

# GWOH Sunday

May 2, 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.**

## 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.**

## 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.**

## Glory in the Highest

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

## Prayer of the Day

Fulfillment of the prophecies, with Scripture and water you claim people as your own. Claim us with water and the word, so that we may rejoice in the life given to us through the gift of the Holy Spirit, for the sake of the one whose spirit lives in us, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

## Word - Acts 8:26-39

26 Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) 27 So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship 28 and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. 29 Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." 30 So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" 31 He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. 32 Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: "Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. 33 In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth." 34 The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" 35 Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. 36 As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" 38 He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. 39 When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

## Sermon – Pastor Dawn Lindberg

### Hymn – ELW #537 On Our Way Rejoicing

1 On our way rejoicing gladly let us go.  
Christ our Lord has conquered; vanquished is the foe.  
Christ without, our safety; Christ within, our joy;  
who, if we be faithful, can our hope destroy?

**Refrain:** On our way rejoicing, as we homeward move,  
hearken to our praises, O blest God of love!

2 Unto God the Father joyful songs we sing;  
unto God the Savior thankful hearts we bring;  
unto God the Spirit bow we and adore,  
on our way rejoicing now and evermore. [Refrain]

## 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.

We pray for the church and its leaders. As we are moving toward our Synod Assembly we especially pray for the nominees for bishop of the La Crosse Area Synod – pastors Meg Hoversten, Libby Howe, Steve Meyer, Felix Malpica, Becky Piper, Anna Sorenson, and Becky Swanson. Bless them with discernment and a vision for our future church. We also pray for our interim bishop Chris Boerger and our synod staff and leaders. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the earth: that green pastures and clear waters be provided for herds and flocks, those raised for human use and those living wild; and that farm fields be saved from storm or drought. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the nations and the leaders of the nations; that greed and selfishness give way to compassion and care for all people. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for all you suffer in mind, body, or spirit; that they may know comfort and peace even in the midst of pain and anxiety. Today we especially pray for... Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for all on the journey of faith; that wherever they are on the road, you might provide them with insight and inspiration. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray finally for ourselves: that you will receive the petitions of our hearts... 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, GWOH Sunday Projects

Online next week, May 16 (Grad Sunday)& May 23 (Pentecost) in person

### Blessing

The God of compassion, hope and joy, Our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer,

Bless your feet to carry you into places of need.

Bless your lips to proclaim love and mercy.

Bless your heart to love and listen to those you encounter.

Bless your hands to care for the needs of your neighbors.

Bless you to be a blessing to others. Now and always. **Amen.**

## Sending Song – ELW #538 The Lord Now Sends Us Forth

The Lord now sends us forth with hands to serve and give,  
To make of all the earth a better place to live. (repeat)

The angels are not sent into our world of pain  
To do what we were meant to do in Jesus' name;  
That falls to you and me and all who are made free.  
Help us O Lord, we pray, to do your will today. (repeat)

## Dismissal

Alleluia! Christ is risen. **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**  
Go in peace. Share the good news. **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**