



Morning Worship

April 6, 2025 | 8:40 and 11:00 a.m.

www.lagrave.org

Order of Worship

Morning Worship | 8:40 & 11:00 AM

Please prepare your hearts and minds for worship with a
time of prayer and meditation

Welcome to worship at LaGrave Avenue Christian Reformed Church.

Please follow this order of worship carefully as worship proceeds without announcement. There are **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 you are here.

God Calls Us to Worship

The Prelude:

“Hymne”

Vangelis

“My Jesus, I Love Thee”

arr. Greg Scheer

“There Is a Redeemer”

arr. Kurt Kaiser

The Chiming of the Hour

The Introit:

“You, Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepherd”

You, Lord, are both Lamb and Shepherd. You, Lord, are both prince and slave. You, peacemaker and sword bringer of the way you took and gave. You, the everlasting instant; you, whom we both scorn and crave.

Worthy is our earthly Jesus! Worthy is our cosmic Christ! Worthy your defeat and victory. Worthy still your peace and strife. You, the everlasting instant; you who are our death and life.

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*The Processional Hymn: **Worship & Rejoice 110**

“We Come, O Christ, to You”

*The Greeting

*The People’s Response: **Amen.**

We Humbly Approach God

The Call to Confession: Based on 1 John 1:5-10

God is light; in him there is no darkness at all.

If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we claim to have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us.

God is faithful and just and will forgive us if we confess our sins to him.

We confess our sins before God and ask that he purify us from all unrighteousness.

Lord, we ask that you accept our silent prayers of confession now.

A time of silence

Prayer ends with sung response below

(translation: "Lord, have mercy")

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The treble staff contains a vocal line with the lyrics "Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Ky - ri - e e - lei - son." The bass staff contains a piano accompaniment. The second system also has two staves. The treble staff continues the vocal line with the lyrics "Ky - ri - e e - lei - - - - son." The bass staff continues the piano accompaniment. The music concludes with a double bar line.

LUYH 635

The Assurance of Forgiveness: 1 John 2:1-2

*The Hymn of Commitment: Lift Up Your Hearts 695
"And Can It Be"

We Respond with Thanksgiving

The Children's Message

The Pastoral Prayer

The Anthem:

"He Was Wounded" (8:40)

Craig Courtney

He was wounded for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities. The punishment that brought us peace was upon him. And with his wounds, we are healed.

He was despised, he was rejected, one from whom men hide their faces. Man of sorrows, with grief acquainted, we esteemed him not. All we like sheep have gone astray, each of us turned to his own way, and the Lord has laid on him all of our sin. Surely he took up all of our suffering. Surely he carried our sorrows. Yet we considered him afflicted, smitten, stricken by God.

Isaiah 53:3-6

"Breath of God" (11:00)

Marianne Forman

Breathe on me, Breath of God. Fill me with life anew, that I may love what thou dost love, and do what thou wouldst do.

Breathe on me, Breath of God, till I am wholly thine, until this earthly part of me glows with thy fire divine, breathe, Holy Spirit, breathe on me.

Breathe on me, Breath of God, so shall I never die, but live with thee the perfect life of thine eternity. Breathe on me, Breath of God.

The Offering

The Offertory:

"Lamb of God"

Twila Paris, arr. Lloyd Larson

*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: John 8:48-59 (p.1664)

The Sermon: **“Who Do You Think You Are?”**

The Prayer for a Blessing on the Word

We Go in His Peace

*The Hymn of Response: Lift Up Your Hearts 38

“In a Deep, Unbounded Darkness”

*The Benediction

*The People’s Response: **Amen.**

*The Organ Amen (8:40)

*The Choral Amen (11:00)

*The Silent Prayer and Carillon Bells

*The Postlude:

“Lift High the Cross”

arr. Craig Phillips

Rev. Scott Hoezee.....guest minister

Rachel Thorne..... liturgist

Dr. Larry Visserorganist, pianist

String Quartet:

Ashley Grace Davies, Bennett Snapper violinists

Patricia Stephenson violist

Ethan Snapper..... cellist

Jessica Kloostervocalist (8:40)

Chancel Choir, Dr. Rob Hobgood director (11:00)

Amber & Audrey Schaap.....Cross and Bible Bearers (8:40)

Marlene Padding & Carmen Day Cross and Bible Bearers (11:00)

Guest minister Rev. Scott Hoezee is the director for Center of Excellence in Preaching at Calvin Seminary.

