

# HOLY Communion

with Rite of Ordination



Saturday December 4, 2021  
3:00 pm

Lord of Life Lutheran Church  
725 75<sup>th</sup> Street, Darien, IL 60561



Metropolitan Chicago Synod  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.

# GATHERING

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*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

*The assembly stands. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism.*

Holy Spirit, Giver of life:

At the beginning of time, you moved over the face of the waters;

You breathed into every living being the breath of life.

**Come, Creator Spirit; renew all creation.**

Holy Spirit, Voice of the Prophets:

You enflame your church with a passion for your truth,

You call your people into the ways of justice and compassion.

**Come, Spirit of Righteousness; burn in our hearts.**

Holy Spirit, Breath of Peace:

By your power, Jesus came to bring good news to the poor and release to those held captive.

**Come, Liberating Spirit; free us from the powers of sin and death.**

Holy Spirit, Wild Wind, Burning Flame:

You filled the apostles with joy and courage, empowering them to boldly proclaim your good news.

**Come, Spirit of Truth,**

**abide in us and make us witnesses of your redeeming love.**

Holy Spirit, Spirit of Peace:

You break down the barriers we create and heal the divisions that separate us.

**Come, Reconciling Spirit,**

**unite us all in the love of Christ; today, tomorrow, and forevermore.**

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's liberating love. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism:

We praise you O God, for in the beginning you hovered over the waters, bringing forth life in which you took delight. (*Genesis 1:2*)

**We praise you for the gifts of creation.**

We praise you O God, for through the waters you liberated and delivered your people. We remember the nourishing water given to Hagar and Ishmael, and the parting waters of the Red sea, providing a path forward for the enslaved Israelites who danced with tambourines on the other side in freedom. (*Genesis 21:17-19, Exodus 14:21-22*)

**We praise you, for you listen to the cries of the marginalized and oppressed.**

We praise you O God, for your justice which rolls like water in an ever-flowing stream, unstoppable and making a way through every time and terrain. (*Amos 5:24*)

**We praise you for your vision of justice, carried by the prophets of every generation.**

We praise you O God, for the waters of Mary's womb where Jesus' life was formed, for his baptism at the river Jordan, for the water from his wounded side at the cross, and for our own baptismal waters where our lives are woven together as a tapestry of God's never-ending love. (*Luke 1:30, Matt 3:13-17, Mark 1:9-11, Luke 3:21-22*)

**We praise you for the new life given to us in baptism.**

Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**Amen.**



## GATHERING SONG

All Creatures Worship God Most High  
ELW 835

1 All crea-tures, wor - ship God most high! Sound ev - 'ry voice in earth and  
 2 Sing, broth - er wind; with clouds and rain you grow the gifts of fruit and  
 3 Sing, broth - er fire, so mirth - ful, strong; drive far the shad - ows, join the  
 4 All who for love of God for - give, all who in pain or sor - row



sky: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Sing, broth - er sun, in splen-dor  
 grain: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Dear sis - ter wa - ter, use - ful,  
 throng: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Dear moth - er earth, so rich in  
 grieve: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Christ bears your bur-dens and your



bright; sing, sis - ter moon and stars of night:  
 clear, make mu - sic for your Lord to hear:  
 care, praise God in col - ors bright and rare: Al-le - lu - ia, al-le -  
 fears; still make your song a - mid the tears:



lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - - ia!

5 And you, most gentle sister death,  
 waiting to hush our final breath:  
 Alleluia! Alleluia!  
 Since Christ our light has pierced your gloom,  
 fair is the night that leads us home.  
 Alleluia.

6 O sisters, brothers, take your part,  
 and worship God with humble heart:  
 Alleluia! Alleluia!  
 All creatures, bless the Father, Son,  
 and Holy Spirit, Three in One:  
 Alleluia.

