

September 8, 2019

Communion Sunday

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

God Calls Us to Worship

The Prelude:

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

“As a Deer in Want of Water” (Psalm 42)

Johann Pachelbel
Johann Ludwig Krebs

The Chiming of the Hour

The Introit: “Gather Us In”

Marty Haugen

Here in this place the new light is streaming, now is the darkness vanished away; see in this space our fears and our dreamings brought here to you in the light of this day. Gather us in, the lost and forsaken, gather us in, the blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall awaken, we shall arise at the sound of our name.

Here we will take the wine and the water, here we will take the bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daughters, call us anew to be salt for the earth. Give us to drink the wine of compassion, give us to eat the bread that is you; nourish us well, and teach us to fashion lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

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*The Processional Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 531

“God, You Call Us to This Place”

(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 Our God

The Call to Confession: Luke 15:1-7 (pg. 1625)

The Prayer of Confession:

Seeking, saving God, you are always looking for us, yet we are not always looking for you. Sometimes, over-confident of our own goodness, we are inclined to think poorly of others. We forget that we ourselves have lost the way. Then you reach out your hand and show us what your forgiveness cost, and we stop in our tracks. Your kindness leads us to repentance, you turn us around and return us to the fold, once-lost sheep who now belong to you, and to each other. Lead us in the paths of life for the glory of your name. Amen.

The Assurance of Pardon: based on Ephesians 2:11-22

Remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

In Christ, we are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household. In him we are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

*The Hymn of Commitment: Lift Up Your Hearts 369

“My Shepherd Will Supply My Need”

We Respond with Thanksgiving

The Children's Message:

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

The Pastoral Prayer

The Anthem:

“Church of God, Elect and Glorious” Michael D. Costello
Church of God, elect and glorious, holy nation, chosen race, called as God's own special people, royal priests and heirs of grace. Know the purpose of your calling, show to all his mighty deeds; tell of love that knows no limits, grace that meets all human needs.

God has called you out of darkness into his most marvelous light. Brought his truth to life within you, turned your blindness into sight. Let your light so shine around

you that God's name is glorified, and all find fresh hope and purpose in Christ Jesus crucified.

Once you were an alien people, strangers to God's heart of love, but he brought you home in mercy, citizens of heaven above. Let his love flow out to others, let them feel the Father's care, that they too may know his welcome and his countless blessings share.

Church of God, elect and holy, be the people he intends, strong in faith and swift to answer each command your Master sends; royal priests fulfill your calling through your sacrifice and prayer, give your lives in joyful service, sing his praise, his love declare.

1 Peter 2:9-12

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God Speaks to Us

The Scripture: Genesis 2:8-24 (pg. 4)

The Sermon: **“IT IS NOT GOOD TO BE ALONE”**

The Prayer for a Blessing on the Word

*The Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 533:1,2,3

“I Come with Joy”

We Come to the Lord's Table

The Sacrament of Holy Communion (see insert)

Please sing during the passing of the bread and wine.

“Come to the Savior Now”

- 1. 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.**
- 2. Come to the Savior now, all who have wandered far; renew your solemn vow, for his by right you are; come like poor, wandering sheep returning to his fold; his arm will safely keep, his love will ne'er grow cold.**
- 3. Come to the Savior now, he offers all to you, and on his merits you can plead for life anew. No vain excuses frame, respond to Christ today! None who to Jesus came were ever sent away.**

4. Come to the Savior, all, whate'er your burdens be; hear now his loving call, "Cast all your care on me." Come, and for every grief, in Jesus you will find a sure and safe relief, a loving friend and kind.

LUYH 613

"There Is a Redeemer"

1. There is a Redeemer, Jesus, God's own Son; precious Lamb of God, Messiah, Holy One.

Refrain: **Thank you, O my Father, for giving us your Son, and leaving your Spirit till the work on earth is done.**

2. Jesus, my Redeemer, name above all names, precious Lamb of God, Messiah, hope for sinners slain. (Refrain)

3. When I stand in glory I will see his face; there I'll serve my King forever, in that holy place.
(Refrain)

LUYH 833

The Offering and Thank-Offering

Today's offering is for the LaGrave General Fund, the Benevolence Fund, and for Exalta Health Services. 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.)

The Closing Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 840

"Behold the Lamb"

God Sends Us into His World

*The Benediction

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

*The Choral Amen

*The Silent Prayer and Carillon Bells

*The Postlude:

"Fanfare from *Sixth Double Concerto*"

Antonio Soler

Rev. Peter Jonker – minister

Rev. Kristy Manion – liturgist

Dr. Larry Visser – organist

Chancel Choir, Merle Mustert – director

Ella and Grace VandeGriend – Cross & Bible Bearers (8:40)

Dee DeKryger and Joyce Jeltema – Cross & Bible Bearers (11:00)

Music at LaGrave: English musician, theologian, minister and missionary James Seddon wrote thirty hymn texts, among them his 1982 text *Church of God, Elect and Glorious*, based on I Peter 2:9-12. The text calls the church—God's holy people—to fulfill their calling and share the message of Christ crucified. While this text is typically sung to the tune *Abbot's Leigh* (LUYH 252), composer Michael Costello penned an original tune, arranged in unison, four-part harmony, and with a soprano descant on the final stanza.

The flowers on the chancel are given by **Garrett and Barbara Stoutmeyer** on the occasion of their 65th wedding anniversary on September 3. Thanks be to God!

The special offering recipient for September is Exalta Health Services: Provides medical, vision, dental, behavioral and spiritual care services with fees based on household income and number of members supported by that income. Unemployment, lack of insurance or other financial factors are not barriers for service.

This evening, Rev. Jonker will begin a series of meditations on the Minor Prophets: Habakkuk, Haggai, and Zephaniah.

Livestreaming worship is available at lagrave.org.