LaGrave Avenue
Christian Reformed Church

Morning Worship

April 13, 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:

"Hosanna, Loud Hosanna" — Michael Burkhardt
"All Glory, Laud, and Honor" — Johann Sebastian Bach

The Chiming of the Hour

The Introit:

"Ride On!" (8:40) — arr. Rob Hobgood

Lift up your heads, O mighty gates: behold, the King of glory waits! The King of kings is drawing near, the Savior of the world is here. Ride on King Jesus, ride on, no man can-a hinder me. Ride on, ride on in majesty! Your last and fiercest strife is nigh. The Father on his sapphire throne awaits his own anointed Son. Ride on King Jesus, ride on, no man can-a hinder me. Ride on King Jesus, ride on!

"You Servants of God, Your Master Proclaim" (11:00) — arr. Sharon Elery Rogers

God rules in the height, almighty to save; though hid from our sight, his presence we have; the great congregation his triumph shall sing, ascribing salvation to Jesus, our King.

*The Processional Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 146:1-4

"All Glory, Laud and Honor"

*The Greeting

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

The Greeting of the Children

The Children's Recessional: Lift Up Your Hearts 145: 1,2
"Hosanna, Loud Hosanna"

We Humbly Approach God

The Call to Confession: Luke 9:23-25

The Prayer of Confession

A time of silence
Prayer ends with sung response below
(translation: "Lord, have mercy")

LUYH 635

The Assurance of Pardon: Based on Colossians 2:13-14
When we were dead in our sins,
God made us alive with Christ.
He cancelled the indebtedness that stood against us
and forgave our sins.
He has taken it all away
and nailed it to the cross.

*The Hymn of Assurance: Lift Up Your Hearts 451:2,3
"When Peace Like a River"

We Respond with Thanksgiving

The Pastoral Prayer

The Anthem:

"Thy Savior Comes, Jerusalem" (8:40) David H. Williams

Thy glory dawns, Jerusalem, awake thy bells to ring! Swift fashion thee a crown of gold, and bring forth David's throne of old; Jerusalem, make ready, make ready for the King! From tower and roof thy banners fling, for down the slopes of Olivet comes riding on the King!

A thornbush grows without the wall, of this his crown shall woven be; for royal wine prepare we gall, for throne, a cross on Calvary.

Thy Savior comes, Jerusalem, make haste, thine altar bring! His body for an offering take, the heart of all the world to break, and on the cross uplifted our God shall own him King. Ye lands afar, his triumph sing, for with the love of all mankind our God shall crown him King.

"Ride On, King Jesus" (11:00)

African American Spiritual, arr. Valerie W. Stephenson

Ride on, King Jesus! No man can-a hinder me.
Ride on, King Jesus, ride on! No man can-a hinder me.
for he is King of kings, he is Lord of lords, Jesus Christ, the first and last, no man works like him.
King Jesus rides a milk-white horse, no man works like him.
The River Jordan he did cross, no man works like him.
King Jesus rides in the middle of the air, Oh! He calls the saints from everywhere.

The Offering

The Offertory:

"The King of Glory Comes" Michael Burkhardt

*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 20:16, 23:1-3,6-8 (p.117)

The Hymn of Response: Lift Up Your Hearts 716
"Love God with All Your Soul and Strength"

The Sermon: **"The Shape of Love: False Testimony"**

The Prayer for a Blessing on the Word

We Go in His Peace

*The Closing Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 223:1,3,4
"Crown Him with Many Crowns"

*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:
"A Festive Intrada" Walter L. Pelz

Rev. Kristy Manion ..... minister
Chad Boorsma ..... liturgist
Dr. Larry Visser ..... organist
Chancel Choir, Dr. Rob Hobgood ..... director (8:40)
Bells Jubilate, Dr. Rob Hobgood ..... director (11:00)
Sheryl VanEck & Rachel Rynbrandt ..... Cross and Bible Bearers (8:40)
Ruby & Brad VanHaitsma ..... Cross and Bible Bearers (11:00)

Thank you for joining us in worship this Palm Sunday! You may leave your palm branches in the large containers in the narthex.

Palm Sunday marks the beginning of the last week of Jesus' life on earth. Purple, the color of royalty, and the palm branches used in the paraments and banners symbolize the triumphant entry of Jesus the King of kings into Jerusalem**.**

Music at LaGrave: (11:00): The message of the African American Spiritual *Ride On, King Jesus* offered hope and triumph for slaves who had visions for a better life either on earth or, ultimately, in heaven. The text references both the Old Testament with themes of a "highway" in Isaiah 35 & 40, and the New Testament through the triumphal entry recorded in the gospels and Christ riding on a milk-white horse (a symbol of Christ's return) found in Revelation 19. The deep hope, anticipation, and joy of the spiritual is conveyed through syncopation, staccato notes, accented chords, and shaking technique in this morning's handbell arrangement.

