

*one hundred and sixty-second academic year*  
**BACCALAUREATE**

SATURDAY, MAY 25, 2024 | 9 & 10:30 A.M. | CHRIST CHAPEL



# WELCOME

graduates, families, and friends to Christ Chapel!  
Graduates, this is a day you have been working toward for a long time. The Baccalaureate service has its origins in the medieval European custom of presenting candidates for the degree of bachelor, *bacca*, with laurels, *lauri*, in celebration of and thanksgiving for lives dedicated to learning and wisdom.

Because Gustavus is rooted in the Lutheran tradition and open to people of all faith traditions, we begin this day of Commencement with singing, prayer, and blessing of our graduates. We rejoice that our Gustavus community includes people from many different religious, spiritual, and philosophical backgrounds and that the community that is gathered today is wonderfully diverse.

We acknowledge that Gustavus Adolphus College is located on the homelands of the Dakota people. The Minnesota River and its watershed are sacred places; these waters and lands are interconnected with Dakota culture, language, creation stories, spiritual rites, livelihood, and sustenance. We seek to honor Dakota people by telling the truth about this history and their enduring presence in this place.

Today's service has been planned around Gustavus' five core values of excellence, community, justice, service, and faith. We gather to remember that we are all connected by our common humanity and through our shared calling to work together in the spirit of love to create a more just, equitable, and peaceful world.

In the spirit of welcome and hospitality, we invite you to participate in this Baccalaureate service in whatever ways are meaningful to you.

# BACCALAUREATE

## Prelude

*Now Thank We All Our God*

Paul Manz

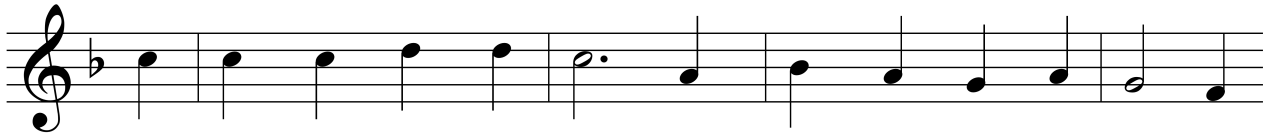
Dr. Chad Winterfeldt, organ (9:00)

Heidi Engman '24, organ (10:30)

*Please stand as you are able*

## Opening Hymn

*Now Thank We All Our God*



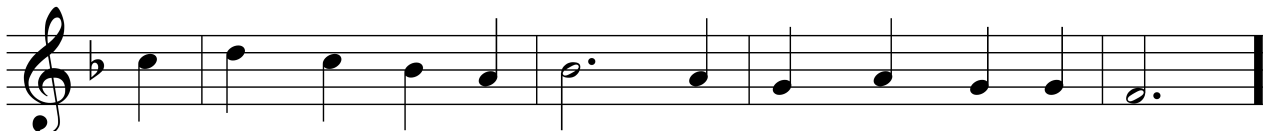
1. Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voic - es,  
2. Oh, may this bount-eous God through all our life be near us,  
3. All praise and thanks to God our Mak - er now be giv - en,



who wond - rous things has done, in whom this world re - joic - es;  
with ev - er joy - ful hearts and bless - ed peace to cheer us,  
to Christ, and Spir - it, blest, our help in high - est heav - en,



who, from our par-ents' arms, has blest us on our way  
and keep us all in grace, and guide us when per-plexed,  
the one e - ter - nal God, whom earth and heav'n a - dore;



with count-less gifts of love, and still is ours to - day.  
and free us from all harm in this world and the next.  
for thus it was, is now, and shall be ev - er - more.

*Please be seated*

## Welcome

**Rev. Dr. Grady St. Dennis '92**  
Associate Vice President of Mission and Executive Chaplain

## Opening Dialogue

**Benji Huff '24**

Gracious God,  
Spirit of Life, Source of Possibilities,  
Breathe life into us this day.

**Breathe life into us this day.**

As we gather on this day of celebration,  
Let us embody life in its fullness  
In all that we do, O God,  
Breathe life into us this day.

