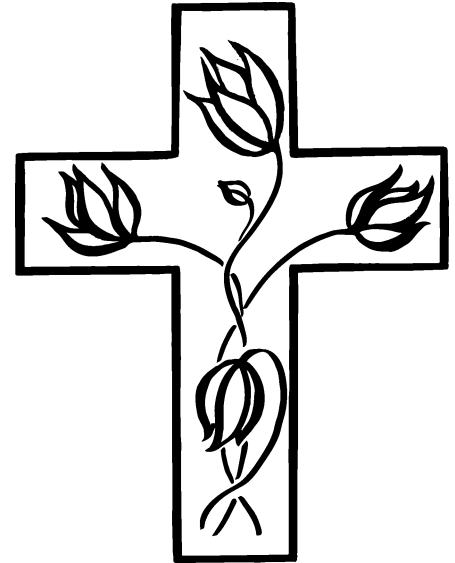


# Sunday Worship

April 18, 2021

Leader/All



## Thanksgiving for Baptism

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Let us be gathered in the name of the one who names us and claims us, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Refreshed by the resurrection life we share in Christ,  
let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

*-water is poured-*

We thank you, risen Christ, for these waters where you make us new, leading us from death to life, from tears to joy. We bless you, risen Christ, that your Spirit comes to us in the grace-filled waters of rebirth, like rains to our thirsting earth, like streams that revive our souls, like cups of cool water shared with strangers. Breathe your peace on your church when we hide in fear. Clothe us with your mercy and forgiveness. Send us companions on our journey as we share your life.

**Make us one, risen Christ. Cleanse our hearts. Shower us with life.**

To you be given all praise, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## Gathering Hymn – ELW #523 Let Us Go Now to the Banquet

Refrain: Let us go now to the banquet, to the feast of the universe.  
The table's set and a place is waiting; come, ev'ry-one, with your gifts to share.

1. I will rise in the early morning; the community's waiting for me.  
With a spring in my step I'm walking with my friends and my family. (Refrain)
2. God invites all the poor and hungry to the banquet of justice and good  
where the harvest will not be hoarded so that no one will lack for food. (Refrain)
3. May we build such a place among us where all people are equal in love.  
God has called us to work together and to share ev'rything we have. (Refrain)

## Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all. **And also with you.**

## Glory in the Highest

Glory in the highest, Glory be to God, Glory in the highest, and peace to all the earth.

## Peace

Knowing God's love and forgiveness we experience in our baptisms, let us share a sign of peace and reconciliation with one another. The peace of the Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

## Prayer of the Day

Holy Giver and Receiver of life, Your martyr, Stephen, shined with the light of your Holy Spirit. When his opponents took his life, he offered up his spirit to you, and prayed mercy for theirs. Make Stephen an example of faith and courage for all your followers, for the sake of the one who brought light and life to this world, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

## Word - Acts 6:8-7:2a, 44-60

8Stephen, full of grace and power, did great wonders and signs among the people. 9Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), Cyrenians, Alexandrians, and others of those from Cilicia and Asia, stood up and argued with Stephen. 10But they could not withstand the wisdom and the Spirit with which he spoke. 11Then they secretly instigated some men to say, "We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses and God." 12They stirred up the people as well as the elders and the scribes; then they suddenly confronted him, seized him, and brought him before the council. 13They set up false witnesses who said, "This man never stops saying things against this holy place and the law; 14for we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and will change the customs that Moses handed on to us." 15And all who sat in the council looked intently at him, and they saw that his face was like the face of an angel. 16Then the high priest asked him, "Are these things so?"

2And Stephen replied: 44"Our ancestors had the tent of testimony in the wilderness, as God directed when he spoke to Moses, ordering him to make it according to the pattern he had seen. 45Our ancestors in turn brought it in with Joshua when they dispossessed the nations that God drove out before our ancestors. And it was there until the time of David, 46who found favor with God and asked that he might find a dwelling place for the house of Jacob. 47But it was Solomon who built a house for him. 48Yet the Most High does not dwell in houses made with human hands; as the prophet says, 49'Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool. What kind of house will you build for me, says the Lord, or what is the place of my rest? 50Did not my hand make all these things?'

51"You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you are forever opposing the Holy Spirit, just as your ancestors used to do. 52Which of the prophets did your ancestors not persecute? They killed those who foretold the coming of the Righteous One, and now you have become his betrayers and murderers. 53You are the ones that received the law as ordained by angels, and yet you have not kept it."

54When they heard these things, they became enraged and ground their teeth at Stephen. 55But filled with the Holy Spirit, he gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. 56"Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" 57But they covered their ears, and with a loud

shout all rushed together against him. 58Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. 59While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” 60Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” When he had said this, he died. Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

## Sermon – Pastor Dawn Lindberg

### Hymn – ELW #524 What Is This Place (vv. 1 & 3)

1 What is this place, where we are meeting? Only a house, the earth its floor.  
Walls and a roof, sheltering people, windows for light, an open door.  
Yet it becomes a body that lives when we are gathered here, and know our God is near.

3 And we accept bread at his table, broken and shared, a living sign.  
Here in this world, dying and living, we are each other’s bread and wine.  
This is the place where we can receive what we need to increase: our justice and God’s peace.

## Prayers

Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.

God of glory, grant vision to your church that we might boldly proclaim your presence and work in the world. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Most High, heaven is your throne, and the earth is your footstool, make all of creation show forth your glory that we might cherish all that you have given us and work to preserve and care for it. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of all languages and people, bring the proclamation of your Good News to all the world that your love, peace, and justice may prevail over all else. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of the martyrs, make us bold in our witness of your love that your grace be known in the hearts of all. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord Jesus, be with all who suffer in any way that your comforting presence be known to them. Today we pray especially for... Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of all, the Holy Spirit unites us with prophets and martyrs of all times and places, bind us together into your holy community and give us all a foretaste of what is to come. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## Offering & Setting the Table

### The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

### Words of Institution & Lord's Prayer

#### Sharing the Meal

#### Communion Blessing & Prayer

Now may the body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

Let us pray... O God, we give you thanks that you have set before us this feast, the body and blood of your Son. By your Spirit strengthen us to serve all in need and to give ourselves away as bread for the hungry, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### Announcements – Sunday School & Adult Education, GWOH Sunday Sign ups (May 2)

#### Blessing

May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus. The God of life, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

### Sending Song – ELW #367 Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds (vv.1,3,4)

Now all the vault of heav'n resounds in praise of love that still abounds:

“Christ has triumphed! He is living!” Sing, choirs of angels, loud and clear!

Repeat their song of glory here: “Christ has triumphed! He is living!” Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Oh fill us, Lord, with dauntless love; set heart and will on things above,

That we conquer through thy triumph; grant grace sufficient for life's day,

That by our lives we truly say: “Christ has triumphed! He is living!” Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Adoring praises now we bring, and with the heav'nly blessed sing:

“Christ has triumphed! Alleluia!” Be to the Father and our Lord,

To Spirit blest, most holy God, all the glory, neverending! Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

#### Dismissal

Alleluia! Christ is risen. **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Go in peace. Share the good news. **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**