

Willowdale

CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH



Welcome to Willowdale Christian Reformed Church

May 11, 2025, 10:00 a.m.
Fourth Sunday of Easter

*In worship, God speaks to us through his Word,
and we respond with praise and prayer.*

About the service:

Worship spaces: In the church Sanctuary and on ZOOM

Preacher and worship leader: Pastor Greg Sinclair

Elder of service: Joseph Batac

Song leader: John Meiboom

Reader: Nelly Sinclair

Worship musician: Hye-jin Im (piano)

Simultaneous translation: Pastor Sylvie Charliekaram

Sound/Slides operators: Ali B, Elisa P, Kuroosh R,

Zoom host: Nafise CZ

Slides prepared by: Leanne Grauds

Greeter: Ann G

*Please rise in body or in spirit.

After the service:

We invite you to join us for coffee in the Fellowship Hall after the service.

If you would like to meet with Pastor Greg, please send an email to pastorgreg@willowdalecrc.com or call: 289-925-4390.

Reflection

The wilderness was not only God's staging grounds for the eschatological victory, it was also God's proving grounds for testing the people.

— David E. Garland

Prelude

***Welcome and introduction** — Pastor Greg Sinclair

***Call to worship** — 1 Corinthians 15:20, 23-26, 55, 57

— Pastor Greg Sinclair

Leader: Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

People: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him.

Leader: Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death. "Death has been swallowed up in victory."

People: "Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?"

Leader: Thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

***Prayer of praise** — Pastor Greg Sinclair

***God's Greeting** — Pastor Greg Sinclair

Song of praise — LUYH 179 — *Alleluia! Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven

1. Alleluia, alleluia!
Hearts to heaven and voices raise.
Sing to God a hymn of gladness,
sing to God a hymn of praise.
He who on the cross a victim
for the world's salvation bled,
Jesus Christ, the King of glory,
now is risen from the dead.
2. Alleluia, Christ is risen!
Death at last has met defeat.
See the ancient powers of evil
in confusion and retreat.
Once he died and once was buried;
now he lives forevermore—
Jesus Christ, the world's Redeemer,
whom we worship and adore.
3. Christ is risen, Christ the firstfruits
of the holy harvest yield,
which will all its full abundance
at his second coming yield.
Then the golden ears of harvest
will their heads before him wave,
ripened by his glorious sunshine
from the furrows of the grave.
4. Alleluia, alleluia!
Glory be to God on high;
alleluia! to the Saviour,
who has won the victory;
alleluia! to the Spirit,
fount of love and sanctity;
alleluia, alleluia!
to the triune Majesty.

Words: Christopher Wordsworth, 1862, alt., P.D.

Call to confession — Letter of Paul to the Ephesians 6:10-18 (NIV)

— Nelly Sinclair

¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹ Put on the full armour of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. ¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. ¹³ Therefore put on the full armour of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. ¹⁴ Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, ¹⁵ and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷ Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. ¹⁸ And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.

Psalm of Confession — LUYH 459

— *Within the Shelter of the Lord: Psalm 91*

1. Within the shelter of the Lord,
at home in his unfailing care,
we trust in his eternal strength
to rescue us from every snare:
how safe it is, this hiding-place
beneath his everlasting wings;
how strong a fortress is our God,
the Mighty One, the King of kings.
2. Though brutal conflicts scar the day,
though nameless perils fill the night,
God's presence calms our troubled minds
and puts our primal fears to flight.
When sin persists and judgment falls,
the true security is ours:
protected by the Lord, we stand,
beyond the grasp of evil powers.

3. God answers every cry for help;
his love is ours till journey's end—
however long our lives may be,
on God's firm promise we depend.
Who knows what dangers we are spared,
since angels guard the way we take?
And all who trust and love the Lord
he pledges never to forsake.

Words: Martin Leckebusch © 2006 Kevin Mayhew Ltd.

Prayer of confession — Pastor Greg Sinclair

Assurance of forgiveness — Pastor Greg Sinclair

Children's Message — Pastor Greg Sinclair

***Children's Song** — LUYH 183 — *Alleluia*

1. Alleluia. Alleluia.
Alleluia. Alleluia.
Alleluia. Alleluia.
Christ the Lord is risen indeed.
2. Alleluia, alleluia. (3x)
Christ, the firstfruits from the grave.
3. Alleluia, alleluia. (3x)
Christ has given us new life.
4. Alleluia, alleluia. (3x)
Glory, love, and praise to God.

