

March 7, 2021

Third Sunday of Lent

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:

“Prelude in C Major”

Johann Sebastian Bach

“A Lenten Prelude”

Charles Callahan

(Ah, Holy Jesus / My Song Is Love Unknown)

“O Sacred Head, Now Wounded”

Charles Callahan

The Chiming of the Hour

The Introit: “Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days”

Lord, who throughout these forty days for us did fast and pray, teach us with you to mourn our sins and close by you to stay.

And through these days of penitence, and through your Passiontide, forevermore, in life and death, O Lord, with us abide.

Abide with us, that through this life of doubts and hope and pain, an Easter of unending joy we may at last attain!

*The Processional Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 2:1,3,4,5

“O Worship the King”

(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: Matthew 18:1-5

The Prayer of Confession:

Righteous Father, we come asking your forgiveness.

Forgive us when we use our power for our own gain. We are sorry for acting like we can save ourselves and break our commitment to you. Forgive us when we become confused and misguided. Help us to become like little children who experience your grace and rely on your power. Through Jesus Christ, who is the way, the truth and the life. Amen.

The Time of Silence – concluded with singing:

O for a closer walk with God, a calm and heavenly frame, a light to shine upon the road that leads me to the Lamb!

The dearest idol I have known, whate'er that idol be, help me to tear it from thy throne and worship only thee.

The Assurance of Forgiveness: Romans 8:1,2; 10:9

*The Hymn of Commitment: Lift Up Your Hearts 659:1,2,4

“Nearer, Still Nearer”

We Celebrate God's Covenant Faithfulness

The Promises of Baptism (8:40)

The Baptismal Vows of Parents and Congregation (8:40)

Owen William Elzinga, son of Aaron and Kate Elzinga

Prayer Partner: Kristin Ponstein

*The Response: Lift Up Your Hearts 804 (8:40)

“Child of Blessing, Child of Promise”

The Profession of Faith: **Eli Walcott** (11:00)

The Response: Lift Up Your Hearts 348 (11:00)

(refrain sung only after last stanza)

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

The Children's Message

The Pastoral Prayer

The Anthem: “The Lowest Place”

Paul S. Jones

Give me the lowest place, not that I dare ask for that lowest place. But thou has died that I might live, and share thy glory by thy side.

Give me the lowest place, but if for me that lowest place too high, make one more low where I may sit and see my God, and love thee so.

God Speaks to Us

The Scripture: Genesis 16:1-16

The Sermon: **“MODERN DAY IDOLS: THE IDOL OF POWER”**

The Prayer for a Blessing on the Word

We Go in His Peace

*The Closing Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 626

“Cast Down, O God, the Idols”

*The Benediction

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

*The Organ Amen

*The Silent Prayer and Carillon Bells

*The Postlude: “O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High”

Percy Whitlock

“For us to evil power betrayed . . . he bore the shameful cross and death; for us gave up his dying breath.”

Offering plates are located at the Sanctuary exits. Thank you for your continued support of our ministries.

Rev. Peter Jonker – minister

Pastor Bob Grussing – liturgist

Dr. Larry Visser – organist, pianist

Rene Baatenburg – flutist

Karel de Waal Malefyt – vocalist

Rachel Rynbrandt and Rev. Peter Jonker – Cross & Bible Bearers (8:40)

Merv Kamper and Rev. Peter Jonker – Cross & Bible Bearers (11:00)

Music at LaGrave:

One of the finest poets of the Victorian age, London-born Christina Rossetti wrote romantic, devotional, and children's

poetry. In sacred circles, she is remembered for two Christmas carols, *In the Bleak Midwinter* and *Love Came Down at Christmas*. Her prayer *The Lowest Place* echoes Philippians 2:3-11 and calls us to Christ-like humility and lowliness. Composer Paul S. Jones paints the text by assigning low notes for the text “the lowest place,” and a high note for the text “too high.”

The March special offering is for **God’s Kitchen** which is part of Catholic Charities under the Diocese of Grand Rapids. They provide noontime meals, serving people in downtown Grand Rapids, as well as six sponsored sites throughout West Michigan.

Banners: Purple is the color for the liturgical season of Lent. It symbolizes the suffering and sorrow of Jesus as he journeys to the cross. It also symbolizes the suffering of humanity and the world broken by sin. For Christians, this is a time for self-examination, repentance, and renewal. In sorrow we confess our sins and call on God, in Christ, to save us.

This evening, Rev. Peter Jonker will preach on 1 Corinthians 8:1-13. His sermon is entitled, “Love and Knowledge.”

Livestreaming worship is available at lagrave.org.