Jessica Klooster sang in the Capella while a student at Calvin University and is a frequent soloist in the West-Michigan area. She is a

member at First Reformed Church in Holland. We welcome Jessica's return to worship. Jessica Klooster sang in the Capella while a student at Calvin University and is a frequent soloist in the West-Michigan area. She is a member at First Reformed Church in Holland. We welcome Jessica's return to worship.

Lent is the liturgical season beginning with Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday. The ash-permeated sackcloth reminds us of our human mortality and our need for repentance and reconciliation with God. The ash sackcloth against the royal purple cloth symbolizes the suffering and sorrow that Jesus the King bore for the sin in our broken world and our own lives.

Music at LaGrave: (11:00): Englishman Edwin Hatch (1835-1889) was an intellectual who lectured on early Christian history at Oxford. He had a simple faith, expressed through mostly one-syllable words in his hymn *Breathe on Me, Breath of God*. In Greek and Hebrew, the word for "Spirit" is the same as "wind, air, breath," thus the reference to "breath" in the hymn. This hymn is inserted in Marianne Forman's anthem *Breath of God*, which is part of a five-movement work titled *Trinity: Our God of Hope and Help*, a meditation on God's care for his children through the three persons of the Trinity.

The flowers on the chancel today are given in loving memory of **Eve Meeter** by her friend/son, **Paul Wright**. Eve loved Jesus, Eve also loved her LaGrave church family, conversations with them and spiritual fulfillment from weekly services. A Bible verse Eve lived by was Isaiah 26:3-4: "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."

The April special offering is for Family Promise. Family Promise 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, Chad Boorsma will lead worship, and we will have a "guest speaker"—Nicodemus who will share his experiences as recorded in the gospel of John.

Livestreaming worship is available at lagrave.org/live

Announcements

Pastor Jonker will be on vacation through April 13.

Pew cushions in various sizes are available in the coatroom near the office for use in the sanctuary.

Church School (3rd-12th grade)

Due to Spring Break and Easter, Church School is done for the 2024-25 school year. Thank you for a great year! Keep your eye on the 10 o'clock hour box for other opportunities this spring.

CREW (9th-12th grade)

CREW does not meet for the next 3 Sundays. We will resume again on Sunday, April 27. RSVP for the Cedar Point trip on June 10-11 by TODAY!

Wednesday Night Programming

Youth Outdoors and GEMS are off this week for Spring Break. We will resume next week Wednesday, April 16. There will be NO grab 'n go this week.

Graduate survey:

If you or someone you know is graduating from 8th grade, 12th grade, or if you are graduating from college/university with either a degree/advanced degree or another degree program, please fill out the survey that was sent in the News and Opportunities by TODAY. Contact Rachel Thorne if you have any questions.

MercyMe Tickets

If you signed up to go to the MercyMe concert, please bring payment and pick up your tickets from Rachel by TODAY. You can pick them up at church on Sunday mornings or during office hours on weekdays.

Jesus' Journey to the Cross

The artwork of Scott Erickson is in the church sanctuary. The installation begins in the back of the sanctuary on the LaGrave side and continues around to the parking lot side. A meditation guide is available in the wall box by the piece numbered 1 (one). You're invited to use this installation to deepen your spiritual journey this Lenten season.

The Loeks Advisory Committee (LAC)

is accepting proposals for the care of women on or before April 15. A proposal must be approved by the appropriate standing committee before it reaches LAC and the LaGrave Council has final approval prior to any release of funds. Proposals for funding from the Ruth Loeks Women's Care Fund must intentionally focus on the care of women. Further guidelines can be found on the application, which is on the church website, www.lagrave.org. Questions? Contact Kara VerMeulen at 616-581-6293 karavermeulen@hotmail.com.

Do you have a busy schedule? Would you like to make an impact on our church community but just don't have enough time to schedule a 2 hour block every single week to do so? There is a volunteer opportunity with your name on it! We currently have a significant need for people willing to pick up and drop off members with transportation challenges to church and best of all, it doesn't have to be every week. Our new transportation coordinator would love to chat with you and work you in where you feel comfortable. If this is you, please text Ben Nagel at 616-570-9362 or email at benagel81@gmail.com.

Holy Saturday, the day between Good Friday and Easter Sunday, marks the period when Jesus' body was in the tomb. To help us remember his death and anticipate the joy of Easter Sunday, the Spiritual Formation Committee is providing a liturgy for personal or family devotions. Copies are available at the Welcome Center.

Here is our Worship Schedule for Holy Week

We praise God for the grace and faithfulness represented in the celebrations of this weekend and we hope many of you will be able to join us at these services.

