

**May 15, 2022**

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:

“By the Waters of Babylon”  
“Largo, from *Xerxes*”

J.S. Bach  
G.F. Handel

The Chiming of the Hour

The Introit: (8:40)

“Wisdom Calls”

*At the crossroads of decision wisdom calls to all and each: “Come, my children, learn and listen—heed the ways I seek to teach.” Conscious thoughts or intuition frame her words of grace and peace: “Choose the pathway of the Lord.”*

*On the ash heap of disaster “Where is God?” we cry and weep. Friends are false and faith uncertain; Wisdom seems beyond our reach. Still she whispers from the whirlwind of our pain and of our grief: “Trust the goodness of the Lord.”*

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The Introit: (11:00)

“I Will Sing of the Mercies of the Lord”

*I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever, I will sing. I will sing of the mercies of the Lord. With my mouth I will make known your faithfulness to all generations.*

\*The Processional Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 187

“Thine Is the Glory”

\*The Greeting—concluded by the minister saying  
“Christ is risen!”

\*The People's Response: **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

The Welcome

### ***We Humbly Approach Our God***

The Call to Confession: Romans 6:4,11,12a

The Prayer of Confession:

**We confess, Father, that sin is alive in our lives. We confess that instead of being different from those who do not know you, we often look the same and do not live the new life to which you call us. Fill us with your Spirit and help us die to the power of sin and become alive to you in Christ. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

The Assurance of Forgiveness: Romans 6:23; 8:1

\*The Hymn of Commitment: ***Worship & Rejoice 360***

“What the Lord Has Done in Me”

### ***We Celebrate God's Covenant Promises***

The Explanation of Baptism

The Vows

The Baptism:

**Harriet Julie Rietema**, daughter of David and Jennifer Rietema (8:40)

Prayer Partner: Dee Ewearitt  
**Abraham Alan Rietema**, son of David and Jennifer Rietema (8:40)

Prayer Partner: Dee Ewearitt  
**James Raymond VandenBerg**, son of Eric and Amy VandenBerg (11:00)

Prayer Partner: Marilyn Kortman

The Response: Lift Up Your Hearts 859: 1,2

“Be Thou My Vision”

The Baptismal Blessing

The Response: Lift Up Your Hearts 859: 3

“Be Thou My Vision”

### ***We Respond with Thanksgiving***

The Pastoral Prayer

The Anthem:

“Peace Like a River” (8:40) arr. Donald Moore  
*I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river in my soul. In my heart is playing a sweet melody. I've got joy, sweet joy, I've got joy in my soul. In my heart is ringing a sweet melody. I've got love like a river, I've got love like a river in my soul. I've got peace like a river in my soul. Alleluia!*

“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing” (11:00) Leo Nestor  
*Come, thou Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace; streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise. Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above. Praise the mount, I'm fixed upon it, mount of thy redeeming love.*

*Here I raise my Ebenezer: hither by thy grace I've come; and I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home. Jesus sought me while a sinner, wandering from the fold of God. He, to rescue me from danger, interspersed his precious blood.*

*O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be! Let thy goodness, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee. Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love. Here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for thy courts above.*

*O that day when freed from sinning, I shall see thy lovely face; clothed then in blood-washed linen, how I'll sing thy sovereign grace. Come, Lord, do not tarry, take my soul away! Send thine angels now to carry me to realms of endless day. Amen.*

The Offertory: Precious Jewels

Raymond H. Haan

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: Esther 3:1-11 (pg.774)

The Sermon: **“THE CASTING OF THE PUR”**

The Prayer for a Blessing on the Word

*We Go in His Peace*

\*The Hymn of Response: Lift Up Your Hearts 440  
“He Leadeth Me”  
*sing stanza 3 a cappella*

\*The Benediction

\*The People’s Response: **Amen.**

\*The Organ Amen (8:40)

\*The Choral Amen (11:00)

\*The Silent Prayer and Carillon Bells

\*The Postlude:  
“Sortie, from *L’Organiste*” César Franck

Rev. Peter Jonker – minister  
Pastor Bob Grussing – liturgist  
Dr. Larry Visser – organist, pianist  
High School Choir, Renee Vande Wege – director (8:40)  
Jess Hollenbach – pianist  
Chancel Choir, Dr. James Borst – director (11:00)  
Joellah Bouwman and Rev. Peter Jonker – Cross and Bible Bearers (8:40)  
Albert Doorn and Rev. Peter Jonker – Cross and Bible Bearers (11:00)

**The liturgical season of Easter** is the fifty days from Easter to Pentecost. The white, gold, and crystals used in the paraments and banners reflect the glory of the resurrection. Jesus Christ has won the victory over sin and death! Alleluia!

**Music at LaGrave (11:00)**

Leo Nestor (b. 1948) is currently a music professor at The Catholic University of American in Washington, DC. The National City Christian Church in Washington, DC commissioned Nestor to compose a choral triptych of three American hymn tunes in 2002. The third movement in the triptych is a large-scale setting of the hymn *Come, Thou Fount* in which the organ plays a major role. The anthem

includes a fourth stanza not printed in most hymnals, and concludes with a powerful and soaring six-fold Amen.

The flowers on the chancel today are placed by **Curt and Ruth Witte** in loving memory of **Rev. Wilmer and Ruth Witte** and their daughter **Gayla**. Those who have shown us the way have made it so much easier for all of us, for which we are eternally grateful. Thanks be to God!

**The May Special Offering** is for **Safe Haven Ministries**. **Safe Haven Ministries** is a Christ centered ministry, helping prevent and end relationship abuse. Residential and non-residential services are available to individuals and families who have experienced or who are experiencing domestic abuse, human trafficking, and exploitation.

**This evening, Reverend Peter Jonker** will be leading us in worship.

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