

April 28, 2024

*The Fifth Sunday of Eastertide
GEMS 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:

“Rise, O Children of Salvation”

Paul Manz, Richard Hudson, B. Wayne Bisbee, David Cherwien

“On Eagle’s Wings”

Marilyn Biery

The Chiming of the Hour

The Introit:

“Jesus Shall Reign” (8:40)

Jesus shall reign where'er the sun does its successive journeys run, his kingdom stretch from shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.

Let every creature rise and bring the highest honors to our King, angels descend with songs again, and earth repeat the loud amen.

“Come, Now Is the Time to Worship” (11:00)

arr. Barb Stewart

Come, now is the time to worship. Come, now is the time to give your heart. Come, just as you are to worship. Come, just as you are before your God; come!

One day every tongue will confess you are God; one day every knee shall bow; still the greatest treasure remains for those who gladly choose you now, come!

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*The Processional Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 557

“O God Beyond All Praising”

*The Greeting – concluded by the minister saying:

“Christ is risen!”

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

The Welcome

God Strengthens Our Faith

The GEMS Litany:

Leader: We face challenges and pressures about who God is and what is true. Sometimes we feel overwhelmed and confused. Today we gather on GEMS Sunday, wrapped in the hope of Jesus.

GEMS: Placing our hope in God changes us.

All: Those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

Leader: When we know God, we can put our hope in him. At

GEMS, girls learn who God is and what God has promised.

GEMS: God is trustworthy.

All: The Lord is trustworthy in all he promises and faithful in all he does.

GEMS: God is a great King.

All: For the LORD Most High is awesome, the great King over all the earth.

GEMS: God is close.

All: The LORD is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth.

GEMS: God is our deliverer.

All: The LORD is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge.

GEMS: God is with us wherever we go.

All: Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.

Leader: Thanks be to the God of hope who renews our strength so we can rise up in every circumstance, stand secure in our faith, and have confidence that when we put our hope in God he will never leave.

*The Hymn of Commitment: Lift Up Your Hearts 660

“Jesus, Draw Me Ever Nearer”

The Ministry Moment: Anna & Willa DeBoer (8:40)

Penny Redder & Avery Verploegh (11:00)

The Children’s Message

We Celebrate God’s Promises (11:00)

The Vows for Profession of Faith:

Natalie Bauman

Zander Elenbaas

We Respond with Thanksgiving

The Pastoral Prayer

The Anthem:

“Arise, My Soul, Arise” (8:40)

Dan Forrest

Arise, my soul, arise, shake off thy guilty fears. The bleeding Sacrifice in my behalf appears. Before the throne my surety stands. My name is written on his hands.

Five bleeding wounds he bears, received on Calvary, they pour effectual prayers, they strongly plead for me. “Forgive him, O forgive,” they cry, “Nor let that ransomed sinner die.”

My God is reconciled, his pard’ning voice I hear; he owns me for his child, I can no longer fear. With confidence I now draw nigh, and “Father, Abba, Father” cry. Arise, my soul, arise!

“On Eagle’s Wings” (11:00)

Michael Joncas

You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord, who abide in his shadow for life, say to the Lord, “My refuge, my Rock in whom I trust.”

Refrain: *And he will raise you up on eagle’s wings, bear you on the breath of dawn, make you to shine like the sun and hold you in the palm of his hand.*

The snare of the fowler will never capture you, and famine will bring you no fear, under his wings your refuge, his faithfulness your shield.

(Refrain)

You need not fear the terror of the night, nor the arrow that flies by day; though thousands fall about you, near you it shall not come. (Refrain)

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The Offertory:

“On Eagle’s Wings”

Anne Krentz Organ

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: Esther 4:1-17 (p.776)

The Sermon: **“ESTHER’S DILEMMA”**

The Prayer for a Blessing on the Word

We Go in His Peace

*The Closing Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 102
“Arise, Your Light Is Come”

*The Benediction

*The People’s Response: **Amen.**

*The Organ Amen (8:40)

*The Choral Benediction (11:00)

“We Receive Your Blessing”

Grace and Natasha Moes

We receive your blessing; we receive your grace, as we walk in the light shining from your face. May the peace that you give change the way that we live. We receive your blessing as we leave this place. Praise God, from whom all blessings flow. Praise him, all creatures here below. Praise him above, you heavenly hosts. Praise Father, Son and praise the Holy Ghost.

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*The Silent Prayer and Carillon Bells

*The Postlude:

“Rise Up, O Saints of God”

Robert Hebble

Rev. Kristy Manion – minister

Erin Alley – liturgist

Dr. Larry Visser – organist, pianist

Women’s Chorus, Dr. Rob Hobgood – director (8:40)

Julie Bowden – violinist (8:40)

GEMS Choir (11:00)

Jess Hollenbach – accompanist

Sheryl VanEck & Merv Kamper – Cross and Bible Bearers (8:40)

Celine Alcumbrack & Hannah VandeGriend – Cross and Bible Bearers (11:00)

Norah Hollenbach – GEMS Flag

Anna & Willa DeBoer (8:40), Madie Kuiper (11:00) – GEMS Litany

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 (8:40): In his anthem *Arise, My Soul, Arise*, Dan Forrest has revived an old hymn authored by Charles Wesley in 1742. Recounting the story of Christ’s atonement, the text includes references to Isaiah 49:16 and Hebrews 4:16. Each of the three stanzas increases in intensity, culminating in the final stanza sung in confidence of the saving work of Christ, our “Abba, Father.” The anthem concludes in hushed wonder and rests on a surprising and unexpected final chord.

The flowers on the chancel today are given by **Joady Hoekstra**, the **John Schat family** and the **Jon VanHekken family** in loving memory of husband, father and grandfather, **Jim Hoekstra**.

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. Tricia Bosma will preach. Her sermon is “Resurrection Freedom from Violence,” from Mark 15:1 & 16:1-5. We also welcome the South Christian Madrigals to sing, and will celebrate the Lord’s Supper.

Livestreaming worship is available at lagrave.org/live