- Sunday, April 13, 8:40, 11:00am and 6:00pm–Palm Sunday Services
- Thursday, April 17, 7:30pm–Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Service with Communion
- Friday, April 18, 12:00pm–Ecumenical Downtown Good Friday Service at First (Park) Congregational Church
- Sunday, April 20, 8:40 and 11:00am–Easter Sunday Services

Today

2 & 3s & nursery will be provided today

Global Concerns Prayer Time: Join us during the 10 o'clock hour today, in the chapel for our monthly Global Concerns Prayer Time, which occurs each first Sunday of the month. We will pray for our missionaries, the persecuted church, and worldwide concerns such as wars, injustice, and calamities.



The
Ten O'Clock Hour
Growing in Fellowship and Faith Formation

The Ten O'clock Hour is a time between morning services that LaGrave Members are able to gather together to grow in fellowship and faith formation.

Opportunities this week:

- Nursery offered for ages 0-3 in the 2/3s room
- Coffee & Fellowship, MPR
- Global Concerns Prayer Time, Chapel
- Back Story Lenten discussion: lower level meeting room
- Book discussion on *The Great Divorce* by CS Lewis: Council Room

Next Weeks Worship

Next Sunday Morning: Is Palm Sunday! There will be a palm processional, and Reverend Kristy Manion will lead us in worship, preaching on the ninth commandment "you shall not commit false testimony."

Next Sunday Evening: Reverend Peter Gordon, LaGrave member and Director of Jabez Ministries, will preach.

Upcoming Events



Scan the QR code to for more information or to sign-up

Primers

Thursday, April 10 at Noon | Sign up today!

Signup today in the Multipurpose Room. Our speaker will be Alissa Vanderkooi, the granddaughter of Henry Pestka, the only member of his family to survive the Holocaust. Alissa will trace Mr. Pestka's journey from four years in Auschwitz and other prison camps to Grand Rapids. She will also discuss the recent rise in antisemitism and the importance of Holocaust education. If you are unable to sign up for the luncheon, you are welcome to attend the presentation at 1:00pm. Hosts: Jack & Dottie Vande Gutche (616)209-2469 and Jim & Barb Boelkins (616)403-4031.

Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, April 13 at 10:00am

Next Sunday we will have our semi-annual Congregational Meeting in the MPR to choose new elders and deacons. The nominees' profiles and pictures were emailed out and copies are available at the Welcome Center. We hope many of you will attend the congregational meeting. If you are unable to attend the meeting, an absentee ballot was included in Tuesday's email, as well as paper copies of the ballot are available at the Welcome Center. After the evening service on April 13, we will draw the names of the new elders and deacons from the candidates receiving the most votes.

Raybrook Chapel Service

Sunday, April 13 at 6:15pm

LaGrave will host the Raybrook Chapel Service. We will celebrate the Lord's Supper together, and Rev. John Steigenga will preach.

Kids Food Basket

Wednesday, April 16 from 6:00–7:30pm

Sign up to help out at Kids Food Basket on Wednesday, April 16 from 6–7:30 PM. All are welcome (must be at least 5). Use the link in the News & Opportunities to sign up.

Floral Arranging Workshop

Saturday, April 19 at 9:30am & 12:30pm | Sign up online!

The 9:30 session is full; however, there are still spots open at 12:30. Thanks to the generous Loeks Fund, cost to create a beautiful centerpiece is \$10. Questions? Contact Cindy cbusscher@lagrave.org.

Vespers

Sunday, April 20 at 6:00 pm

You are invited to close out Easter Sunday by attending Vespers, a service of song and prayer, a time for rest and renewal. The service is sponsored by the Spiritual Formation Committee and will take place in the chapel. Please park that evening in the main lot and enter through the west (canopy) entrance.

Moms' Fellowship

Friday, April 25 at 9:30am

Join us on Friday, April 25 in the Library from 9:30–11am. Childcare will be available in the Nursery. We will also meet on Friday, May 16 at 9:30am. Any questions, please contact Alisha Doezema: alishadoezema@gmail.com

Women's Book Club

Monday, April 28 at 7:30pm

Please join us for the last meeting of the season on Monday, April 28 at 7:30pm in the Parlor to discuss the Wednesday Wars by Gary D Schmidt. Books are available at local libraries and Schuler Books.

"Beauty is Everywhere": an art show by Connie Beale Kuhnle

Now – Sunday, May 4

The LaGrave Church Art Committee is pleased to announce an art show by Connie Beale Kuhnle in the Parlor. Award winning, local artist, Connie Beale Kuhnle conveys visual stories as portraits, still-lives, and landscapes.