**Breathe life into us this day.**

As we listen and ponder,  
As we deepen and explore,  
As we laugh and play,  
As we live this day with integrity,  
As we live this day in community, O God,  
Breathe the fullness of life into us this day.

**Breathe the fullness of life into us this day. Amen.**

## Prayer of the Day

Let us pray: **Gracious God, we give you thanks for the abundance of gifts you have bestowed upon the Gustavus community. Help us to pause on this momentous day to celebrate the talents and achievements of our graduates, to give thanks for the community and family members who have supported their learning and development, and to look toward the future with hope and a commitment to service. Amen.**

## Anthem (9:00)

*I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*

arr. Anne Krentz Organ  
Claire Schoenfield '24, flute  
Dr. Chad Winterfeldt, piano

## Anthem (10:30)

*When the Earth Stands Still*

Don Macdonald

Come listen in the silence of the moment before rain comes down.  
There's a deep sigh in the quiet of the forest and the tall tree's crown.

Now hold me.  
Will you take the time to hold me and embrace the chill?  
Or miss me,  
Will you take the time to miss me when the earth stands still?

Cause there's no use running  
Cause the storm's still coming  
and you've been running for so many years.

Come listen in the silence of the moment before shadows fall.  
Feel the tremor of your heartbeat matching heartbeat as we both dissolve.

So stay with me, held in my arms  
Like branches of a tree,  
They'll shelter you for many years.

**Poem: Riding Back on a Thirty-Year-Old Tractor  
After Pulling Out the Car I Drove into a Ditch,  
Watching Stars and Lighting from the Northwest**

**By Philip Bryant '73, Professor of English  
Jemma Koenigs '24 (9:00)  
Carter Learned '24 (10:30)**

Silent philosophy,  
you and me  
touching in the dark  
like two shadows married to each other.  
The noise of the tractor's engine  
drowns out the dishonesty of our words,  
the sky illuminates our faces into one vision:  
the moment has arrived.  
The tractor is moving down the road  
at a speed we can both understand.  
We join hands  
through the night like  
invisible brothers,  
twins with the same mother,  
the same god,

the same body;  
and it's because we drive down this dirt  
road together.  
It is because the lightning flashes through  
the black skin of the night,  
lighting the way before us.  
It is because the rocks that have grown  
between us  
have suddenly turned to stars and have sunken into  
our bodies  
sending a heat welding our joy together  
like two roots joining the earth.  
There is nothing to keep us apart,  
not tonight, we will ride this tractor  
home.

This poem, which speaks to our journey through life, is written by Dr. Philip Bryant '73. He is a professor of English and African Studies and is retiring after 35 years of teaching at Gustavus. He wrote this poem during his junior year at Gustavus and it is the first poem that he had published.

**Reading: Ecclesiastes 3:1-8**

**Jemma Koenigs '24 (9:00)  
Carter Learned '24 (10:30)**

For everything there is a season,  
and a time for every matter under heaven:  
a time to be born, and a time to die;  
a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;  
a time to kill, and a time to heal;  
a time to break down, and a time to build up;  
a time to weep, and a time to laugh;  
a time to mourn, and a time to dance;  
a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together;  
a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;  
a time to seek, and a time to lose;  
a time to keep, and a time to throw away;  
a time to tear, and a time to sew;  
a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;  
a time to love, and a time to hate;  
a time for war, and a time for peace.

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.  
**Thanks be to God.**

Message: For Everything There is a Season

Rev. Betsy Hoiium  
Chaplain

Hymn of the Day

*Morning Has Broken*



1 Morn - ing has bro - ken like the first morn - ing;  
2 Sweet the rain's new fall, sun - lit from heav - en,  
3 Mine is the sun - light! Mine is the morn - ing,



black-bird has spo - ken like the first bird.  
like the first dew - fall on the first grass.  
born of the one light E - den saw play!



