

**April 14, 2024**

*The Third Sunday of Eastertide*

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:

“Choral No. 3 in A Minor”

César Franck

The Chiming of the Hour

The Introit:

“Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain” (8:40)

*Come, you faithful, raise the strain of the triumphant gladness! God has brought forth Israel into joy from sadness, loosed from Pharaoh's bitter yoke Jacob's sons and daughters; led them with unmoistened foot through the Red Sea waters.*

*Alleluia! Now we cry to our Lord immortal, who, triumphant, burst the bars of the tomb's dark portal; Alleluia! With the Son, God the Father praising; Alleluia! Yet again to the Spirit raising.*

“Hymn to Joy (Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna)” (11:00)

arr. Edwards Hodges and Michael R. Keller

Christ is risen! Shout hosanna! Celebrate this day of days!

Christ is risen! Hush in wonder; all creation is amazed.

In the desert all-surrounding, see, a spreading tree has grown.

Healing leaves of grace abounding bring a taste of love unknown.

\*The Processional Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 795

“We Know that Christ Is Raised”

\*The Greeting – concluded by the minister saying:

“Christ is risen!”

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

The Welcome

***We Humbly Approach God***

The Call to Confession: based on Colossians 3:1-15

As resurrected Christians, God calls us to kill off the practices that belong to our old life.

**May we put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to our earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires, and greed.**

As resurrected Christians, God calls us to take off the old clothes of sinfulness.

**May we rid ourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, filthy language, and lies.**

As resurrected Christians, by the power of the Holy Spirit, God calls us to new life and gives us new clothes.

**May we clothe ourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.**

As resurrected Christians, God calls us to bear with each other and forgive one another.

**May we forgive each other, just as the Lord has forgiven us.**

The Prayer of Confession

The Assurance of Forgiveness: based on 1 Timothy 1:15-17

Here are words you may trust,  
words that merit full acceptance:

**Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.**

To all who confess their sins and resolve to lead a new life,  
he says,

**Your sins are forgiven. Follow me.**

Now to the one who rules all worlds,

immortal, invisible, the only God,

be honor and glory forever and ever.

Amen.

\*The Hymn of Commitment: Lift Up Your Hearts 191

“Praise the Savior, Now and Ever”

***We Respond with Thanksgiving***

The Children's Message

The Pastoral Prayer

The Anthem:

“O Risen Lord” (8:40)

K. Lee Scott

*O risen Lord, O glorious Son, now is the mighty battle won: songs of praising we are raising: alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

*On the third morning he arose, shining in victory o'er his foes; earth is singing, heaven ringing: alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

*After the death that him befell, Christ our Lord has harrowed hell; sing with gladness, gone is sadness: alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

*The Lord of all things lives anew, and all his saints are rising, too: may our living be thanksgiving: alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

“Fantasia on Ebenezer” (11:00)

(Alleluia! Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven)”

Tammy Waldrop

Alleluia, alleluia! Hearts to heaven and voices raise. Sing to God a hymn of gladness, sing to God a hymn of praise. He who on the cross a victim for the world's salvation bled, Jesus Christ, the King of glory, now is risen from the dead.

The Offertory:

“Christ the Lord Is Risen Today”

Michael Bedford

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: Genesis 44:3-45:9 (p.73)

The Sermon: **“JOSEPH AND JESUS”**

The Prayer for a Blessing on the Word

***We Go in His Peace***

\*The Hymn of Response: Lift Up Your Hearts 193:1,3,4,5,7

“I Know that My Redeemer Lives”

\*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:

“The Strife Is O'er”

J. Wayne Kerr

Rev. Peter Jonker – minister

Rachel Thorne – liturgist

Dr. Larry Visser – organist

Chancel Choir, Dr. Rob Hobgood – director (8:40)

Bells Jubilate, Dr. Rob Hobgood – director (11:00)

Chad Boorsma & Remington Stuit – Cross and Bible Bearers (8:40)

Ruby & Brad VanHaitsma – 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, the King of kings, has won the victory over sin and death!

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

The hymn tune EBENEZER originated as the second movement of an anthem titled “Light in the Valley” by Welsh composer Thomas Williams (1869-1944). The tune name Ebenezer is from the chapel in Rhos, Wales where Williams attended at the time he wrote the tune. His primary vocation was in the insurance business, but he wrote several hymn tunes and also played the organ and directed choirs. Though the hymn is characterized by many triplet rhythms, this morning's handbell arrangement replaces the triplets with “straighter” rhythms, creating a march-like setting.

**Today's altar flowers are given in loving memory of Eve Meeter by her friend/son, Paul Wright.** Eve loved Jesus Christ and God, the Father. Eve also loved her LaGrave church family, conversations with them and spiritual fulfillment from weekly services. A Bible verse Eve lived by was: "Thou dost keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee, because he trusts in thee. Trust in the Lord forever, for the Lord God is an everlasting rock." Isaiah 26:3-4

**The April special offering** is for **Family Promise**, who partners with local congregations, individuals, families, foundations and corporations to provide emergency shelter

and case management for families with children facing a housing crisis.

**This evening**, Rev. Jonker will preach on Genesis 1:26-31, and The Chamber Choir from Grand Rapids Christian High School is our guest choir.

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