Text: Francis of Assisi, 1182-1226; tr. composite  
 Music: LASST UNS ERFREUEN, *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1623  
 Text © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

## 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.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Almighty and merciful God, you built your church on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, and you instituted the office of the ministry of word and sacrament so that the apostolic and prophetic work might continue throughout the ages. Grant that Elle and Adam, now to be ordained, may carry out this ministry faithfully in the power of your Spirit; through your Beloved, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## WORD

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*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

### FIRST READING

Isaiah 58:6-9a

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God!**

### PSALM

Psalm 46

### SECOND READING

Colossians 3:12-17

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God!**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

## Freedom is Coming

## ACS 903

*The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.*

1 Oh, free - dom, oh, free - dom, oh,  
1 Free-dom is com-ing. Free-dom is  
free - dom. Oh,  
com - ing. Free-dom is com - ing. Oh, yes, I  
know. Free-dom is com - ing. Free-dom is  
free - dom. Oh,  
com - ing. Free-dom is com - ing. Oh, yes, I  
know. Oh, oh, yes, I know. Oh, oh, yes, I

yes, I know.  
know. Oh, oh, yes, I know. Oh, yes, I  
yes, I know. Oh, yes, I know. Oh,  
know. Oh, oh, yes, I know. Oh, oh, yes, I  
yes, I know.  
know. Oh, oh, yes, I know. Oh, yes, I know.

2 Oh, Jesus.  
Jesus is coming.  
Oh, yes, I know.

Text: South African; trans. *Freedom Is Coming*, 1984  
Music: FREEDOM IS COMING, South African; trans. *Freedom Is Coming*  
Text and music © 1984 Peace of Music Publishing AB, admin. Walton Music Corp., a div. of GIA Publications, Inc., giamusic.com. All rights reserved.

## GOSPEL

Luke 1:46-55

The holy gospel according to Luke.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*After the reading,*

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Repeat the Gospel Acclamation – Freedom is Coming*

*The assembly is seated.*

SERMON

*Silence for reflection follows the sermon.*

The Rev. Ali Ferin

*The assembly stands to proclaim the word of God in song.*

HYMN OF THE DAY

Let Streams of Living Justice

ELW 710

*\*\* We acknowledge and lament the hurtful language of the first verse that implies that those who are blind necessarily seek sight. We encourage you to instead sing "the lowly seek new heights."*

1 Let streams of liv - ing jus - tice flow down up - on the earth;  
2 For heal - ing of the na - tions, for peace that will not end,  
3 Your ci - ty's built to mu - sic; we are the stones you seek;

give free - dom's light to cap - tives, let all the poor have worth.  
for love that makes us lov - ers, God grant us grace to mend.  
your har - mo - ny is lan - guage; we are the words you speak.

The hun - gry's hands are plead - ing, the work - ers claim their rights,  
Weave our var - ied gifts to - geth - er; knit our lives as they are spun;  
Our faith we find in ser - vice, our hope in oth - ers' dreams,

the mourn - ers long for laugh - ter, the blind - ed seek for sight.  
on your loom of time en - roll us till our thread of life is run.  
our love in hand of neigh - bor; our home-land bright - ly gleams.

Make lib - er - ty a bea - con, strike down the i - ron pow'r;  
O great weav - er of our fab - ric, bind church and world in one;  
In - scribe our hearts with jus - tice; your way—the path un - tried;

a - bol - ish an - cient ven - geance: pro - claim your peo - ple's hour.  
dye our tex - ture with your ra - diance, light our col - ors with your sun.  
your truth—the heart of strang - er; your life—the Cru - ci - fied.

Text: William Whitla, b. 1934

Music: THAXTED, Gustav Holst, 1874-1934

Text © 1989 William Whitla.

# ORDINATION

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## PRESENTATION

### ADDRESS AND QUESTIONS

*The presiding minister questions the ordinands. Each respond, in turn:*

Before almighty God, to whom you must give account,  
and in the presence of this assembly, I ask:

Will you assume this office,  
believing that the church's call is God's call  
to the ministry of word and sacrament?

***I will, and I ask God to help me.***

The church in which you are to be ordained  
confesses that the holy scriptures are the word of God  
and are the norm of its faith and life.

We accept, teach, and confess the Apostles', the Nicene,  
and the Athanasian Creeds.

We also acknowledge the Lutheran confessions  
as true witnesses and faithful expositions of the holy scriptures.

Will you therefore preach and teach in accordance with the holy scriptures  
and these creeds and confessions?

***I will, and I ask God to help me.***

Will you be diligent in your study of the holy scriptures  
and faithful in your use of the means of grace?

