

January 27, 2019

A Service of Holy Communion

Led by the Holy Spirit, LaGrave's members seek to worship and serve God in all of life, transforming His world and being transformed to reflect the character of Christ.

Welcome to worship at LaGrave. Because our worship proceeds without announcements, please carefully follow the order of worship printed below, noting that we use *two* different red hymnals. The *Worship & Rejoice* hymnal will be indicated by bold, italic type. An asterisk (*) denotes standing for those who are able. We are glad that you are here. Let us worship God together.

MORNING WORSHIP 8:40 & 11:00 AM

Please prepare your heart and mind for worship with a time of prayer and meditation.

God Calls Us to Worship

The Prelude:

“Communion”

Richard Purvis

“Bread of the World”

James Biery

Bread of the world, in mercy broken, wine of the soul, in mercy shed, by whom the words of life were spoken, and in whose death our sins are dead: look on the heart by sorrow broken, look on the tears by sinners shed; and be your feast to us the token that by your grace our souls are fed.

The Chiming of the Hour

The Introit:

“Come to the Savior Now” (8:40)

Come to the Savior now, he gently calls to you; in true repentance bow, let him your heart renew. Christ came that you may know salvation, peace, and love, true joy on earth below, a home in heaven above.

“Beautiful Savior” (11:00)

Beautiful Savior! King of creation! Son of God and Son of Man! Truly I'd love thee, truly I'd serve thee, Light of my soul, my joy, my crown.

Fair are the meadows, fair are the woodlands, robed in flowers of blooming spring; Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer; he makes our sorrowing spirit sing.

Beautiful Savior! Lord of the nations! Son of God and Son of Man! Glory and honor, praise, adoration, now and forevermore be thine!

*The Processional Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 832:1-3

“At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing”

(The congregation is asked to rise on the last line of the hymn introduction.)

*The Greeting

*The People's Response: **Amen.**

The Welcome

We Humbly Approach God

The Call to Confession: Luke 5:27-31 (pg. 1601)

Let us humbly approach our Lord and lay our lives before him.

Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labor on what does not satisfy? Listen to the Lord and eat what is good. (Isaiah 55:2)

Paul says, “Many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their destiny is destruction and their god is their stomach...their mind is set on earthly things.”

(Philippians 3:19)

Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which Christ will give you.

(John 6:27)

Merciful Father, hear the prayers of your people.

The Prayer of Confession:

Gracious God, we do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from your mouth. Make us hungry for this heavenly food. Forgive us when we feed ourselves with the pride of our own accomplishments. Have mercy on us when we do not joyfully share the bread of life with others. Help us follow in the way of Jesus, who offers us the bread of heaven. In his name we pray. Amen.

The Assurance of Forgiveness: John 6:47-50

*The Hymn of Commitment: Lift Up Your Hearts: 43

“Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer”

The Children's Message

(Children, 4-2nd grade, may leave for Children's Worship)

The Pastoral Prayer

The Anthem: (8:40)

“O Bread of Life from Heaven”

David Ashley White

O Bread of Life from heaven, to saints and angels given; O Manna from above! The souls that hunger, feed thou, the hearts that seek thee, lead thou with thy sweet tender love.

The Anthem: (11:00)

“Laudamus Te”

Natalie Sleeth

Laudamus te. We praise thee, Lord, this joyful day. We praise thee, we bless thee, we magnify thy name. Laudamus te. To all thy majesty proclaim. Glory, now and for eternity, heaven and earth are full of thee, Holy One in Three. Laudamus te!

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God Speaks to Us

The Scripture: John 6:25-40 (pg. 1657)

The Sermon: **“THE I AMs OF JESUS: THE BREAD OF LIFE”**

The Prayer for a Blessing on the Word

We Celebrate the Lord's Supper

*The Communion Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 534:1,3

“All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly”

The Sacrament of Holy Communion (see insert)

(as the elements are distributed, please sing the following hymns)

During the passing of the bread: Lift Up Your Hearts 764:1-3

“Break Now the Bread of Life”

During the passing of the wine: Lift Up Your Hearts 833

“There Is a Redeemer”

The Offering and Thank-Offering:

Today's offering is for the LaGrave General Fund, the Benevolence fund, and ICCF. Please use an envelope from the

pew to designate your gift. All undesignated monies will go to the General Fund.

As we give for these causes, we will sing the closing hymn and stand when signaled.

(Please sign and pass the Welcome Register.)

We Go in His Peace

The Closing Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 840
“Behold the Lamb”

*The Benediction

*The People’s Response: **Amen.**

*The Amen

*The Silent Prayer and Carillon Bells

*The Postlude:

“Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer”

J. Bert Carlson

Bread of heaven, feed me now and evermore.

Rev. Peter Jonker – minister

Rev. Ruth Boven – liturgist

Dr. Larry Visser – organist

Vocal Quartet, Merle Mustert – director (8:40)

Kathryn Becksvoort – soprano, Jess Hollenbach – alto

Jim Elzinga – tenor, Peter Redder – bass

Junior Choir, Marcia Pylman – director (11:00)

Karen Schipper – accompanist

Heidi Brandt – flutist

Dee DeKryger and Renee Kuipers – Cross & Bible Bearers (8:40)

Dan & Julie Molenbeek – Cross & Bible Bearers (11:00)

Music at LaGrave (8:40)

The communion hymn text *O Bread of Life from Heaven* dates back to the 17th century. David Ashley White, a contemporary American composer of church music, set this ancient text in a chant-like style with phrases that are often sung by the women’s voices and echoed by the men’s voices. The music is contemplative and has a mysterious quality, evoking the symbolism of Christ’s body and blood offered through the sacrament of communion.

The January special offering is for Inner City Christian Federation which provides housing opportunities and services that encourage family responsibility and independence, thereby helping to build stable communities.

ICCF assists more than 2,200 low-to-moderate income families each year and continues to address the issues of affordable housing in Grand Rapids.

Tonight Rev. Jonker will lead us in worship. We will look at the connection between theology and music. The service is entitled: “Gathered, Protected, and Preserved for Himself.”

The Season from Christmas to Lent: From Christmas until the beginning of Lent is the liturgical season of Epiphany. The colors of gold and white symbolize this time of joy and thanksgiving. We celebrate Jesus Christ as the manifestation of God’s light in our dark and sin-filled world. It is a time to grow in our knowledge of Jesus Christ and reflect his light in our lives.

Livestreaming worship is available at lagrave.org.