

March 19, 2023

Fourth 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:

“Adagio for Strings”

Samuel Barber; arr. William Strickland

“Ah, Holy Jesus, How Have You Offended”

Johann Crüger, G. Winston Cassler

The Chiming of the Hour

The Introit:

“How Deep the Father's Love for Us” (8:40)

Stuart Townend

How deep the Father' love for us, how vast beyond all measure, that he should give his only Son to make a wretch his treasure. How great the pain of searing loss; the Father turns his face away, as wounds which mar the Chosen One bring many sons to glory.

I will not boast in anything, no gifts, no power, no wisdom; but I will boast in Jesus Christ, his death and resurrection. Why should I gain from his reward? I cannot give an answer. But this I know with all my heart: his wounds have paid my ransom.

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“I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say” (11:00)

I heard the voice of Jesus say, “Come unto me and rest; lay down, O weary one, lay down your head upon my breast.” I came to Jesus as I was, so weary, worn and sad; I found in him a resting place, and he has made me glad.

*The Processional Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 153:1,3-5

“Great God, Your Love Has Called Us Here”

(sung to the tune MELITA, Creator Spirit, by Whose Aid)

*The Greeting

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

The Welcome

We Humbly Approach God

The Call to Confession: Matthew 22:37-40

The Prayer of Confession:

Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have failed to do. We have not loved you with our whole heart, mind or strength. We have not loved our neighbors as much as we love ourselves. In your mercy, forgive what we have been, help us change what we are, and direct what we shall be. Help us delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

A time of silent confession concluded by singing:

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.

Worship & Rejoice 252:1,4

The Assurance of Forgiveness: Luke 15:3-6

*The Hymn of Commitment: Lift Up Your Hearts 624

“Not What My Hands Have Done”

stanza 2 a cappella

We Respond with Thanksgiving

The Children's Message

The Anthem:

“Just as I Am” (11:00)

K. Lee Scott

Just as I am without one plea but that thy blood was shed for me, and that thou biddest me come to thee, O Lamb of God, I come.

Just as I am, though tossed about with many a conflict, many a doubt, fightings and fears within, without, O Lamb of God, I come.

Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind; sight, riches, healing of the mind, yea, all I need, in thee to find, O Lamb of God, I come.

Just as I am, thou wilt receive, wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve; because thy promise I believe, O Lamb of God, I come.

Just as I am, thy love unknown has broken every barrier down; now to be thine, yea, thine alone, O Lamb of God, I come.

Just as I am, of thy great love the breadth, length, height and depth to prove, here for a season, then above: O Lamb of God, I come.

The Pastoral Prayer

The Anthem:

“Wondrous Love” (8:40)

Michael Larkin

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dreadful curse for my soul. To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing; to God and to the Lamb I will sing; to God and to the Lamb, who is the great I AM, while millions join the theme, I will sing. And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on, and when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be, and through eternity I'll sing on.

The Offering

The Offertory:

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

C. Hubert H. Parry

*The Doxology

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly hosts;
praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

God Speaks to Us

The Scripture: 1 Samuel 4:12-22 (p.421)

The Sermon: **“FAILURES AND FAITHFULNESS:
THE FALL OF ELI”**

The Prayer for a Blessing on the Word

We Go in His Peace

*The Closing Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 618:1-3,5
“Spirit of God, Who Dwells Within My Heart”

*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:
“Christ, the Light of All the Living” Jacobus Kloppers
“Thousand, thousand thanks are due, dearest Jesus, unto you.”

Rev. Peter Jonker – minister
Pastor Bob Grussing – liturgist
Dr. Larry Visser – organist, pianist
Renee Vande Wege – vocalist (8:40)
Chancel Choir, Dr. James Borst – director (11:00)
Chad Boorsma and Noah Batts – Cross and Bible Bearers (8:40)
Becca and Hannah VandeGriend – Cross and Bible Bearers (11:00)

Purple is the color used throughout the liturgical season of Lent. It symbolizes the suffering and sorrow of Jesus’ journey to the cross. It also symbolizes the suffering of humanity and a world broken by sin. For believers, it is a time of self-examination, repentance, and renewal. In sorrow we confess our sins to God, in Christ, seeking forgiveness and redemption.

Music at LaGrave (11:00)

At age 32, Londoner and portrait artist Charlotte Elliott (1789-1871) suffered a severe illness that left her a semi-invalid for life. She went through a spiritual crisis and depression. Upon a visit by a famous Swiss minister, César Malan, Elliott confessed she didn’t know how to come to Christ. He answered, “Come to him just as you are.” Twelve years later, she wrote the text *Just As I Am*. She went on to write 150 hymns, a means to cope with her pain and

depression. K. Lee Scott’s choral arrangement is a fresh new take on Elliott’s text.

The flowers on the chancel today are in memory of **Gerald Steele**, remembered with love by **The Steele and Doezema Family**.

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

This evening, Chad Boorsma will lead us in worship. The sermon is entitled “Available and Vulnerable” and is based on John 13:1-17.

Livestreaming worship is available at lagrave.org/live