Words: traditional

Memory Verse for Children, Big and Small — Sara B

John 3:16

For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that
whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Sunday School Dismissal

*All children ages 3-12 are invited to join us for Bible stories, crafts, and
games (completed registration required).*

Prayer of illumination — Pastor Greg Sinclair

Scripture reading — Mark 1:9-13 (NIV) — Pastor Greg Sinclair

⁹ At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰ Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. ¹¹ And a voice came from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.”

¹² At once the Spirit sent him out into the wilderness, ¹³ and he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels attended him.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon — *Unseen Forces* — Pastor Greg Sinclair

***Song of response** — LUYH 776 — *A Mighty Fortress is our God*

1. A mighty fortress is our God,
a bulwark never failing;
our helper he, amid the flood
of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe
does seek to work us woe;
his craft and power are great,
and armed with cruel hate,
on earth is not his equal.
2. Did we in our own strength confide,
our striving would be losing,
were not the right Man on our side,
the Man of God’s own choosing.
You ask who that may be?
Christ Jesus, it is he;
Lord Sabaoth his name,
from age to age the same;
and he must win the battle.

3. And though this world, with devils filled,
should threaten to undo us,
we will not fear, for God has willed
his truth to triumph through us.
The prince of darkness grim,
we tremble not for him;
his rage we can endure,
for lo! his doom is sure;
one little word shall fell him.
4. That Word above all earthly powers—
no thanks to them—abideth;
the Spirit and the gifts are ours
through him who with us sideth.
Let goods and kindred go,
this mortal life also;
the body they may kill:
God's truth abideth still;
his kingdom is forever!

Words: based on Psalm 46, Martin Luther, 1529; tr. Frederick H. Hedge, 1852, P.D.

Prayers of God's people — Joseph Batac

Offering of our gifts

1st Offering, Church Ministries (red bag)

2nd Offering, Pregnancy Care Centre Toronto (Bathurst & Sheppard),
please read the **Willowdale Weekly** for more information about this
offering cause.

Offering of music

Prayer over the offering — Deacon

***Celebration of Lord's supper — Pastor Greg Sinclair**

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended to hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended to heaven

and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.

From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give Him our thanks and praise.
Christ has died, Christ has risen,
Christ will come again.

*You are invited to come forward to receive the elements.
Bread wrapped in plastic is gluten free.*

Song during communion — LUYH 775 — *Across the Lands*

1. You're the Word of God the Father
from before the world began;
every star and every planet
has been fashioned by your hand.
All creation holds together
by the power of your voice.
Let the skies declare your glory;
let the land and seas rejoice.

Refrain

You're the author of creation,
you're the Lord of everyone,
and your cry of love rings out across the lands.

2. Yet you left the gaze of angels,
came to seek and save the lost
and exchanged the joy of heaven
for the anguish of a cross.
With a prayer you fed the hungry,
with a word you calmed the sea;
yet how silently you suffered,
that the guilty may go free.

Refrain

3. With a shout you rose victorious,
wresting victory from the grave,
and ascended into heaven,
leading captives in your way.
Now you stand before the Father,
interceding for your own;
from each tribe and tongue and nation
you are leading sinners home.

Refrain

Words: Keith Getty and Stuart Townend © 2002 Thankyou Music (PRS), admin. worldwide at
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***Benediction** — Pastor Greg Sinclair

***Doxology** — LUYH 227 — *He Is Lord*

1. He is Lord, he is Lord,
he is risen from the dead, and he is Lord!
Every knee shall bow, every tongue confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord.
2. He is King, he is King,
he will draw all nations to him; he is King!
And the time shall be when the world shall sing
that Jesus Christ is King.
3. He is Love, he is Love,
he has shown us by his life that he is Love!
All his people sing with one voice of joy
that Jesus Christ is Love.
4. He is Life, he is Life,
he has died to set us free, and he is Life!
And he calls us all to live evermore,
for Jesus Christ is Life.

Words: st. 1 Marvin Frey © 1977 Marvin Frey; sts. 2, 3, 4 anonymous

Postlude

Sermon notes

Willowdale Christian Reformed Church

We are on The Bridge App! Visit the **Apple Store** or **Google Play** on your mobile device and search for THE BRIDGE APP to download it. Please note that information shared on the app for Willowdale CRC are visible only to verified Willowdale CRC users only. **Enjoy the App!**

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Items for the Willowdale Weekly are due on Thursdays at noon.

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Song and service credits

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