February 18, 2024

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.

EVENING WORSHIP 6:00 PM

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

The Prelude:

"Meditation on If You But Trust in God to Guide You"

Franklin D. Ashdown

"Aria"

Paul Manz

The Chiming of the Hour

*The Call to Worship

*The Opening Hymn: <u>Lift Up Your Hearts 507</u> "How Lovely Is Your Dwelling"

*The Greeting

*The People's Response: Amen.

The Welcome

The Reading: Revelation 11:1-12

The Hymn: <u>Lift Up Your Hearts 331</u> "To the Hills I Lift My Eyes"

*The Confession:

What do you believe concerning "the holy catholic church"? I believe that the Son of God through his Spirit and Word, out of the entire human race, from the beginning of the world to its end, gathers, protects, and preserves for himself a community chosen for eternal life

and united in true faith. And of this community I am and always will be a living member.

What do you understand by "the communion of saints"? First, that believers one and all, as members of this community, share in Christ and in all his treasures and gifts. Second, that each member should consider it a duty to use these gifts readily and joyfully for the service and enrichment of the other members.

What do you believe concerning "the forgiveness of sins"? I believe that God, because of Christ's satisfaction, will no longer remember any of my sins or my sinful nature which I need to struggle against my whole life. Rather, by grace God grants me the righteousness of Christ to free me forever from judgment.

Heidelberg Catechism Q&A 54, 55 & 56

*The Hymn: <u>Lift Up Your Hearts 688</u> "How Vast the Benefits Divine"

The Pastoral Prayer

Prayer concluded by singing:

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me; Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me. Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Spirit of the living God, move among us all; make us one in heart and mind, make us one in love; humble, caring, selfless, sharing. Spirit of the living God, fill our lives with love.

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The Scripture: Zechariah 4

The Sermon: "THE TREES, THE LAMPSTANDS
AND THE POWER OF GOD"

The Prayer for Blessing on the Word

*The Hymn: <u>Lift Up Your Hearts 695:1,3,4</u> "And Can It Be"

*The Benediction

*The People's Response: Amen.

*The Organ Amen

*The Silent Prayer and Carillon Bells

*The Postlude:

"O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High"
[quoting "Rondeau" by Henry Purcell]

Benjamin Culli

Offering plates are located at the Sanctuary exits. Thank you for your continued support of our ministries.

> Rev. Reggie Smith – guest minister Norma de Waal Malefyt – organist

The liturgical season of Lent is the time from Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday. The sackcloth permeated with ashes against the royal purple cloth symbolize the suffering and sorrow that Jesus the King bore for the sin in our broken world and our own lives. And it reminds us of our need for humble self-examination and sorrowful repentance before God.

The flowers on the chancel today are given in loving memory of Janice Versluis, whose birthday would have been this week, February 21. The David Versluis Family

The February special offering is for The Bridge. The Bridge is part of Arbor Circle, which offers emergency shelter for youths, and additional counseling for youths and their families.

Livestreaming worship is available at <u>lagrave.org/live</u>