Calendar

Sunday, April 6

Morning Worship	8:40 AM
10 O'clock hour	10:00 AM
Morning Worship	11:00 AM
Evening Service	6:00 PM

Tuesday, April 8

Bells Jubilate	6:15 PM
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Wednesday, April 9

Men's Morning Bible Study, LL	8:00 AM
Women's Mid Morning Study, Parlor	10:00 AM
Intercessory Prayer, Chapel	1:15 PM
Faith Journey Bible Study, Parlor	6:30 PM
Chancel Choir	7:00 PM

Thursday, April 10

Beth Moore & More Bible Study, Parlor	9: 30 AM
Primers, MPR	12:00 PM

Friday, April 11

Men's Bible Study	8:30 AM
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Sunday Volunteers

Assisting This Week: April 6

Security:

8:40: Zander Elenbaas, James VanHekken

9:30: Jon VanHekken

11:00: James VanHekken, Jon VanHekken

Greeters:

8:40: Beth Swagman, Alan & Brenda Witte

11:00: Bob & Linda Berkhof

Ushers:

8:40: Brad Post, Brad Schaap, James VanHekken, Sally Jonker

11:00: Larry Bos, Jim Oppenhuizen, Jeff Scholtens

6:00: Pete Clover

Assisting Next Week: April 13

Security:

8:40: Nate Versluis, Jake Versluis

9:30: John Schat

11:00: Doug VanEerden, Eric Bauman

Greeters:

8:40: Sharon Etheridge, Bob & Marilyn Kortman

11:00: Andy & Becca VandeGriend

Ushers:

8:40: John Schat, Matt Alcumbrack, Colton Alcumbrack,
Paul Stuit

11:00: Luther Ajim, Matt Scholten, Cal Thorne

6:00: John Dekker

Prayer Concerns

We praise God for His faithfulness to:

- **John Postma & Melanie Morales**, who were united in marriage here at LaGrave on Saturday, March 29. Rev. Peter Jonker officiated.

Let us faithfully pray for:

- **Dirk Hollebeek**, twin brother of Matt Hollebeek, who has stage 4 liver and pancreatic cancer and is now receiving hospice care at home.
- **Helene Mitchell**, who is receiving rehab at Corewell Health-Leffingwell to gain strength.
- **Dorothy Ondersma**, who is hospitalized after experiencing a stroke that has affected her communication. No visitors please.
- **Krista Schaafsma**, who had her knee manipulated under anesthesia due to complications after knee replacement in early February.
- **Gerri Tiggelman**, who had total hip replacement surgery on Wednesday, April 2.
- **Jeanne VandenBerg**, who has begun immunotherapy treatments to help fight her cancer.
- **George Zandt**, who has been transferred to Mary Free Bed for rehab. Visitors are welcome.

We extend our Christian sympathy to:

- **Sylvia Hugen**, in the death of her husband, Mel Hugen on Friday, March 28. His funeral service will be held on Saturday, April 5 at Raybrook Manor Chapel at 12:00 pm. Visitation is from 10:30-11:45 am before the service. Chad Boorsma will officiate.

As members of God's family, remember those who stretch limited financial resources and rely on God's provision.

Please pray for:

those receiving hospice services – Rose Koning, Roger & Myrna Mulder, Bev VandenBosch, Bob VanderLey, Hank Zuiderveen

those living with cancer – Dan Beimers, Marsha Haan, Chris Hirt, Sherri Kanten, Anita MacDonald (John Postmus' daughter), Beth Mulder, Sharon VanHouten, Jeanne VandenBerg, Barb Voskuil

those with other continuing needs – Sandy Buter, Sandra Destrempe, Rob Entingh, Marge Hoogeboom, Dan Hoogerhyde, Harris Kiekover, Rich & Mamuani Postma, Andy Tiggelman, Jim VandenBerg, Bill VanDyk, Paul Wright, Joyce Zwiers

those actively serving in the military – Blake Huizenga, Tim VanBeek

Missionary of the Week: Joshua & Emily (last name omitted for security reasons), who serve in Asia, where Joshua trains and mentors leaders face-to-face and online. Pray that Joshua's immigration and naturalization process will be completed soon, so he can return to the mission field and even make frequent trips to China.

Thank You

Thank you to our pastors and church family for your prayers, phone calls, visits and cards. I have completed 100 days of strict isolation since my stem cell transplant. Recovery has gone well. I'm in remission, but I have the immunity of a newborn baby. I am receiving chemo treatments to keep the cancer at bay. God had provided the resources necessary on this journey and we are confident He will continue to walk with us. —*Jim and Jane Krol*

New Member

We welcome Judy Meyering, who transferred her membership from Third CRC, Kalamazoo, MI.

Sermon Notes