

November 28, 2021

First Sunday of Advent

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 AM & 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:

“Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying” Paul Manz, Robert Hobby

The Chiming of the Hour

The Introit:

“Blessed Be the God of Israel” (8:40)

Blessed be the God of Israel, who comes to set us free and raises up new hope for us: a branch from David's tree. So have the prophets long declared that with a mighty arm God would turn back our enemies and all who wish us harm.

With promised mercy will God still the covenant recall, the oath once sworn to Abraham, from foes to save us all, that we might worship without fear and offer lives of praise, in holiness and righteousness to serve God all our days.

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“Blest Be the God of Israel” (11:00)

Blest be the God of Israel, who comes to set us free; who visits and redeems us and grants us liberty. The prophets spoke of mercy, of freedom and release; God shall fulfill the promise and bring the people peace.

Now from the house of David a child of grace is given; a Savior comes among us to raise us up to heaven. Before him goes the herald, forerunner in the way, the prophet of salvation, the harbinger of Day.

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*The Processional Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 61:1,4-6

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

*The Greeting

*The People's Response: Amen.

The Welcome

We Humbly Approach Our God

The Call to Confession

The Reading: Isaiah 60:1-2

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you.

See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the Lord rises upon you and his glory appears over you.

The Lighting of the Candle:

We light this candle to proclaim the coming of the light of God into the world.

With the coming of this light there is hope.

Because of Christ we not only have hope,

but we believe that good is stronger than evil.

God calls us to work for good in this world.

(Light one candle in the wreath.)

The Sung Response:

Come Thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free; from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.

LUYH 56:1

The Prayer of Confession: *(prayer begins with silence)*

Merciful God,

who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation:

Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins. We confess that hope is easy to let go of. We carry anger and fear in the midst of darkness. Grant us hope as we wait for the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.

The Assurance of Forgiveness: Isaiah 40:1-2

The Hymn of Commitment: Lift Up Your Hearts 60

“Hark, the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes”

*The Confession: The 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.

*The Doxology

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.

The Children's Message

The Pastoral Prayer

The Anthem:

“All Earth Is Hopeful” (8:40)

Alberto Taulé arr. James E. Bobb

Toda la tierra espera al Salvador y el surco abierto, la obra del Señor; es el mundo que lucha por la libertad, reclama justicia y busca la verdad.

All earth is hopeful; the Savior comes at last! Furrows lie open for God's creative task: this, the labor of people who struggle to see how God's truth and justice set everybody free.

People of Israel, you heard the prophet tell: “A virgin mother will bear Emmanuel”: she conceived him, “God with us,” our brother, whose birth restores hope and courage to children of this earth.

Mountain, hill, and valley will have to be prepared; for God is near, new highways opened, new protocols declared. Almost here! God is nearing, in beauty and grace! All clear every gateway, in haste, come out in haste!

We first saw Jesus a baby in a crib. This same Lord Jesus today has come to live in our world; he is present, in neighbors we see our Jesus is with us, and ever sets us free.

Alberto Taulé tr. Madeleine Forell Marshall, b. 1946 Spanish text © 1993; English text © 1995;
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“Long Ago, Prophets Knew” (11:00) arr. Lloyd Larson

Long ago, prophets knew Christ would come, born a Jew, come to make all things new, bear his people’s burden, freely love and pardon.

God in time, God in man, this is God’s timeless plan: he will come, as a man, born himself of woman, God divinely human. Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring! Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing! When he comes, when he comes, who will make him welcome?

Mary, hail! Though afraid, she believed, and she obeyed. In her womb, God is laid till the time expected, nurtured and protected. Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring! Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing! When he comes, who will make him welcome?

Journey ends! Where afar Bethlehem shines, like a star, stable door stands ajar; unborn Son of Mary, Savior, do not tarry! Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring! Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing! When he comes, who will make him welcome? We will make him welcome!

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God Speaks to Us

The Scripture: Matthew 1:1-17

The Sermon: **“PREPARING THE WAY: MATTHEW”**

The Prayer for a Blessing on the Word

We Respond with Praise

*The Closing Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 109

“Hail to the Lord’s Anointed”

*The Benediction

*The People’s Response: **Amen.**

*The Choral Amen (8:40)

*The Organ Amen (11:00)

*The Silent Prayer and Carillon Bells

*The Postlude:

Toccata on *“Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding”*

James Biery

Rev. Peter Jonker – minister

Erin Alley – liturgist

Dr. Larry Visser – organist

Chancel Choir Men, Dr. James Borst – director (8:40)

Glenda Buteyn, Ben VanHouten – vocalists (11:00)

Fletcher Family (8:40) Hollenbach Family (11:00) – candle lighters

Dee DeKryger and Rev. Peter Jonker – Cross and Bible Bearers (8:40)

Marlene Padding and Rev. Peter Jonker – Cross and Bible Bearers (11:00)

Music at LaGrave: (8:40)

St.Olaf College organ professor James E. Bobb composed a choral arrangement of Spanish composer Alberto Taulé’s joyful hymn *All Earth Is Hopeful* for the 2015 St. Olaf Christmas Festival. Taulé was a Roman Catholic priest and musician. With references to Isaiah 40:3-4, the text recounts the hopeful vision of the Savior’s coming and God’s truth and justice which set us free. The anthem makes use of both the Spanish and English languages.

The banners and parament reflect the message from Isaiah 9:6, “The people walking in darkness have seen a great light.” In Advent we celebrate the coming of Jesus Christ. Jesus breaks through the world’s darkness with his glory bringing us the light of salvation.

The November Special Offering is for **World Renew**: Over the last decade, World Renew supporters have met the needs of 6 million disaster survivors, providing more than immediate relief. In order to help alleviate suffering in Haiti our contributions will be designated for Disaster Response.

There is **no worship service this evening.**

Livestreaming worship is available at lagrave.org/live