

**April 24, 2022**

*GEMS 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**

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

***God Calls Us to Worship***

The Prelude:

“Alleluia, Alleluia, Give Thanks to the Risen Lord”

Aaron David Miller

“Partita on *This Joyful Eastertide*”

Paul Bouman

The Chiming of the Hour

The Introit: (8:40)

“This Joyful Eastertide”

*This joyful Eastertide, away with sin and sadness! Our Lord, the crucified, has filled our hearts with gladness. Had Christ, who once was slain, not burst his three-day prison, our faith would be in vain. But now has Christ arisen.*

The Introit: (11:00)

“Firm Foundation”

Nancy Gordon, Jamie Harvill

*Refrain:*

*Jesus, you're my firm foundation, I know I can stand secure; Jesus, you're my firm foundation, I put my hope in your holy Word.*

*I have a living hope, I have a future; God has a plan for me, of this I'm sure. (Refrain)*

*Your Word is faithful, mighty in power; God will deliver me, of this I'm sure. (Refrain)*

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\*The Processional Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 191

“Praise the Savior, Now and Ever”

\*The Greeting

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

The Welcome

***Jesus Calls Us to Walk with Him***

The GEMS Litany:

Leader: In John 16:33 Jesus said, “In this world you will have trouble.” We don't have to look very far for very long to see the troubles that are shaking our world. But when we turn our eyes from our troubles to the truth of who God is and his unbreakable promises, everything changes.

GEMS Girl: God is who he says he is. It's his unbreakable promise to us.

GEMS: God is unshakeable.

**All: Truly he is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress, I will never be shaken (Psalm 62:2).**

GEMS Girl: We are who God says we are. It's his unbreakable promise to us.

GEMS: God promises you are loved.

**ALL: See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God (1 John 3:1).**

GEMS: God promises you are not alone.

**ALL: Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you (Deut. 31:6).**

GEMS: God promises you are strong.

**ALL: In our concerns, circumstances, and contentment in this shaking world, we can do all things through God who gives us strength (Philippians 4:13).**

GEMS: God promises you are forgiven.

**ALL: If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9).**

GEMS: God promises you are a world changer.

**ALL: He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly, and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God (Micah 6:8).**

Leader: Thanks be to God for all His unbreakable, unshakeable promises to each one of us. Go tell a girl and go tell the world. In Christ, we will not be shaken.

\*The Hymn of Commitment: Lift Up Your Hearts 427:1-3,5  
“How Firm a Foundation”

The Ministry Moment: Judy Eppinga (8:40)

Pat Trathen (11:00)

The Children's Message: Tina Rooks

The Pastoral Prayer

The Anthem: (8:40)

“I'm Shouting and Laughing for Joy” from *Cantata No. 15*

J.S. Bach, arr. Doreen Rao

*I'm shouting and laughing, I'm shouting for joy. Away now with sorrow and crying, for evil is gone! I'm shouting and laughing, I'm shouting for evil is gone! The power of evil is vanished away. Forever rejoicing with thanks we pray.*

English translation: Doreen Rao

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The Anthem: (11:00)

“Cornerstone”

Jonas Myrin, Reuben Morgan, Eric Liljero, William Batchelder Bradbury

*My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness. I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly trust in Jesus' name.*

*Refrain:*

*Christ alone. Cornerstone. Weak made strong in the Savior's love. Through the storm, he is Lord. Lord of all.*

*When darkness seems to hide his face, I rest on his unchanging grace. In every high and stormy gale, my anchor holds within the veil. (Refrain)*

*When he shall come with trumpet sound, oh, may I then in him be found. Dressed in his righteousness alone, faultless stand before the throne. (Refrain)*

Words and Music by Jonas Myrin, Reuben Morgan, Eric Liljero, William Batchelder Bradbury  
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The Offertory:

“How Can I Keep from Singing?”

Benjamin Culli

No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that Rock I'm clinging. Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?

The Offering

\*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.**

### *God Speaks to Us*

The Scripture: Psalm 62

The Sermon: **“SOUL FORTRESS”**

The Prayer for a Blessing on the Word

\*The Closing Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 770  
“In Christ Alone”

\*The Benediction

\*The People’s Response: **Amen**

\*The Choral Amen (8:40)

\*The Choral Benediction (11:00)

“We Receive Your Blessing”

Grace & Natasha Moes

*We receive your blessing, we receive your grace, as we walk in the light shining from your face. May the peace that you give change the way that we live. We receive your blessing as we leave this place.*

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow. Praise him, all creatures here below. Praise him above, you heavenly hosts. Praise Father,*

*Son, and praise the Holy Ghost.* Words and Music by Grace & Natasha Moes

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\*The Silent Prayer and Carillon Bells

\*The Postlude:

“On Christ the Solid Rock I Stand”

Michael Burkhardt

On Christ, the solid rock, I stand, all other ground is sinking sand.

Rev. Peter Jonker – minister

Pastor Bob Grussing – liturgist

Dr. Larry Visser – organist

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

GEMS Chorus (11:00)

Jess Hollenbach – accompanist (11:00)

Julia Fletcher – liturgical dance (11:00)

Celine Alcumbrack, Hannah VandeGriend – GEMS Readers (11:00)

Avery Walcott and Rev. Peter Jonker – Cross and Bible Bearers (8:40)

Heidi Brandt and Rev. Peter Jonker – Cross and Bible Bearers (11:00)

### **Music at LaGrave (8:40)**

Part of J. S. Bach’s illustrious career was spent as music director of two Leipzig Lutheran churches simultaneously. During this time, he was responsible for composing a cantata each week to be included in the worship service. Some 200 cantatas survive, with several dozen that are lost. *I’m Shouting and Laughing for Joy* is a duet from Cantata 15. The English text is only a rough translation of the original German. There are two musical themes: a joyous theme with leaping intervals mimicking “shouting and laughing for joy” and a descending chromatic theme portraying “away with sorrow.”

The flowers on the chancel today are given in prayerful and loving support of the Ukrainian people.

**The April special offering is for Family Promise of Grand Rapids.**

**This evening, Reverend Peter Jonker** will be leading worship. His sermon is entitled “Holy War” and he will be using Revelation 11:15-19.

Livestreaming worship is available at [lagrave.org/live](http://lagrave.org/live)