The flowers on the chancel: Today, we remember **Nancy Buning,** our mom and grandma. It been almost one year since we said goodbye, but her memory lives on in our hearts. She was a truly special person, and we miss her dearly. **Kristin, Joe, Ashleigh, Trent and Gavin Ponstein**

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, Reverend Peter Gordon, LaGrave member and Director of Jabez Ministries, will preach. **Following the postlude, new elders and deacons will be selected by lot.**

Livestreaming worship is available at lagrave.org/live

Today

2 & 3s, Children's Worship & Nursery will be provided today

10 o'clock options (3rd - 12th grade): Due to Spring Break and Easter, Church School is done for the 2024-25 school year. From April 27 - May 18 during the 10 o'clock hour, there will be a class offered for 3rd - 5th graders and a class for 6th - 8th graders. 9th - 12th graders are invited to join the prayer class that will be meeting those weeks.

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

Opportunities this week:

- Nursery offered for ages 0-3 in the 2/3s room
- Congregational Meeting, MPR

Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting
Today at 10:00am
We will have our semi-annual Congregational Meeting in the MPR today to choose new elders and deacons. We hope many of you will attend the congregational meeting. Following the evening service tonight we will draw the names of the new elders and deacons from the candidates receiving the most votes.

CREW (9th-12th grade)
CREW does not meet this week or next week. We will resume again on Sunday, April 27.

During our evening service, Joshua* will be giving us a short update on his and his wife Emily's ministry in Asia–training and mentoring Christian leaders. He will give a longer presentation with Q&A in the MPR after the evening service. A light supper will be provided. Don't miss this opportunity to hear in person from one of our missionaries! (*last name withheld for security reasons)

Raybrook Chapel Service

Today at 6:15pm

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

Next Week's Worship

This Week Is Holy Week! We will have many opportunities to meditate on the grace of our Lord's death, and the glory of his resurrection.

Thursday, April 17 at 7:30pm, We will host our annual Maundy Thursday Tenebrae service. We will celebrate the Lord's Supper and remember the pain of the cross.

Friday, April 18 at noon, First (Park) Congregational Church is hosting the annual ecumenical Good Friday service. For years, downtown churches have gathered to remember Christ's death by worshiping together.

Easter Morning (April 20) we will celebrate our Lord's resurrection at both our 8:40 and 11:00 services! There will be brass and the choir will sing. Pastor Jonker will preach. We praise God for the grace and faithfulness represented in the celebrations this week and we hope many of you will be able to join us at these services.

There is no evening service next week for Easter Sunday,
However, you're invited to close out Easter Sunday by attending Vespers, a service of song and prayer, at 6:00pm in the Chapel. The service is sponsored by the Spiritual Formation Committee Please park in the main lot and enter through the west (canopy) entrance.

Upcoming Events

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

Wednesday Night Programming: Youth Outdoors and GEMS meet this week **Wednesday, April 16.** There will be a Grab 'n Go meal in the Fellowship Hall. Chili dogs are on the menu.

GEMS Family Badge Night: GEMS Girls' families are invited to join us for a time of celebration as another wonderful year wraps up. Meet in the MPR at 6:30pm on Wednesday, April 16. Dessert will be served.

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.

Men's Coffee
Thursday, April 17 at 10:00am
All men are welcome to join the men's coffee group on Thursday, April 17 in the Council Room from 10-11:30am. Men of any age can enjoy this time of socializing and eating donuts. If you need a ride, call 616-245-3803.

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.

Cake & Ice Cream Hymn Sing
Thursday, April 24 at 2:00pm
The Comfort and Care Team invites all widowed people of the church to a Cake & Ice Cream Hymn Sing. Please sign up using the link in the Tuesday email blast or by calling the church office (616-454-7204). Sign-up by Monday, April 21.

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: alishadoezema@gmail.com

Hymn Sing in the Chapel

Sunday ,April 27,at 10:00am

There will be a hymn sing on April 27 during the 10 o'clock hour in the chapel. Kathy Verbrugge and Mary Worst will lead us during this time, and are encouraging us to choose our favorite Easter songs we haven't yet sung.

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.

LaGrave Night Out

Thursday, May 1

The next LaGrave Night Out will be at Condado Tacos (449 Bridge St NW Grand Rapids.) Anyone 21 and over are invited to enjoy dinner out, a beverage/apps, or simply drop by to say hello. This is a fun, casual time to meet new people while enjoying a night out.
Questions? Contact Heidi 616-437-6830 or Cindy 616-481-7071.

"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.

Announcements

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.

