

**April 7, 2024**

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:

“Christ the Lord Is Risen Today”

Philip Moore

“Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks to the Risen Lord”

Aaron David Miller

“Low in the Grave He Lay”

John Ferguson

The Chiming of the Hour

The Introit:

“Rejoice Now, My Spirit”

Johann Ludwig Bach

*Rejoice now, my spirit, put sorrow away, your Savior, Christ Jesus, is risen today. Now death is defeated and Satan o'erthrown. The sting of destruction forever is gone. Rejoice now in triumph, the battle is won!*

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\*The Processional Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 185

“The Strife Is O'er, the Battle Done”

\*The Greeting – concluded by the minister saying:

“Christ is risen!”

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

The Welcome

***We Approach God with Penitence***

The Call to Confession: 1 John 2:1-2

The Prayer of Confession:

Almighty God, you have raised Jesus from the grave and crowned him Lord of all,

**yet we have not always bowed before him nor acknowledged his rule in our lives.**

We have gone along with the ways of the world and failed to give him glory.

**Forgive us and raise us from sin that we may be your faithful people who proclaim you as Lord in all we do...**

*All sing:*

**He is Lord, he is Lord, he is risen from the dead and his Lord! Every knee shall bow, every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.**

LUYH 227:1

The Assurance of Pardon: Ephesians 2:4-7

\*The Hymn of Celebration: Lift Up Your Hearts 182:1-3

“Christ the Lord Is Risen Today”

***We Respond with Thanksgiving***

The Children's Message

The Pastoral Prayer

*Prayer will include this response from Psalm 118:14:*

You, Lord, are our strength and our song;

**you have become our salvation.**

The Anthem:

“Like Him We Rise”

Tom Trenney

*He came down that we may have love. He came down that we may rise.*

*“Come unto me,” our Savior said. “Ye weary, come, I'll give you rest.”*

*From stable room to manger bed to paradise forever blessed.*

Refrain:

*Made like him, like him we rise! Ours the cross, the grave, the skies; light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.*

*“Come, all who thirst, be satisfied with water I alone can give.” Upon the cross, “I thirst,” he cried, conquering death that we might live! (Refrain)*

*“When in the shadow, do not fear. I am your light, your lamp, your sun.” The sting of death shall disappear. The fight is fought! The battle won! (Refrain) He came down that we may rise.*

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The Offertory:

“Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing”

Ernst Pepping, Healey Willan

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: 1 Thessalonians (p.1837)

The Sermon: “**ENCOURAGING WORDS**”

The Prayer for a Blessing on the Word

***We Respond with Praise***

\*The Closing Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 206

“Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing”

\*The Benediction

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

\*The Organ Amen

\*The Silent Prayer and Carillon Bells

\*The Postlude:

“Thine Is the Glory”

Aaron David Miller

Rev. David Bast – guest minister  
Chad Boorsma – liturgist

Dr. Larry Visser – organist, pianist  
Kathryn Becksvoort – vocalist

Joel & Joella Bouwman – Cross and Bible Bearers (8:40)  
Al Doorn & Sheryl VanEck – Cross and Bible Bearers (11:00)

**Reverend David Bast** is a retired minister in the Reformed Church of America. He was the director of Words of Hope ministry, and in 2012 he served as an interim pastor here at LaGrave.

**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:**

This morning's closing hymn, penned by English hymn writer and minister Brian Wren (b. 1936) was written in April of 1968 for Easter Sunday, two weeks after the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Wren writes, "I could not let Easter go by without speaking of this tragic event which was on all our minds. The hymn tries to see God's love winning over tragedy and suffering in the world. There is tension and tragedy in these words, not just Easter rejoicing." *Christ Is Alive* is a joyful celebration of Christ's resurrection (stanza 1) and of his personal rule in a human world in which pain, war, and injustice abound (stanzas 2-4). Christ's transcendent and immanent reign is empowered by the Holy Spirit and will ultimately bring about a new creation (stanza 5).

**The tulips on the chancel today** are in celebration of the birthday of **Dick Gootjes**. They are given in loving remembrance by his wife, **Carol**.

**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**, Reverend Jonker and Dr. Visser will lead an Easter hymn sing. We will teach the congregation a few new Easter hymns, and we will leave lots of time for you to choose some of your favorites.

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