Praise for the sing - ing! Praise for the morn - ing!  
Praise for the sweet - ness of the wet gar - den,  
Praise with e - la - tion, praise ev - 'ry morn - ing,



Praise for them, spring - ing fresh from the Word!  
sprung in com - plete - ness where God's feet pass.  
God's re - cre - a - tion of the new day!

*A Gustavus education embodies five core values—excellence, community, justice, service, and faith.  
We have invited students to speak about two of those values this morning.*

Reflection on Community

Kate Dario '24

Reflection on Faith

Angel Obiorah '24



## Hymn

### *Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying*

*Sing once before the Prayers of the People and once after.*

Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, Lord, send your Spir-it in this place;

Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are written below the treble clef staves. The first system of music ends with a double bar line. The second system of music also ends with a double bar line.

## Prayers of the People

Claire Schoenfield '24 (9:00)  
Abby Joy Neptun '24 (10:30)

*At the end of each petition,*  
Leader: In your mercy  
All: Hear our Prayer.

## Charge to the Class of 2024

Gabe Mauer '24 (9 a.m.)  
Student Senate Co-President  
Alli Joerger '24 (10:30 a.m.)  
Student Senate Co-President

Class of 2024, Let us commit ourselves to the common good of our community, both here at Gustavus and in the world, wherever we end up. May we make our lives count while also knowing that each of us already has inherent worth. May we take every challenge we encounter on our path and overcome it. May we bring our true and authentic selves to our life pursuits and to our responsibilities as citizens, friends, leaders, and alumni. May we uphold the dignity, talents, and humanity found not only in each other, but also within all members of the global community and the earth itself. Go Gusties, and may we always shine.

## Blessing of the Class

Rev. Betsy Hoium  
Chaplain

*Please stand as you are able*

## Closing Hymn

*Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*



- 1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!
- 2 All thy works with joy sur - round thee, earth and heav'n re - flect thy rays,
- 3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,



Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore thee, prais - ing thee, their sun a - bove.  
stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.  
well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean - depth of hap - py rest!



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the gloom of doubt a - way.  
Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, flow - 'ry mead - ow, flash - ing sea,  
Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our broth - er, all who live in love are thine;



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.  
chant - ing bird, and flow - ing foun - tain call us to re - joice in thee.  
teach us how to love each oth - er, lift us to the joy di - vine!

## Postlude

*Toccata from Symphony No. 5*

Charles-Marie Widor  
Heidi Engman '24, organ

## Service Participants

**Rev. Dr. Grady St. Dennis '92**

Associate Vice President of Mission and Executive Chaplain

**Rev. Betsy Hoium**

Chaplain

**Dr. Chad Winterfeldt**

Cantor of Christ Chapel

## Seniors of the Gustavus Choir

Maggie Anderson '24

Isaac Bui '24

Emma Bygd '24

Emma Deyo '24

Jacob Duncan '24

Charlie Franke '24

Emily Giannotta '24

Lindsay James '24

Jorrin Kuehn '24

Katie Lillemon '24

Alex MacLean '24

Abby Joy Neptun '24

Sophie Norman '24

Jordan Olds '24

Mya Santelman '24

Aurora Schelmeske '24

Lauren Trygstad '24

Kaylynn Weltzien '24

Iris Youngdahl '24

## Student Speakers



**Kate Dario '24** is a Communication Studies major from St. Paul, MN, with minors in Film & Media Studies and Theatre Design & Technology. She's involved in a variety of campus activities, including Adoption Recognition Community, Student Philanthropy Council, Gustavus HR Internship, and a member of the Tri-Sigma Sorority. Additionally, she serves as an Ambassador for both DEIB and the Center for Inclusive Excellence.



**Angel Maame Afua Obiorah '24** is a Chemistry major on the pre-med track. She is Ghanaian-Nigerian American and has been involved in many organizations on campus, including Pan-Afrikan Student Organization, Diversity Leadership Council, Proclaim, and Prepare Ministries. Angel has also served as an Ambassador for the Center for Inclusive Excellence.

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