

THE LORD'S DAY

April 12, 2026
Second 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)

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 12:22-24, 28-29

But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel. Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire.

†Opening Prayer

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

†“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 Isaiah 53:4-11

Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to

the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth. By oppression and judgment he was taken away; and as for his generation, who considered that he was cut off out of the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people? And they made his grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his death, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth. Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for guilt, he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days; the will of the LORD shall prosper in his hand. Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied; by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities.

†Psalm 93

Pastoral Prayer

†Psalm 119X
("Before Thee Let My Cry Come Near")

God Speaks to Us Through His Word

Old Testament Reading 1 Chronicles 25:1-7
This is the Word of the Lord. (p. 353)
Thanks be to God!

New Testament Reading Colossians 3:12-17
This is the Word of the Lord. (p. 984)
Thanks be to God!

Prayer for Illumination
Sermon Rev. Nick Smith

1 CHRONICLES 25
WHY WE SING
EXPOSITION OF 1-2 CHRONICLES #22

†"O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing"
#291; 1-4, 7

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: 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. 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)

Preserve me, O God, for in you I take refuge. I say to the LORD, “You are my Lord; I have no good apart from you.” You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore. (Psalm 16:1-2, 11)

Welcome and Announcements

†Call to Worship Psalm 34:8-10

Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good!
Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!
Oh, fear the LORD, you his saints, for those who fear him have no lack! The young lions suffer want and hunger; but those who seek the LORD lack no good thing.

†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 34A; 1-4

†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 Psalm 32

Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven,

whose sin is covered.

Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity,

and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away **through my groaning all day long.**

For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;

my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.

I acknowledged my sin to you,

and I did not cover my iniquity;

I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,”

and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Therefore let everyone who is godly offer prayer to you at a time when you may be found;

surely in the rush of great waters, they shall not reach him.

You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble;

you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

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).

I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go;

I will counsel you with my eye upon you.
Be not like a horse or a mule, without understanding,
which must be curbed with bit and bridle, or it will not stay near you.
Many are the sorrows of the wicked,
but steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts in the LORD.
Be glad in the Lord, and rejoice, O righteous,
and shout for joy, all you upright in heart!

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 21B; 1-3, 6

Scripture Reading Ephesians 2:1-10
This is the Word of the Lord. (p. 976)
Thanks be to God!

Prayer for Illumination

Sermon Rev. Nick Smith

SEATED IN THE HEAVENLY PLACES
LORD'S DAY 18
THE HEIDELBERG CATECHISM

46 Q. What do you mean by saying, "He ascended to heaven"?

A. That Christ, while his disciples watched, was taken up from the earth into heaven and remains there on our behalf until he comes again to judge the living and the dead.

47 Q. But isn't Christ with us until the end of the world as he promised us?

A. Christ is true man and true God. In his human nature Christ is not now on earth; but in his divinity, majesty, grace, and Spirit he is never absent from us.

48 Q. If his humanity is not present wherever his divinity is, then aren't the two natures of Christ separated from each other?

A. Certainly not. Since divinity is not limited and is present everywhere, it is evident that Christ's divinity is surely beyond the bounds of the humanity that has been taken on, but at the same time his divinity is in and remains personally united to his humanity.

49 Q. How does Christ's ascension to heaven benefit us?

A. First, he is our advocate in heaven in the presence of his Father. Second, we have our own flesh in heaven as a sure pledge that Christ our head will also take us, his members, up to himself. Third, he sends his Spirit to us on earth as a corresponding pledge. By the Spirit's power we seek not earthly things but the things above, where Christ is, sitting at God's right hand.

†Psalm 68B

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!

†"In Christ Alone" #265
(unannounced)

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