Will you pray for God's people,  
nourish them with the word and sacraments,  
and lead them by your own example in faithful service and holy living?  
***I will, and I ask God to help me.***

Will you give faithful witness in the world,  
that God's love may be known in all that you do?  
***I will, and I ask God to help me.***

Almighty God, who has given you the will to do these things,  
graciously give you the strength and compassion to perform them.

**Amen.**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus,  
let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

*After each petition ending, "God of mercy," we respond, "receive our prayer."*

## HYMN OF INVOCATION

Wa Jesu Wa  
A traditional Mende song from Sierra Leone

*The ordinands may kneel. Rostered Ministers present may come forward and offer the ordinands a blessing.*

Wa wa wa Jesu  
Wa wa wa  
Kɔnelé Jesu wa  
(Kɔnelé Jesu)

Come, come, come, Jesus  
Come, come, come  
Please, Jesus, Come  
(Please Jesus)

## THANKSGIVING

*The presiding minister leads the assembly in giving thanks.*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,  
we bless you for your infinite love in Christ our Lord,  
in whom we have redemption and forgiveness of sins  
according to the riches of his grace.

We thank you that by his death your Son overcame death,  
and that, raised by your mighty power, he gives us new life.

We praise you that, having ascended into heaven,  
Christ pours out his gifts abundantly on the church,  
making some apostles, some prophets, some pastors and teachers,  
to equip your people for their work of ministry for building up the body of  
Christ.

*The presiding minister lays both hands on the head of each ordinand. Other rostered ministers join in the laying on of hands.*

Eternal God, through your Son, Jesus Christ, pour out your Holy Spirit [...] through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*Rostered ministers return to their seats.*

## GIVING OF A STOLE

Receive this stole as a sign of your work, and live in obedience to the Lord Jesus, serving his people and remembering his promise: "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

*(Matthew 11:28-30)*

## CHARGES

Hear the words of the apostles and prophets:

Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called.  
*(1 Timothy 6:11-12)*

And again: God has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God? *(Micah 6:8)*

And again: Take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you guardians, to feed the church of God that [God] obtained with the blood of [God's] own Son. *(Acts 20:28)*

And again: Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed. Take up the cause of the fatherless. Defend the widow. *(Isaiah 1:17)*

And again: Tend the flock of God that is in your charge, not under compulsion but willingly, not for sordid gain but eagerly. Do not lord it over those in your charge, but be examples to the flock. And when the chief shepherd appears, you will win the crown of glory that never fades away. *(1 Peter 5:2-4)*

And again: Think of us in this way, as servants of Christ and stewards of God's mysteries. Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy. *(1 Corinthians 4:1-2)*

*The presiding minister continues.*

Elle and Adam, care for God's people, bear their burdens, and do not betray their confidence.

So discipline yourself in life and teaching that you preserve the truth, giving no occasion for false security or illusory hope.

Witness faithfully in word and deed to all people.

Give and receive comfort as you serve within the church.

And be of good courage, for God has called you, and your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

## BLESSING

*The assembly stands.*

### ACCLAMATION BY THE ASSEMBLY

*The ministers and the ordinands face the assembly. The presiding minister addresses the assembly.*

Will you, assembled as the people of God and speaking for the whole church, receive Elle and Adam as messengers of Jesus Christ, sent by God to serve all people with the gospel of hope and salvation?

Will you regard them as servants of Christ?

**We will, and we ask God to help us.**

Will you pray for them, help and honor them for their work's sake, and in all things strive to live together in the peace and unity of Christ?

**We will, and we ask God to help us.**

Let it be acclaimed that Danielle Bianca Dowd is a called and ordained minister in the church of Christ. She has Christ's authority to preach the word of God and administer the sacraments, serving God's people as together we bear God's creative and redeeming love to all the world.

Let it be acclaimed that Adam Edward Louis Dowd is a called and ordained minister in the church of Christ. He has Christ's authority to preach the word of God and administer the sacraments, serving God's people as together we bear God's creative and redeeming love to all the world.

**Amen. Thanks be to God!**

## PEACE

*The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.*

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*The assembly may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace from where they are and may say "peace be with you" or similar words.*

## MEAL

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

## OFFERING

*Pastors Adam and Elle invite you give an offering to one of the following organizations:*

*Southsiders Organized for Unity and Liberation - SOUL*

*Veterans for Peace*

*Extraordinary Lutheran Ministries*



*The assembly stands.*

## 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.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy [...] we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



G Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord, Lord God of pow-er and might.

Heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-

san-na in the high-est. Blest is the one who

comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,

you have brought us this far along the way [...]

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup  
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection,  
we await the day when Jesus shall return  
to free all the earth from the bonds of slavery and death.  
Come, Lord Jesus! And let the church say, Amen.

**Amen.**

Send your Holy Spirit, our advocate,  
to fill the hearts of all who share this bread and cup  
with courage and wisdom to pursue love and justice in all the world.  
Come, Spirit of freedom! And let the church say, Amen.  
**Amen.**

Join our prayers and praise with your prophets and martyrs of every age,  
that, rejoicing in the hope of the resurrection,  
we might live in the freedom and hope of your Beloved.  
Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all glory and honor is yours, almighty God, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

### LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us, in the many languages and translations of our hearts.

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
    hallowed be thy name,  
    thy kingdom come,  
    thy will be done,  
    on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
    as we forgive those  
    who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
    but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
    and the power, and the glory,  
    forever and ever. Amen**

*Holy Communion is offered by Jesus' invitation and all members of the assembly are invited forward as the ushers guide you to partake in this meal. If you do not wish to receive the bread and wine, but would like a blessing, simply cross your arms over your chest in an 'X'.*

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

### LAMB OF GOD

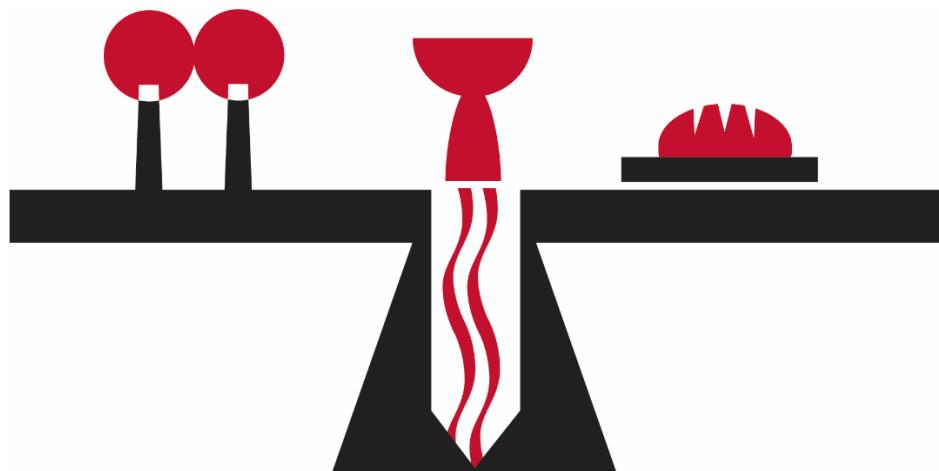


Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;  
have mer-cy on us, have mer-cy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;  
have mer-cy on us, have mer-cy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;

grant us peace, grant us peace.





1 Build a long - er ta - ble, not a high - er wall,  
 2 Build a saf - er ref - uge, not a larg - er jail;  
 3 Build a broad - er door - way, not a long - er fence.  
 4 When we lived as ex - iles, ref - u - gees a - broad,



feed - ing those who hun - ger, mak - ing room for all.  
 where the weak find shel - ter, mer - cy will not fail.  
 Love pro - tects all peo - ple, spar - ing no ex - pense.  
 Christ be - came our door - way to the reign of God.



Feast - ing to - geth - er, strang - er turns to friend,  
 For an - y place where jus - tice is de - nied,  
 When we em - brace com - pas - sion more than fear,  
 So must our ta - bles wel - come those who roam.



Christ breaks walls to piec - es; false di - vi - sions end.  
 Christ will breach the jail wall, free - ing all in - side.  
 Christ tears down our fenc - es: all are wel-come here.  
 None can be ex - clud - ed; all must find a home.

Text: David BJORLIN, b. 1984

Music: NOËL NOUVELET, French carol

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## POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

*The assembly stands.*

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace.