Safe Church Training: Our new Youth Safe Church Policy was approved at Council in November 2024 and goes into effect June 1, 2025. The policy requires all staff and volunteers who work with children or youth in our church to have a background check on file and go through a 1 hour online safety training video every 3 years. You will be emailed links to these things and they must be complete by June 1 or else you will not be able to volunteer until they are complete.

Developing a Vibrant Prayer Life: Starting Sunday, April 27, during the 10 o'clock hour, you are invited to join Jolene DeHeer and learn more about prayer. These interactive sessions are open to people of all ages!

Fish Bowl Prayers: The Spiritual Formation Committee is beginning a new endeavor where we will be praying for people who do not know Jesus as Savior, who are uncertain about their faith, or who are wandering from their faith. You can submit names (first names only) into the fish bowl in the library beginning next Sunday

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

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 I (one). You're invited to use this installation to deepen your spiritual journey this Lenten season.

Calendar

Sunday, April 13

Morning Worship ..... 8:40 AM
Congregational Meeting ..... 10:00 AM
10 O'clock hour ..... 10:00 AM
Morning Worship ..... 11:00 AM
Evening Service ..... 6:00 PM
Missionary Dinner, MPR ..... 7:00 PM

Monday, April 14

Council– Elders/Deacons 6:30PM

Tuesday, April 15

Foot Spa, MPR ..... 12:00 PM
Knitting Group, Parlor ..... 1:15 PM
Bells Jubilate ..... 6:15 PM
Spiritual Formation Committee, Parlor ..... 7:00 PM

Wednesday, April 16

Men's Morning Bible Study, LL ..... 8:00 AM
Women's Morning Bible Study, Library ..... 9:00 AM
Spiritual Journey Bible Study, LL ..... 9:30 AM
Women's Mid Morning Study, Parlor ..... 10:00 AM
His Collection, Council ..... 12:30 PM
Intercessory Prayer, Chapel ..... 1:15 PM
Grab 'n GO Meal, Fellowship Hall ..... 5:45 PM
GEMS, MPR ..... 6:30 PM
Youth Outdoor Group ..... 6:30 PM
Faith Journey Bible Study, Parlor ..... 6:30 PM
Chancel Choir ..... 7:00 PM
Social Concerns, Library ..... 7:00 PM

Thursday, April 17

Beth Moore & More Bible Study, Parlor ..... 9: 30 AM
Men's Coffee, Council ..... 10:00 AM

Pastoral Care Committee, Parlor ..... 4:00 PM
Maundy Thursday Service..... 7:30 PM

Friday, April 18

Men's Bible Study ..... 8:30 AM

Saturday, April 19

Women's Floral Arranging, MPR..... 9:30 AM

Sunday Volunteers

Assisting This 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

Assisting Next Week: April 20

Security:
8:40: Brad Schaap, Ike Schaap
9:30: Ben DeGraaf
11:00: Steve Schroder, Mitch Schroder

Greeters:
8:40: Garry & Yvonne Ferwerda, John & Shelly Schat
11:00: Ginny Geldhof

Ushers:
8:40: Ben Nagel, Sam Schat, Ben DeGraaf, Brad Schaap
11:00: Larry Bos, Merv Kamper, Sally Jonker, Dave Tornga
6:00: No Evening Service

Prayer Concerns

We praise God for His faithfulness to:

- **Bill VanDyk**, who will celebrate his 95th birthday on Tuesday, April 15.
- **Roger Boerema**, who will celebrate his 91st birthday on Saturday, April 19.

Let us faithfully pray for:

- **Helene Mitchell**, who continues to receive rehab at Corewell Health-Leffingwell to gain strength.
- **Dorothy Ondersma**, who is at Mary Free Bed for therapy after experiencing a stroke. No visitors please.
- **Mike Schuitema,** who had knee replacement surgery on Thursday, April 10.
- **Jeanne VandenBerg**, who continues immunotherapy treatments to help fight her cancer.
- **George Zandt**, who continues at Mary Free Bed for rehab. Visitors are welcome.

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 - Dirk Hollebeek (Matt Hollebeek's brother), 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, Barb Voskuil

those with other continuing needs – Sandy Buter, Glenda Buteyn, Sandra Destrempes, Rob Entingh, Marge Hoogeboom, Harris Kiekover, Rich & Mamuani Postma, Andy Tiggleman, Jim VandenBerg, Bill VanDyk, Paul Wright, Joyce Zwiers

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

Missionary of the Week: Uri & Carmen Alcivar, who currently serve in Mexico. Pray that God will overcome roadblocks for the approval of their work permit in Belgium. Meanwhile, thank God for fruitfulness in their current ministries, helping lead a local church, and mobilizing Mexicans to serve as missionaries.

Thank You

Many thanks to my loving LaGrave family for your written and spoken words of sympathy as I journeyed through the death of my son, Don Deters. Your prayer support has sustained and uplifted me.
- *Laurie Deters*

Sermon Notes