

# THE LORD'S DAY

December 21, 2025  
Fourth Sunday in Advent



**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))  
North American Presbyterian and Reformed Council ([www.naparc.org](http://www.naparc.org))  
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)*

O God, you loved the world so much that you gave your only Son for us. Increase and strengthen our faith and fix it firmly on the mystery of your Word made flesh, that we may triumph over all evil through Christ who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen!

Welcome and Announcements

God Calls Us to Worship

†Call to Worship                      Zechariah 2:10-12  
Sing and rejoice, O daughter of Zion, for behold, I come and I will dwell in your midst, declares the LORD. And many nations shall join themselves to the LORD in that day, and shall be my people. And I will dwell in your midst, and you shall know that the LORD of hosts has sent me to you. And the LORD will inherit Judah as his portion in the holy land, and will again choose Jerusalem.

†Opening Prayer

†Responsive Reading              Rev. 1:4-5; Psa. 96  
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!**

Say among the nations, "The LORD reigns!

**Yes, the world is established; it shall never be moved; he will judge the peoples with equity."**

Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;

**Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; let the field exult, and everything in it!**

Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy before the LORD,

**For he comes, for he comes to judge the earth.**

He will judge the world in righteousness,

**And the peoples in his faithfulness.**

†"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"      #292\*

God Assures Us of Forgiveness

Call to Confession                      Isaiah 55:6-7

Seek the Lord while he may be found;

**call upon him while he is near;**

let the wicked forsake his way,

**and the unrighteous man his thoughts;**

let him return to the Lord, that he may have compassion on him,

**and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.**

Prayer of Confession

**Merciful Lord, we confess that with us there is an abundance of sin, but in you there is the fullness of righteousness and abundance of mercy. We are spiritually poor, but you are rich and in Jesus Christ came to be merciful to the poor.**

**Strengthen our faith and our trust in you, and accomplish your sanctifying work in us. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen!**

Assurance of Pardon                      Isaiah 55:8-13

For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it. For you shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall break forth into singing,

and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall make a name for the Lord, an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

†Psalm 22C

Pastoral Prayer

*Psalm of the Month*

†Psalm 119X (insert)

God Speaks to Us Through His Word

Old Testament Reading 1 Chronicles 16:8-36

This is the Word of the Lord. (p. 347)

**Thanks be to God!**

New Testament Reading Luke 2:22-38

This is the Word of the Lord. (p. 857)

**Thanks be to God!**

Prayer for Illumination

Sermon

Rev. Nick Smith

1 CHRONICLES 16:34-36

SAVE US, O GOD OF OUR SALVATION

EXPOSITION OF 1-2 CHRONICLES #13

†“Comfort, Comfort Ye My People” #298

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>: 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)*

†Call to Worship Psalm 70:4-5

†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 119K

†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

Proverbs 4

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 27A

Scripture Reading

Romans 8

This is the Word of the Lord.

(p. 944)

**Thanks be to God!**

Prayer for Illumination

Sermon

Rev. Nick Smith

CREATION AND PROVIDENCE

LORD'S DAY 9

THE HEIDELBERG CATECHISM

(TPH, p. 876)

†"God Moves in a Mysterious Way" #256

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!**

†"O Come, All Ye Faithful" #319  
(unannounced)

Postlude

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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).