

September 1, 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 10:00 AM

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

God Calls Us to Worship

The Prelude:

“The King of Love My Shepherd Is”
“Elegy” (Children of the Heavenly Father)

Raymond H. Haan

James Biery

The Chiming of the Hour

The Introit:

“My Soul Waits for the Lord”

Larry Visser

Refrain:

My soul waits for the Lord, he is my help and my shield; my heart rejoices in him, for I trust in his holy name. May your unfailing love rest upon us, O Lord, even as we put our hope in you.

The eyes of the Lord are on all the faithful, who hope in his steadfast love, All those who look to him for mercy will find the face of God. For he will save their souls from death, even in times of famine; on him alone can we depend for grace and for salvation. (Refrain)

from Psalm 33

*The Processional Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 19

“For the Beauty of the Earth”

stanza 3 women/treble voices, all on refrain

stanza 4 men/bass voices, all on refrain

*The Greeting

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

The Welcome

We Experience God's Grace

The Call to Confession: 1 John 4:7-16

The Prayer of Confession:

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, you created humanity out of love and for love. We confess that often our love is toward success, stability, and security. If we are what we love, increase our commitment to justice, kindness, and mercy. May we be shaped in your likeness so our love looks like yours. In your mercy, forgive what we have been and direct what we shall be. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Assurance of Pardon: Romans 8:1-4

*The Hymn of Assurance: Lift Up Your Hearts 307

“Not for Tongues of Heaven's Angels”

We Celebrate God's Promises

The Meaning of Baptism

The Vows

The Baptism of **Katia Marie Bowden**, daughter of

Reed & Kirsten Bowden

Prayer Partner: Marge Penning

The Baptism of **Naomi Myriaam Ashirah Colago**, daughter of

Miles & Sarah Colago

Prayer Partner: Becca VandeGriend

The Baptism of **Payton Sierra Lubben** daughter of

Allison & Noah Lubben

Prayer Partner: Ginny Geldhof

Children are invited to come forward for the baptism, and return to their seats during the baptismal hymn

The Blessing

*The Baptismal Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 179:1,2,4

“Alleluia! Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven”

We Respond with Thanksgiving

The Pastoral Prayer

The Anthem:

“How Deep the Father's Love for Us”

Stuart Townend

How deep the Father's love us, how vast beyond all measure that he should give his only Son and make a wretch his treasure. How great the pain of searing loss. The Father turns his face away as wounds which mar the Chosen One bring many sons to glory.

Behold, the man upon the cross, my sin upon his shoulder. Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice call out among the scoffers. It was my sin that held him there until it was accomplished. His dying breath has brought me life. I know that it is finished.

I will not boast in anything; no gifts, no power, no wisdom, but I will boast in Jesus Christ, his death and resurrection. Why should I gain from his reward? I cannot give an answer, but this I know with all my heart: his wounds have paid my ransom.

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The Offertory:

“Golden Breaks the Dawn”

Anne Krentz Organ

“I Come with Joy”

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: Deuteronomy 6:1-9 (p. 284)

The Sermon: **“WHAT ARE PEOPLE FOR?”**

The Prayer for a Blessing on the Word

We Go Out to Serve

*The Response: Lift Up Your Hearts 863:1,2,4,5,6

“Take My Life and Let It Be”

*The Benediction

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

*The Organ Amen

*The Silent Prayer and Carillon Bells

*The Postlude:

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” Ralph Vaughan Williams

Rev. Peter Jonker – minister

Erin Alley – liturgist

Dr. Larry Visser – organist, pianist

Julie Bowden – violinist

Becky Rhoda – vocalist

Norman Ball, Julia Hoekstra, Della Landheer, Marilou Reiffer – handbells

Dr. Rob Hobgood – director

Avery & Nolan Walcott – Cross and Bible Bearers

Baptism Parament: The sacrament of Baptism is the sign of God's covenant relationship with his people. Water is the primary symbol used in baptism. The parament is designed as a cascading waterfall symbolizing the washing away of our sins through the blood of Jesus Christ. In the center a gold thread is woven in from top to bottom reminding us that God is the central focus of our lives. It also reminds us that he is with us from the beginning to the end of our lives and through all eternity. The light reflected in the crystals symbolizes the light of the Holy Spirit that guides us in every moment of our lives.

LaGrave, under the auspices of the Worship Committee has begun displaying a functional bowl and pitcher on the lectern as signs for the traditional baptismal font to serve as important covenantal reminders of the sacrament of baptism. These pieces will always be present on the lectern and will coincide with the special baptismal parament when baptisms are celebrated. The ceramic stoneware pieces were commissioned by the LaGrave Worship Arts Committee and hand-made on the potter's wheel, glazed and kiln-fired by artist, Jacob VanWyk, a retired art professor at Dordt University, Sioux Center, Iowa.

Ordinary Time, the liturgical season of spiritual growth, continues until Advent. Notice that the liturgical colors for Ordinary Time, blue and green, are now lighter and changing in color. Along with the addition of texture, they symbolize elements of growth and the passage of time. As we continue through this time, reflect on these concepts from 2 Peter 3: 17-18. We are encouraged to continue our growth in the

knowledge of our Lord, Jesus Christ and experience his grace. As we do, we will be prepared to face life's challenges and remain firm in our faith.

Music at LaGrave:

On Feb. 25, 1995, University of Arizona organ professor Dr. Roy Johnson was a victim of a random act of violent homicide as he returned home from a University School of Music Faculty concert. He was something of a hidden jewel in the Arizona desert as he performed, taught, and guided students, always with a word of encouragement and a smile. *Elegy* was composed in memory of Roy and concludes with the tender hymn *Children of the Heavenly Father*, which today celebrates the gift of the covenant through the sacrament of baptism.

The September special offering is for the **Pregnancy Resource Center**. PRC offers many services that include: Abstinence education, pregnancy and STD testing, information about pregnancy/adoption/birth control, prayer and consultation and the distribution of food/formula/diapers/baby clothes.

There is no evening service.