

March 3, 2024

Third 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:

“Andante”

Giulio Caccini

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

Catherine McMichael

“O Sacred Head, Now Wounded”

Catherine McMichael

The Chiming of the Hour

The Introit:

“As the Winter Days Grow Longer” (8:40)

As the winter days grow longer, drawing short the hours of night; as our eager expectation waits for Easter's dawning light—yearning people, here we gather, turning watchful eyes to you: God who blesses earth with springtime, shine within our world anew!

As we journey through this season, pilgrims through a thirsty land, quench us with your living presence; guide us with your loving hand. Wandering people, here we gather, called to rest along our way. God who blesses earth with springtime, grant us Sabbath joy this day!

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“God Is So Good” (11:00)

God is good, he's so good to me.

I praise his name, he's so good to me.

He died for me, he's so good to me.

*The Processional Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 137

“Christ, the Life of All the Living”

*The Greeting

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

The Welcome

We Humbly Approach God

The Call to Confession: Isaiah 53:6

“Come to the Savior Now”

**Come to the Savior now, all who have wandered far:
renew your solemn vow, for his by right you are;
come like poor, wandering sheep returning to his fold;
his arm will safely keep, his love will ne'er grow cold.**

The Prayer of Confession

Good shepherd, we have indeed wandered far. We get caught up in our suffering and become disoriented to your work in the world. When sorrow bows our head, gently lift it upward. When suffering renders us speechless, remind us that your Spirit is interceding for us. In your mercy, give us eyes to see the suffering and sorrow around us, that we may meet others with compassion and intercede on their behalf. In the name of Jesus, our suffering Savior, we pray. Amen.

The Assurance of Pardon: based on Isaiah 53:3-5

Jesus was a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief.

**Surely he has borne our griefs
and carried our sorrows;**

yet we esteemed him stricken,
smitten by God, and afflicted.

**But he was pierced for our transgressions,
he was crushed for our iniquities;**

the punishment that brought us peace was on him,
and by his wounds we are healed.

*The Hymn of Commitment: Lift Up Your Hearts 309:1,3,4,5

“The Servant Song”

We Celebrate God's Promises

The Baptismal Promises

The Baptismal Vows

The Vows for Profession of Faith (8:40)

Luke Bosscher

Mark Bosscher

Laura Bosscher

The Baptism (8:40) of **John Kenneth Bosscher**, son of

Luke & Lora Bosscher

Prayer Partners: Ryan & Emily VandenHeuvel

The Baptism (8:40) of **Sadie Ruth Bosscher**, daughter of

Mark & Laura Bosscher

Prayer Partner: Jamie VanHekken

The Baptism (11:00) of **Caroline Hakes & Penelope Hakes**,

daughters of Austin & Amanda Hakes

Prayer Partners: Dean & Tina Rooks

*Children are invited to come forward for the baptisms,
and leave during the song of response*

The Baptismal Blessing

The Hymn of Response: Lift Up Your Hearts 709:1,2

“Jesus Loves Me”

The Celebration of Table Fellowship (11:00)

Liam Broene

Caroline Hakes

Penelope Hakes

Amelia Manion

Julia Plantinga

Shelby Trickey

The Hymn of Response: Lift Up Your Hearts 709:3 (11:00)

“Jesus Loves Me”

We Respond with Thanksgiving

The Pastoral Prayer

The Anthem:

“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty” (8:40)

Kevin McChesney

“Alas! And Did my Savior Bleed?” (11:00)

Nick Strimple

Alas! and did my Savior bleed, and did my Sovereign die? Would he devote that sacred head for sinners such as I?

Was it for sins that I have done, he groaned upon the tree? Amazing pity! Grace unknown! And love beyond degree!

Well might the sun in darkness hide, and shut his glories in, when Christ, the mighty Maker, died for man the creature's sin.

Thus might I hide my blushing face while his dear cross appears; dissolve my heart in thankfulness, and melt mine eyes to tears.

But drops of grief can ne'er repay the debt of love I owe: here, Lord, I give myself away; 'is all that I can do.

The Offertory:

“What Wondrous Love Is This”

Catherine McMichael

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: Hosea 11:1-11, Luke 19:41-44,
Romans 8:26-27 (p.1412)

The Sermon: “**MAN OF SORROWS:
THE SUFFERING OF GOD**”

The Prayer for a Blessing on the Word

*The Closing Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 684:1,2,4,6
“There in God’s Garden”

*The Benediction

*The People’s Response: **Amen.**

*The Choral Response

*The Silent Prayer and Carillon Bells

*The Postlude:

“Christ, the Life of All the Living”

Jacobus Kloppers

Rev. Peter Jonker – minister
Erin Alley – liturgist
Dr. Larry Visser – organist, pianist
Bennett Snapper – violin
Ethan Snapper – cello

Jess Hollenbach – vocalist (8:40)
Bells Gloria, Dr. Rob Hobgood – director (8:40)
4-year-old-2nd Grade Choir, Jess Hollenbach – director (11:00)
Preston Hollenbach – guitar
Chancel Choir, Dr. Rob Hobgood – director (11:00)
Avery & Nolan Walcott – Cross and Bible Bearers (8:40)
Olivia & Celine Alcumbrack – Cross and Bible Bearers (11:00)

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.

Music at LaGrave (11:00)

Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed is among the more than 750 hymns penned by English Congregational minister Isaac Watts (1674-1748). Known as the “Father of English hymnody,” Watts was the first to write hymn texts rather than Scriptural paraphrases from the Psalms. Hearing the line “Here, Lord, I give myself away” sung at a revival, blind hymn writer Fanny Crosby gave her life to Christ. The occasional dissonance in Nick Strimple’s choral anthem perhaps symbolizes the sharp suffering of Christ on the cross.

The March special offering is for **Mel Trotter Ministries**. Mel Trotter Ministries provides shelter for individuals and families with services including: meals, emergency shelter, transitional housing assistance, case management.

This evening, Pastor Jonker will preach on Luke 9:18-20.

Livestreaming worship is available at lagrave.org/live