

THE LORD'S DAY

April 26, 2026
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

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

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

“To unite one’s heart and one’s voice with believers all around him as songs of praise are sung, prayers are offered up, confession is made, and the Scriptures are read, is indeed an experience which carries the soul beyond the reaches of individual worship and unites it with the Son of God who Himself leads the worship of those who gather in His name.” (Robert G. Rayburn)

Welcome and Announcements

God Calls Us to Worship

†Call to Worship Psalm 84:1-4
How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD of hosts! My soul longs, yes, faints for the courts of the LORD; my heart and flesh sing for joy to the living God. Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, at your altars, O LORD of hosts, my King and my God. Blessed are those who dwell in your house, ever singing your praise!

†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!

†“Now Thank We All Our God”

#181*

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

Micah 7:18-20

Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity and passing over transgression for the remnant of his inheritance? He does not retain his anger forever, because he delights in steadfast love. He will again have compassion on us; he will tread our iniquities underfoot. You will cast all

our sins into the depths of the sea. You will show faithfulness to Jacob and steadfast love to Abraham, as you have sworn to our fathers from the days of old.

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 98C

Pastoral Prayer

†Psalm 119K

God Speaks to Us Through His Word

Old Testament Reading 1 Chronicles 28

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

New Testament Reading Hebrews 8:1-5

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Prayer for Illumination

Sermon

Rev. Nick Smith

1 CHRONICLES 28

ACCORDING TO THE PLAN

EXPOSITION OF 1-2 CHRONICLES #24

†“Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken” #403

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

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

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

To you I lift up my eyes, O you who are enthroned in the heavens! Behold, as the eyes of servants look to the hand of their master, as the eyes of a maidservant to the hand of her mistress, so our eyes look to the LORD our God, till he has mercy upon us. (Psalm 123:1-2)

Welcome and Announcements

†Call to Worship Psalm 118:1-4

Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever! Let Israel say, “His steadfast love endures forever.” Let the house of Aaron say, “His steadfast love endures forever. “Let those who fear the LORD say, “His steadfast love endures forever.”

†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 115A

†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;¹ 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
catholic² 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 John 15:1-17

I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit.

**Already you are clean because of the word
that I have spoken to you. Abide in me,
and I in you. As the branch cannot bear
fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine,
neither can you, unless you abide in me.**

I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned.

**If you abide in me, and my words abide in
you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be
done for you. By this my Father is
glorified, that you bear much fruit and so
prove to be my disciples.**

As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and

¹ See Heidelberg Catechism, Q&A 44; Canons of Dort, 2.4.

² “Catholic” means universal; that is, there is one church across all times, places, and peoples (Belgic Confession, art. 27; Heidelberg Catechism, Q&A 54).

abide in his love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.

You are my friends if you do what I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you.

You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. These things I command you, so that you will love one another.

Pastoral Prayer

Psalm 119:33-56

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 21B; 1-4

Scripture Reading

Colossians 1:15-20

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Prayer for Illumination

Sermon

Rev. Nick Smith

THE REIGN AND RETURN OF CHRIST

LORD'S DAY 19

THE HEIDELBERG CATECHISM

50 Q. Why the next words: “and sits at the right hand of God”?

A. Christ ascended to heaven, there to show that he is head of his church, the one through whom the Father governs all things.

51 Q. How does this glory of Christ our head benefit us?

A. First, through his Holy Spirit he pours out gifts from heaven upon us his members. Second, by his power he defends us and preserves us from all enemies.

52 Q. How does Christ's return “to judge the living and the dead” comfort you?

A. In all distress and persecution, with uplifted head, I confidently await the very judge who has already offered himself to the judgment of God in my place and removed the whole curse from me. Christ will cast all his enemies and mine into everlasting condemnation, but will take me and all his chosen ones to himself into the joy and glory of heaven.

†Psalm 68A; 1-4, 12

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!

†“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”
(unannounced)

#244

Postlude

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bold = congregational response

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