

# THE LORD'S DAY

**May 18, 2025  
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

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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

*(Once the prelude begins, please remain silent as the congregation prepares for worship)*

Almighty and everlasting God, You are always more ready to hear than we are to pray, and to give more than we desire or deserve. Pour down upon us the abundance of Your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is convicted, and giving us those good things for which we are not worthy to ask, except through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Amen.

#### Welcome and Announcements

#### God Calls Us to Worship

#### †Call to Worship                      Revelation 5:11-14

Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice, “Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!” And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying, “To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!” And the four living creatures said, “Amen!” and the elders fell down and worshiped.

#### †Opening Prayer

#### †Responsive Reading                      Rev. 1:4-5; Ps. 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

#### Prayer of Confession

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. You shall not make for yourself a carved image.... You shall not bow down to them or serve them. 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. Observe the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. (Deut. 5:6-12a)

**Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin! For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. (Psa. 51:2-3)**

Honor your father and your mother, as the LORD your God commanded you, that your days may be long, and that it may go well with you in the land that the LORD your God is giving you. You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. You shall not covet... anything that is your neighbor's. (Deut. 5:16-21)

**If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities, O LORD, who could stand? But with you there is forgiveness, that you may be feared. (Psa. 130:3-4)**

Assurance of Pardon                      Romans 8:32-34  
He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.

†Psalm 16A

Installation of Elder  
Pastoral Prayer

†Psalm 25B

God Speaks to Us Through His Word

Old Testament Reading                      Isaiah 2:2-5  
This is the Word of the Lord.                      (p. 567)  
**Thanks be to God!**

New Testament Reading                      Matthew 7:13-14  
This is the Word of the Lord.                      (p. 812)  
**Thanks be to God!**

Prayer for Illumination  
Sermon                      Rev. Nick Smith

MATTHEW 7:13-14  
ENTER BY THE NARROW GATE  
EXPOSITION OF MATTHEW 5-7 #16

†“My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less”                      #459

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>: Building Capital 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

*(Once the prelude begins, please remain silent as the congregation prepares for worship)*

O LORD, my heart is not lifted up; my eyes are not raised too high; I do not occupy myself with things too great and too marvelous for me. But I have calmed and quieted my soul, like a weaned child with its mother; like a weaned child is my soul within me. O Israel, hope in the LORD from this time forth and forevermore. (Psalm 131)

### Welcome and Announcements

#### †Call to Worship Psalm 68:32-35

O kingdoms of the earth, sing to God; sing praises to the Lord, to him who rides in the heavens, the ancient heavens; behold, he sends out his voice, his mighty voice. Ascribe power to God, whose majesty is over Israel, and whose power is in the skies. Awesome is God from his sanctuary; the God of Israel—he is the one who gives power and strength to his people. Blessed be 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 68A; 1-4, 12

#### †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 Psalm 37:21-40

The wicked borrows but does not pay back,  
**but the righteous is generous and gives;**  
for those blessed by the LORD shall inherit the  
land,  
**but those cursed by him shall be cut off.**  
The steps of a man are established by the  
LORD,  
**when he delights in his way;**  
though he fall, he shall not be cast headlong,  
**for the LORD upholds his hand.**

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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).

I have been young, and now am old, yet I have  
not seen the righteous forsaken

**or his children begging for bread.**

He is ever lending generously,

**and his children become a blessing.**

Turn away from evil and do good;

**so shall you dwell forever.**

For the LORD loves justice;

**he will not forsake his saints.**

They are preserved forever,

**but the children of the wicked shall be cut  
off.**

The righteous shall inherit the land

**and dwell upon it forever.**

The mouth of the righteous utters wisdom,

**and his tongue speaks justice.**

The law of his God is in his heart;

**his steps do not slip.**

The wicked watches for the righteous

**and seeks to put him to death.**

The LORD will not abandon him to his power

**or let him be condemned when he is  
brought to trial.**

Wait for the LORD and keep his way, and he  
will exalt you to inherit the land;

**you will look on when the wicked are cut  
off.**

I have seen a wicked, ruthless man,

**spreading himself like a green laurel tree.**

But he passed away, and behold, he was no  
more;

**though I sought him, he could not be  
found.**

Mark the blameless and behold the upright,

**for there is a future for the man of peace.**

But transgressors shall be altogether destroyed;

**the future of the wicked shall be cut off.**

The salvation of the righteous is from the  
LORD;

**he is their stronghold in the time of  
trouble.**

The LORD helps them and delivers them;

**he delivers them from the wicked and  
saves them, because they take refuge in  
him.**

## 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 73A; 1-5

## Scripture Reading

Psalm 78:1-16

This is the Word of the Lord.

(p. 488)

**Thanks be to God!**

## Prayer for Illumination

Sermon

Rev. Nick Smith

THAT THEY SHOULD SET THEIR HOPE IN GOD  
BAPTISM AND COVENANT NURTURE #3

†“Let Children Hear the Mighty Deeds” #550

Offering

General Fund

†Benediction

2 Corinthians 13:14

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love  
of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be  
with you all.

**Amen!**

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

#471

## 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