom.**

Remember, Father, your church bought by the blood of your Son, and gather it in holiness into the kingdom you have prepared for it. Direct each one of us now by your Spirit in all our ways. Stir us to live lives to your glory. Make us faithful witnesses to Jesus and his resurrection, eager for the joy of his coming, and made worthy to worship you with all your saints forever.

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!**

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

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## EVENING CATECHISM SERVICE

5:00 PM

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### Prelude and Silent Prayer

*(Once the prelude begins, 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 108:3-4

I will give thanks to you, O LORD, among the peoples; I will sing praises to you among the nations. For your steadfast love is great above the heavens; your faithfulness reaches to the clouds.

#### †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 108; 1-4, 9

#### †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\*

**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 Lord's Prayer, #4 Psalm 122; HC Q & A 123

I was glad when they said to me,  
**"Let us go to the house of the LORD!"**

Our feet have been standing  
**within your gates, O Jerusalem!**

Jerusalem – built as a city  
**that is bound firmly together,**  
to which the tribes go up,  
**the tribes of the LORD,**  
as was decreed for Israel,  
**to give thanks to the name of the LORD.**

There thrones for judgment were set,  
**the thrones of the house of David.**

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem!

**"May they be secure who love you!"**

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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).

Peace be within your walls

**and security within your towers!”**

For my brothers and companions' sake

**I will say, “Peace be within you!”**

For the sake of the house of the LORD our God,

**I will seek your good.**

123 Q. What does the second petition mean?

**A. “Your kingdom come” means: Rule us by your Word and Spirit in such a way that more and more we submit to you.**

**Preserve and increase your church.**

**Destroy the devil’s work; destroy every force which revolts against you and every conspiracy against your holy Word. Do all this until your kingdom fully comes, when you will be all in all.**

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 104A; 1-5

Scripture Reading

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

Acts 24

(p. 933)

Prayer for Illumination

Sermon

ACTS 24

HAVING CLEAR CONSCIENCES

†“Though Troubles Assail Us” #246

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!**

†“Before the Throne of God Above”  
(unannounced) #277

Postlude

† = please stand, if able

**bold** = congregational response

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