

March 23, 2025

The Third Sunday of Lent

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:

“The Children’s Suite”

Claude Bos

Jesus Loves Even Me
Jesus, Tender Shepherd, Hear Me
When He Cometh
Oh, Be Careful!
Jesus Loves the Little Children
Into My Heart
Jesus Loves Me

The Chiming of the Hour

The Introit:

“Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God” (8:40)

Carl F. Mueller

Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.

Create in me a clean heart, O God!

Psalm 51:10

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness” (11:00)

arr. Cathy Moglebust

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth, thy own dear presence to cheer and to guide, strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow—blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! Great is thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see; all I have needed thy hand hath provided. Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me.

*The Processional Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 538

“Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty”

verse 3 a cappella

all who are able, sing descant on verse 4

*The Greeting

*The People’s Response: **Amen.**

The Welcome

We Humbly Approach God

The Call to Confession: Romans 13:8-10 & 1 John 4:19

Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another. For whoever loves others has fulfilled the law.

We love because he first loved us.

The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery,” “You shall not murder,” “You shall not steal,” “You shall not covet,” and whatever other command may be summed up by this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”

We love because he first loved us.

Love does no harm to a neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.

We love because he first loved us.

The Prayer of Confession

A time of silence

Prayer ends with sung response below

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Ky - ri - e e - lei - son.

Ky - ri - e e - lei - - - - son.

LUYH 635

The Assurance of Forgiveness: Hebrews 10:16-17, 22-23

*The Hymn of Commitment: Lift Up Your Hearts 825

“Beneath the Cross”

We Witness God’s Covenant Promises

The Meaning of Baptism

The Baptismal Vows

(8:40) The Baptism of **Janie Marie Velzen**, daughter of

Joni & Aaron Velzen

Prayer Partners: John & Betty Witvliet

(11:00) The Baptism of **Iris June Albers**, daughter of

Joe & Abby Albers

Prayer Partner: Deb Ondersma

(11:00) The Baptism of **Adeline Joy Aleck**, daughter of

Molly & Ghazey Aleck

Prayer Partner: Bob Otte

(11:00) The Baptism of **Jacob Dean Vandenberg**, son of

Eric & Amy Vandenberg

Prayer Partner: Marilyn Kortman

The Baptismal Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 946:1,3

“Go, My Children, with My Blessing”

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

We Respond with Thanksgiving

The Pastoral Prayer

The Anthem:

“Hymn for Children” (8:40)

Marianne Forman

Let the little children come to me, and forbid them not. Let the little children come to me, for such is the kingdom of heaven. Behold, what manner of love the Father has given to us, that we are called the children of God! How blessed are the children of God. Amen.

Matthew 19:14, 1 John 3:1

“The Gift of Grace” (11:00)

Arnold B. Sherman

Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come;

‘tis grace hath brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.

The Offering

The Offertory:

“God, Be Merciful to Me” (Psalm 51)

David Cherwien

*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: Exodus 20:14 (p.117)

The Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 716

“Love God with All Your Soul and Strength”

The Sermon: **“THE SHAPE OF LOVE:
YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY”**

The Prayer for Blessing on the Word

We Go In His Peace

*The Hymn of Response: Lift Up Your Hearts 352

“O Jesus, I Have Promised”

*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:

“Kyrie Eleison, from *Solemn Mass*”

Louis Vierne

Rev. Peter Jonker – minister

Rachel Thorne – liturgist

Dr. Larry Visser, Dr. Rob Hobgood – organists

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

Julie Bowden – vocalist (8:40)

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

Rachel Rynbrandt & Merv Kamper – Cross and Bible Bearers (8:40)

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

Baptism Parament, Bowl and Pitcher: The sacrament of Baptism is the sign of God’s covenant relationship with his people. Water is the sign and seal of this covenant. In the parament design is a cascading waterfall symbolizing the washing away of our sins through the blood of Jesus Christ. A gold thread is woven in from top to bottom. It reminds us that God is the central focus of our lives and 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. The ceramic bowl and pitcher are designed to

complement the parament and to continually serve as a reminder of the significance of the sacrament.

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): Arnold B. Sherman is an active handbell clinician, conductor, and composer who has written hundreds of pieces for bells. The early American hymn *Amazing Grace* is imbedded within his anthem titled *The Gift of Grace*. An opening theme of sweet-sounding intervals recurs throughout the piece. The hymn melody is clearly stated after this theme, then heard in a minor key played on the handchimes and later hidden within the sweet-sounding opening theme. The piece comes to a peaceful conclusion, perhaps echoing the words “And grace will lead me home.”

The March special offering is for **God’s Kitchen**. God’s Kitchen is part of Catholic Charities under the Diocese of Grand Rapids. They served over 175,000 meals to people downtown Grand Rapids last year.

This evening, Pastor Jonker will preach on 1 Corinthians 14.

Livestreaming worship is available at lagrave.org/live