**Amen.**

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

# SENDING

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

## BLESSING

### SENDING SONG

### *Canticle of the Turning*

ELW 723



1 My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the  
2 Though I am small, my . . . God, my all, you . . .  
3 From the halls of pow'r to the for - tress tow'r, not a  
4 Though the na - tions rage from . . . age to age, we re -



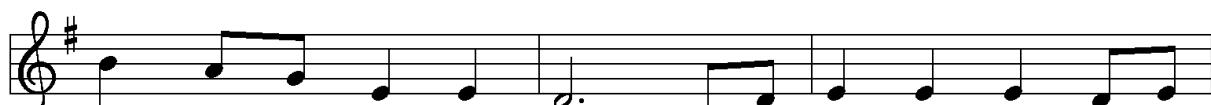
God of my heart is great, and my spirit sings of the  
work great . . . things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the  
stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your  
mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.  
depths of the past to the end of the age to be.  
jus - tice tears ev - 'ry ty - rant . . . from his throne.  
liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.



You fixed your sight on your servant's plight, and my  
Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to  
The hun - gry poor shall . . . weep no more, for the  
This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



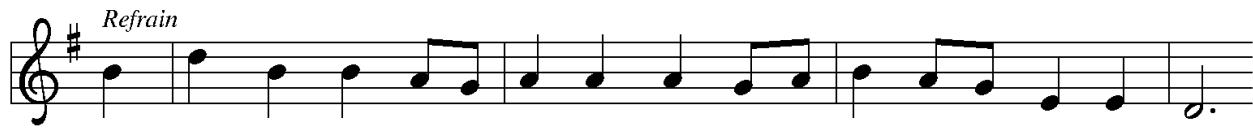
weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my  
those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the  
food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread, ev - 'ry  
prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my  
those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the  
food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread, ev - 'ry  
prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?  
strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.  
mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.  
crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.



My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your jus - tice burn.



Wipe a - way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is a-bout to turn.

Text: Rory Cooney, b. 1952, based on the Magnificat  
Music: STAR OF COUNTY DOWN, Irish traditional  
Text © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.  
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## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

**Thanks be to God!**

*All present are invited to grab a cupcake to-go to celebrate.*

# SERVING IN THE LITURGY

The Rev. Yehiel Curry, Bishop, Metropolitan Chicago Synod  
*Presiding Minister*

The Rev. Ali Ferin  
*Preaching Minister, Sponsor*

Sarah Coen-Frei  
*Assisting Minister*

The Reverend-Elect Danielle Bianca Dowd, "Elle"  
The Reverend-Elect Adam Edward Louis Dowd  
*Ordinands*

The Rev. Erin Coleman Branchaud  
*Sponsor*

The Rev. Dr. Linda Thomas, The Rev. Dr. JoAnne Marie Terrell,  
The Rev. Nicolette Peñaranda, The Rev. Corey Bergman,  
The Rev. Maddie Tallberg, The Rev. Ian Coen-Frei  
*Charges*

Jessica Dowd, Alice Dowd, Ricky Cortina, Leonora Coen-Frei, Gabe Ferin, Eli  
Ferin, Grady Gillon, Cece Olson, Amelia Olson, Sylvia Bevacqua, Zola Bevacqua,  
Hendrik Jacoby-Klassen, Tella Jacoby-Klassen, Wren Jacoby-Klassen, Mahalia  
Peñaranda, Grace Watkins-Jones  
*Banner Bearers*

Christina Montgomery  
*Crucifer*

Marcus Guerra  
*Book Bearer*

Eric Fowler, Reed Fowler, The Rev. Morgan Gates  
*Readers*

The Rev. Erin Coleman Branchaud, Adam Brown, The Rev. Erik Christensen,  
The Rev. Morgan Gates, Kerry Jenkins, Savanna Sullivan, Amanda Straw,  
Rosita Yao

*Musicians*

The Rev. Liz Williams

*Presentation of Stole*

Sherry Shejnost and John Silkaitis

*Ushers*

The Rev. Nicolette Peñaranda

*Bulletin Cover Art*

The Rev. Anders Nelson

*Communion Bread Baker*

The Rev. Kyle Severson

*Director of Liturgy*

Altar flowers given to the glory of God in honor of Elle and Adam by their  
godchildren, Gabriel and Leonora.

