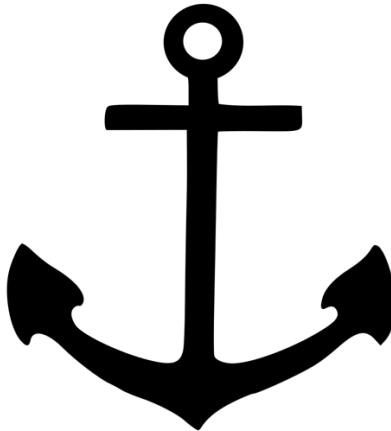


# THE LORD'S DAY

August 31, 2025  
Twelfth 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](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 Almighty God, from whom every good prayer comes, who pours out on all who desire it the spirit of grace and supplication: Deliver us, when we draw near to You, from coldness of heart and wanderings of mind, that with steadfast thoughts and kindled affections we may worship You in Spirit and in truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

#### Welcome and Announcements

#### God Calls Us to Worship

†Call to Worship                      1 Chronicles 16:8-13

Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon his name; make known his deeds among the peoples! Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wondrous works! Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice! Seek the LORD and his strength; seek his presence continually! Remember the wondrous works that he has done, his miracles and the judgments he uttered, O offspring of Israel his servant, children of Jacob, his chosen ones!

†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!**

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD!

**We bless you from the house of the LORD.**

The LORD is God, and he has made his light to shine upon us.

**Bind the festal sacrifice with cords, up to the horns of the altar!**

You are my God, and I will give thanks to you;

**You are my God; I will extol you.**

Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;

**For his steadfast love endures forever!**

†“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”              #216\*

#### God Assures Us of Forgiveness

Call to Confession

Psalm 11:4-5, 7

Prayer of Confession

**O God and Father, whose chosen dwelling is the heart that longs for your presence and humbly seeks your love: we come to you to acknowledge and confess that we have sinned in thought and word and deed; we have not loved you with all our heart and soul, with all our mind and strength; we have not loved our neighbor as ourselves. Deepen within us our sorrow for the wrong we have done, and for the good we have left undone. But you, O Lord, are compassionate and gracious, slow to anger and full of mercy; there is forgiveness with you. Restore to us the joy of your salvation; bind up that which is broken, give light to our minds, strength to our wills, and rest to our souls. Speak to each of us the word that we need, and let your word abide with us until it has worked in us your holy will; in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

Psalm 65:2-4

O you who hear prayer, to you shall all flesh come. When iniquities prevail against me, you atone for our transgressions. Blessed is the one you choose and bring near, to dwell in your courts! We shall be satisfied with the goodness of your house, the holiness of your temple!

†Psalm 93

Pastoral Prayer

†Psalm 45B

God Speaks to Us Through His Word

Old Testament Reading      Psalm 119:153-176  
This is the Word of the Lord.      (p. 516)  
**Thanks be to God!**

New Testament Reading      Matthew 8:18-22  
This is the Word of the Lord.      (p. 813)  
**Thanks be to God!**

Prayer for Illumination  
Sermon      Rev. Nick Smith

PSALM 119:153-176  
I LONG FOR YOUR SALVATION, O LORD  
EXPOSITION OF PSALM 119 #7

†“Jerusalem the Golden”      #468

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>: 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

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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)*

Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting! (Psalm 139:23-24)

### Welcome and Announcements

#### †Call to Worship                      Psalm 22:22-23

I will tell of your name to my brothers; in the midst of the congregation I will praise you:  
You who fear the LORD, praise him! All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him, and stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!

#### †Opening Prayer

#### †Responsive Reading              Psal. 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 22C

#### †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    Tenth Commandment

1 Thess. 4:1-12; HC Q&A 113

Finally, then, brothers, we ask and urge you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God, just as you are doing, that you do so more and more. For you know what instructions we gave you through the Lord Jesus.

**For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality;**

that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor, not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God;

**that no one transgress and wrong his brother in this matter, because the Lord is**

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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).

**an avenger in all these things, as we told you beforehand and solemnly warned you.**  
For God has not called us for impurity, but in holiness.

**Therefore whoever disregards this, disregards not man but God, who gives his Holy Spirit to you.**

Now concerning brotherly love you have no need for anyone to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love one another, for that indeed is what you are doing to all the brothers throughout Macedonia.

**But we urge you, brothers, to do this more and more, and to aspire to live quietly, and to mind your own affairs, and to work with your hands, as we instructed you, so that you may walk properly before outsiders and be dependent on no one.**

113 Q. What is God's will for you in the tenth commandment?

**A. That not even the slightest desire or thought contrary to any one of God's commandments should ever arise in our hearts. Rather, with all our hearts we should always hate sin and delight in all righteousness.**

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 119T

Scripture Reading

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

Psalm 73

(p. 485)

Prayer for Illumination

Sermon

Rev. Nick Smith

DEALING WITH DOUBT

INTRODUCTION TO APOLOGETICS

PART 3 OF 3

†“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing” #429

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!**

†“And Can It Be That I Should Gain” #431  
(unannounced)

Postlude

† = please stand, if able

**bold** = congregational response

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