

May 21, 2023

Ascension 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:

“Variations on “CORONATION” (All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name)”

Claude Bos

“Bring forth the royal diadem, and crown him Lord of all!”

The Chiming of the Hour

The Introit:

“Clap Your Hands”

Jimmy Owens

*Clap your hands, all you people; shout unto God with a voice of triumph!
Clap your hands, all you people; shout unto God with a voice of praise!
Hosanna! Hosanna! Shout unto God with a voice of triumph!
Praise him! Praise him! Shout unto God with a voice of praise!*

*Clap your hands, all you people; Christ has ascended into heaven!
Clap your hands, all you people; Christ has ascended with shouts of joy!
Hosanna! Hosanna! Christ has ascended into heaven!
Praise him! Praise him! Christ has ascended with shouts of joy!*

Words: stanza 1, Psalm 47:1, paraphrase by Jimmy Owens, 1972; stanza 2, Bert Polman, 1991 © 1972, Bud John Songs (Admin. by The Sparrow Corporation). All Rights reserved. Used with permission under CCLI #461624

*The Processional Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 219

“Jesus Shall Reign”

*The Greeting – concluded by the minister saying...

“Christ is risen!”

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

The Welcome

The Installation of Officebearer (11:00)

Elder: Marc Hoeksema

We Humbly Approach God

The Call to Confession: Philippians 2:1-11

The Prayer of Confession:

Merciful God, we come confessing. You gave us the example of Christ who made himself nothing, humbling himself for our sake. But we often operate from a position of selfish ambition and conceit, lacking the humility to count others as more significant than ourselves. We look to our own interests and not to the interests of others. O Lord, give us the mind of Christ—that in humble service we may someday share in his exaltation. May we know what it is to be emptied of self and to wholly love. Through the power of our ascended Lord, by whom we live and move and have our being, we pray, Amen.

The Assurance of Forgiveness: from Jude v. 24

*The Hymn of Commitment: Lift Up Your Hearts 220:1,3,4,5

“At the Name of Jesus”

We Celebrate God's Covenant Promises (8:40)

The Meaning of Baptism

The Vows

The Baptism:

Rhys Walter Bowden, son of Reed & Kirsten Bowden

Prayer Partner: Marge Penning

The Blessing

The Response: Lift Up Your Hearts 543:1,3

“Now Thank We All Our God”

We Respond with Thanksgiving

The Children's Message

The Anthem:

“Come, Let Us Sing”

Jody W. Lindh

Come, let us sing to the Lord, make a joyful noise to the God of our salvation. Come, let us sing to the Lord, make a joyful noise with songs of praise! Sing to the Lord a new song! Sing to the Lord everyone! Sing to the Lord, bless the name! Tell what God has done! Come, let us sing to the Lord, make a joyful noise to the God of our salvation. Come, let us sing to the Lord, make a joyful noise with songs of praise! Sing to the Lord, lift up your voice! Praises all around! Sing to the Lord with all your heart! Make a joyful sound! Come, let us sing to the Lord, make a joyful noise to the God of our salvation. Come, let us sing to the Lord, make a joyful noise with songs of praise! Come, let us sing!

From Psalms 95 and 96

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The Pastoral Prayer

The Offering

The Offertory Anthem:

“Up through Endless Ranks of Angels”

Walter L. Pelz

Up through endless ranks of angels, cries of triumph in his ears, to his heavenly throne ascending, having vanquished all their fears, Christ looks down upon his faithful, leaving them in happy tears.

Death destroying, life restoring, proven equal to our need, now for us before the Father as our Brother intercedes; flesh that for our world was wounded, living, for the wounded pleads.

To our lives of wanton wandering send our promised Spirit guide. Through our lives of fears and failure with your power and love abide. Welcome us as you were welcomed to an endless Eastertide.

Alleluia! Alleluia! O to breathe the Spirit's grace! Alleluia! Alleluia! O to see the Father's face! Alleluia! Alleluia! O to feel the Son's embrace! Amen!

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*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: Revelation 11:1-14 (p.1924)

The Sermon: “**THE TWO COURTYARDS OF
THE TEMPLE**”

The Prayer for a Blessing on the Word

God Sends Us Out

*The Closing Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 224
“Rejoice, The Lord is King”

*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
“At the Name of Jesus” David Cherwien

Rev. Peter Jonker – minister

Erin Alley – liturgist

Dr. Larry Visser – organist

Combined Choirs: Chancel Choir, 7-12 Choir, 3-6 Choir,

Dr. James Borst – director

Dan and Linda Slotsema – Cross and Bible Bearers (8:40)

Marlene Padding and Merv Kamper – Cross and Bible Bearers (11:00)

Music at LaGrave

This morning’s prelude is based on the Ascension hymn *All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name* and was composed by LaGrave member Claude Bos. The piece displays the pipe organ’s many different colors of sound. Our combined choirs sing an anthem of praise to the reigning Christ with text from Psalms 95 & 96. This piece was dedicated to Helen Kemp (1918-2015), the luminary children’s choir director, author, clinician, and co-founder of the Choristers Guild of America.

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 **In The Image**. In The Image is a free store serving thousands of individuals and families by offering clothing, shoes, household goods, bedding, furniture, toys, etc. The S.H.O.E.S. Program provides a new pair of back-to-school athletic shoes for free to elementary students in need.

This evening, Chad Boorsma will preach from Luke 17:11-19 and his message is entitled “Far-Reaching”. We will also spend time in prayer for the persecuted church.

Livestreaming worship is available at lagrave.org/live