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# ORDAINED THIS DAY

**Elle Dowd** (she/her) and **Adam Dowd** (he/him) met in an Old Testament class at Iowa State University taught by Dr. Hector Avalos of blessed memory. Before their time at ISU, Adam grew up in Minnetonka, Minnesota and Elle grew up in Urbandale, Iowa where they were both deeply involved in retreats, Bible camps, and youth group activities which formed their faith and sparked their vocational discernment from an early age. They lived in Barstow, California after getting married in 2010 where they participated in worship and community at Shepherd of the Desert Lutheran Church and St. Paul's Episcopal Church, two churches that worshiped as one family under the shared leadership of Episcopal priests, Lili Bush and Liz Williams. Elle taught at St. Paul's Academy, a junior high that was a ministry of the congregation, and served as the Director of Children's Education and as an intern in the office. Adam led the youth group. During this period, Elle split her time in Sierra Leone, West Africa, where she volunteered at Jonathan's Childcare Center where their two daughters, Alice and Jessica lived until their adoptions brought them to the United States. When the military moved them to Missouri in 2013, Elle began working for the Episcopal Diocese of Missouri in the bishop's office under the Rt. Reverend Bishop Wayne Smith as the Youth Missioner. When white police officer Darren Wilson shot and killed unarmed Black teenager Michael Brown, the community response ignited a movement. Elle and Adam owe much of their theology and leadership to the courageous Black activists and clergy in the streets of Ferguson during the Uprising. In 2016 the Dowds began classes at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, advised by Dr. Linda Thomas and Dr. Mark Swanson, where they also participated in the community and student life as Public Church fellows and leaders and participants in student groups. Elle served as a member of the Executive Team of Thesis 96 and on the Core Team for the Faith and Justice Collective. Adam organized with Veteran for Peace and volunteered at the Chicago Free School where he also served as the School Board President. They were both named the 2019 Faith Leaders of the Year by Southsiders Organized for Unity and Liberation - aka SOUL. Adam and Elle completed their field work together at St. Mark's ELCA church in the Chatham neighborhood on the southside of Chicago under the supervision of Pastor Larry Clark. Elle completed her internship at St. Luke's in Logan Square with Pastor Erin Coleman Branchaud and Adam completed his internship at Holy Family in Cabrini Green with Pastor Eric Worringer. After graduating from LSTC in May of 2020, they continued to organize with SOUL. Elle continued with public theology and public ministry online and published a book with Broadleaf Books titled *Baptized in Tear Gas: From White Moderate to Abolitionist*. She serves on the board of SOUL, the Planned Parenthood Clergy Advisory Board, and the board for Euro-Descent Lutherans for Racial Justice. Adam and Elle were grateful to receive their calls to ministry in the Metro Chicago Synod this fall. Adam is serving as the pastor at Lord of Life Lutheran Church in Darien. In addition to pursuing her PhD in theology at the Chicago Theological Seminary as an advisee of Dr. JoAnne Marie Terrell, Elle is the campus pastor at South Loop Campus Ministry and serves occasionally at St. Luke's in Logan Square.

# THANKYOUS

*I thank my God every time I think of you.*

*- Philippians 1:3*

On this day in particular we are reminded of how many people and communities have supported, loved, and formed us as people and as pastors. Each of you have made a distinct impact on our lives. Your witness, your words, and your care have become a part of who we are. Wherever we go, we carry you with us in our hearts.

The thank yous that we owe are innumerable. There are names we are sure to forget and perhaps even more names unknown to us. All of you here, both online and in person, are significant and we are so grateful.

Acknowledging that words are inadequate, we want to thank:

The Triune God for calling us in our weakness. For the fire of the Holy Spirit in our bellies, the radical solidarity of Christ our sibling, for the generativity of our Holy Parent who has infected us with sacred creativity. For the Three in One who reminds us that power is found in relationships.

For our teachers in nonhuman nature. For the fractals that taught us that “that what we practice at a small scale can reverberate to the largest scale” (adrienne maree brown). For the waters that nourished us and refreshed us, the lakes in Minnesota, the Skunk River, River Number 2, Ocean Beach, the Mediterranean, the dams at Sinai, the holy waters of Galilee and Nazareth and the Jordan. For the sun that revives us. For the moon that reminds us of God’s mysteries. For the trees who became our friends. For the companionship of Beeb, Fishy, and our childhood pets. For the Rev. Dr. Gordon Straw who taught us to look at the created world as relatives to listen to, not resources to exploit.

