

THE LORD'S DAY

August 24, 2025
Eleventh 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)
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)

Great you are, O Lord, and greatly to be praised; great is your power, and your wisdom is infinite. You would we praise without ceasing. You call us to delight in your praise, for you have made us for yourself, and our hearts find no rest until we rest in you; in the name of Jesus Christ, to whom with the Father and the Holy Spirit all glory, praise, and honor be ascribed, both now and forevermore. Amen.

Welcome and Announcements

God Calls Us to Worship

†Call to Worship Isaiah 40:28-31
Have you not known? Have you not heard?
The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength. Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

†Opening Prayer

†Responsive Reading Rev. 1:4-5; Ps. 118
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!

Open to me the gates of righteousness,
That I may enter through them and give thanks to the LORD.

This is the gate of the LORD; the righteous shall enter through it.

I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation.

The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.

This is the LORD's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

This is the day that the LORD has made;

Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

†“O Worship the King”

#219; 1-5*

God Assures Us of Forgiveness

Call to Confession

Matthew 22:35-40

Prayer of Confession

Almighty God, who is rich in mercy to all those who call upon you; hear us as we come to you humbly confessing our sins, and imploring your mercy and forgiveness. We have broken your holy laws by our deeds and by our words, and by the sinful affections of our hearts. We confess before you our disobedience and ingratitude, our pride and willfulness, and all our failures and shortcomings toward you and toward each other. Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; and of your great goodness grant that we may hereafter serve and please you in newness of life; in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord; Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Hebrews 7:23-25

The former priests were many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing in office, but he holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues forever. Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.

†Psalm 144B; 1-5

Pastoral Prayer

†Psalm 11A

God Speaks to Us Through His Word

Old Testament Reading Psalm 119:129-152
This is the Word of the Lord. (p. 515)
Thanks be to God!

New Testament Reading James 1:12-18
This is the Word of the Lord. (p. 1011)
Thanks be to God!

Prayer for Illumination
Sermon Rev. Nick Smith

PSALM 119:129-152
THE UNFOLDING OF YOUR WORDS GIVES LIGHT
EXPOSITION OF PSALM 119 #6

†“O God beyond All Praising” #241

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 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)

O LORD, be gracious to us; we wait for you. Be our arm every morning, our salvation in the time of trouble. The LORD is exalted, for he dwells on high; he will fill Zion with justice and righteousness, and he will be the stability of your times, abundance of salvation, wisdom, and knowledge; the fear of the LORD is Zion's treasure. (Isaiah 33:2, 5-6)

Welcome and Announcements

†Call to Worship Psalm 138:1-2

I give you thanks, O LORD, with my whole heart; before the gods I sing your praise; I bow down toward your holy temple and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness, for you have exalted above all things your name and your word.

†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 138B

†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

Ninth Commandment

James 3:7-18; HC Q & A 112

For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by mankind,

but no human being can tame the tongue.

It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.

With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God.

**From the same mouth come blessing and
cursing. My brothers, these things ought
not to be so.**

Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and salt water?

**Can a fig tree, my brothers, bear olives, or
a grapevine produce figs? Neither can a
salt pond yield fresh water.**

Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom.

**But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish
ambition in your hearts, do not boast and
be false to the truth.**

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).

This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic.

For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice.

But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere.

And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

112 Q. What is God's will for you in the ninth commandment?

A. That I never give false testimony against anyone, twist no one's words, not gossip or slander, nor join in condemning anyone rashly or without a hearing. Rather, I should avoid, under penalty of God's wrath, every kind of lying and deceit as the very works of the devil; and, in court and everywhere else, I should love the truth, speak it candidly, and openly acknowledge it. And I should do what I can to defend and advance my neighbor's honor and reputation.

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!

†“Speak, O Lord” #172

Scripture Reading 1 Peter 3:8-17

This is the Word of the Lord. (p. 1015)

Thanks be to God!

Prayer for Illumination

Sermon

Rev. Nick Smith

DEFENDING THE FAITH

INTRODUCTION TO APOLOGETICS

PART 2 OF 3

Psalm of the Month

†Psalm 119T

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!

†“Praise God for Joy of Sabbath Blest” #155
(unannounced)

Postlude

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(during last stanza); cf. Ps. 63:4, 1 Tim. 2:8