For the congregations and communities that formed us, especially Shepherd of the Desert Lutheran Church and St. Paul’s Episcopal Church. For Christ Church Cathedral. For our field work site, St. Mark’s. For our internship congregations, St. Luke’s and Holy Family and their leaders, staff, and internship committees. For our new ministry homes, Lord of Life and South Loop Campus Ministry.

For the communities that challenge and transform us. For the activists in Ferguson and St. Louis. For Tanya, Ab, and the members of SOUL. For Jonathan’s Childcare Center and our family in Sierra Leone. For online communities of faith. For Standing Rock water protectors. For all who work for justice in the Holy Land. For bedouins and monks at Sinai. For Veterans for Peace. For Proclaim. For abolitionists. For abortion doulas. For the unhoused community on the South Loop.

For those who educated us. For Iowa State University, the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, and the Chicago Theological Seminary. For the student organizations of LSTC, especially the Faith and Justice Collective, Thesis 96, and the Public Church Fellows program. For the student body at LSTC who taught us the importance of living in community. For the class of 2020. For the

Triples (the Coen-Freis and Tallbergs), Morgan, Maija, River, Christina, Anne, Kyle, Reed, and so many more.

For our mentors. For Pastor Lili and Pastor Liz who received our hurt and anger at the Church and believed in our gifts and call to ministry. For Pastor Ali and Pastor Erin who model every day the sort of pastors we want to be. For our academic advisors in seminary, Dr. Thomas, Dr. Swanson, and Dr. Terrell. For Dr. Kadi Billman, Dr. Kim Beckman, Dr. Ben Stewart, and all of the professors at LSTC. For Bishop Wayne Smith and the clergy in the Episcopal Diocese of Missouri, especially Amy, Pamela, Rebecca, Jon, Teresa, Mike, and Mike. For the clergy coalition in St. Louis, especially Rabbi Susan Talve and Pastor Traci Blackmon. For our colleagues in the Metro Chicago Synod and our ecumenical partners in the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago.

For those who have gone before us. For Dr. Hector Avalos who taught us to read and challenge scripture. For Dr. Nikki Bado-Fralic who taught Elle about ritual and magic. For the Rev. Dr. Gordon Straw who mentored us and stood by us through challenging times. For Grandma June who saw resurrection in butterflies. For our family members who have crossed over: Grandpa Louie, Papa, David, Yeannie, Dean, Chip, Auntie Karen, Grandpa Robert, Grandma Baldwin, Tenneh, Durmani, Guttu. For the prayers of the ancestors we never met but we trust have protected and sustained us, especially Filomena Pennacchia.

For the witness of the saints, especially: Jael, Miriam, Huldah, Mary Mother of God, Mary Magdalene, Lazarus, Zebedee, and Peter. For Sojourner Truth, Harriet Tubman, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Junior, Marsha P. Johnson.

For the young people who lead and teach us. For the youth and children at SLDC/SPEC and the students at St. Paul's Academy. For the Diocesan Youth Advisory Council in Missouri. For the children of St. Luke's, Holy Family, and Lord of Life. For the students of SLCM. For the children at JCC, in Towama village, and our other little ones in Sierra Leone. For our godchildren Leonora and Gabriel. For our nibblings Ricky, Cece, Mahalia, Elias, Grady, Meals, for our cousins Zola and Sylvia, and all the other precious babies in our lives. You make the world better by being in it. Everything we do is motivated by our fervent desire to build a world worthy of you.

For our family. For our parents for baptizing us, bringing us to church, and placing the scriptures in our hands at an early age. For our siblings, Grant, Linda, Adam, Madde, Enrique and Dia for all of their encouragement, loyalty, and fun. For our children Alice and Jessica. Thank you for who you are. We will always love and support you. Our greatest privilege is being your mom and dad.

For Adam, whose steadfast devotion to our family has powered my every achievement and who loved me into loving myself. - Elle

For Elle, most of all. I wouldn't be here without her. - Adam

Thank you for bringing us to this day.

Love,  
Pastor Elle and Pastor Adam