

GUSTAVUS ADOLPHUS COLLEGE

one hundred and sixty-third academic year
BACCALAUREATE



SUNDAY, MAY 4, 2025 | 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 also 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, you are invited to participate in this Baccalaureate service in whatever ways are meaningful to you.

BACCALAUREATE

Prelude

Suite Gothique pour Grand Orgue, op. 25.
I. Introduction - Choral

Léon Boëllmann
Sam Brenner '25, organ

Please stand as you are able.

Opening 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!

Welcome

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

Opening Dialogue

Lily Horsch '25

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.**

Please be seated.

Anthem

The Road Home

Stephen Paulus

Tell me, where is the road
 I can call my own,
 That I left, that I lost,
 So long ago?
 All these years I have wandered,
 Oh, when will I know
 There's a way, there's a road
 That will lead me home?

After wind, after rain,
 When the dark is done.
 As I wake from a dream
 In the gold of day,
 Through the air there's a calling
 From far away,
 There's a voice I can hear
 That will lead me home.

Rise up, follow me,
 Come away, is the call,
 With the love in your heart
 As the only song;
 There is no such beauty
 As where you belong:
 Rise up, follow me, I will lead you home.

Reading: Jeremiah 29:11

Andrew Clark '25

For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord,
 plans for your welfare and not for harm,
 to give you a future with hope.

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.


Thanks be to God.

Message



Chaplain Grady St. Dennis '92

Hymn of the Day


O God, Our Help in Ages Past



1 O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,
2 Un - der the shad - ow of your throne your saints have dwelt se - cure;
3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood or earth re - ceived its frame,
4 A thou - sand a - ges in your sight are like an eve - ning gone,



our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:
suf - fi - cient is your arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.
from ev - er - last - ing you are God, to end - less years the same.
short as the watch that ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.



5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
bears all our years away;
we fly forgotten, as a dream
dies at the op'ning day.

6 O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
still be our guard while troubles last
and our eternal home!

*A Gustavus education embodies five core values—Excellence, Community, Justice, Service, and Faith.
We have invited students to speak about two of these values this morning.*

Reflection on Justice

Cristina Sirbu '25

Reflection on Faith

Taona Mhwandagara '25

Handbell Anthem

Now the Green Blade Riseth

arr. Kevin McChesney

Prayers of the People

Megan Rands '25

At the end of each petition,

Leader: In your mercy

All: **Hear our Prayer.**

Charge to the Class of 2025

Chance Korpela '25, Robby Swenson '25
Student Senate Co-Presidents

Class of 2025, Let us commit ourselves to the common good of our community both here at Gustavus and in the world. May we make our lives count while also knowing that each 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

Chaplain Grady St. Dennis '92

Please stand as you are able.

Closing Hymn

Let The Whole Creation Cry



- 1 Let the whole cre - a - tion cry, "Glo - ry to the Lord on high!"
- 2 Ser - vants striv - ing for the Lord, proph - ets burn - ing with the word,
- 3 Men and wom - en, young and old, raise the an - them loud and bold,



Heav'n and earth, a - wake and sing, "Praise to our al - might - y king!"
those to whom the arts be - long add their voic - es to the song.
and let chil - dren's hap - py hearts in this wor - ship take their parts;



Praise God, an - gel hosts a - bove, ev - er bright and fair in love;
Pow'rs of knowl - edge and of law, to the glo - rious cir - cle draw;
from the north to south - ern pole let the might - y cho - rus roll:



sun and moon, lift up your voice; night and stars, in God re - jice.
all who work and all who wait, sing, "The Lord is good and great!"
"Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly One; glo - ry be to God a - lone!"

Postlude

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

Johann Christoph Bach
Isaac Hartman '25, organ

March in D

John Williams
Mya Hanson '25, organ

Worship Leaders

Rev. Dr. Grady St. Dennis '92

Associate Vice President of Mission and Executive Chaplain

Dr. Chad Winterfeldt

Cantor of Christ Chapel

Dr. Andrew Kendall '15

Choral and Music Education Faculty

Lily Horsch '25

Andrew Clark '25

Megan Rands '25

Chance Korpela '25

Robby Swenson '25

Musicians

Brass Quintet

Max Everett '25, trumpet

Ellie Gunderson '25, trumpet

Kaylee Bosma '25, trombone

Adam Nordquist '25, trombone

Christ Chapel Ringers

Anthem Choir, comprised of members of the Senior Class

Sam Brenner '25, **Isaac Hartman '25** and **Mya Hanson '25**, organ

Student Speakers



Cristina Sirbu '25 is a Philosophy, Eastern European and Eurasian Studies, and Arts Entrepreneurship triple major from Moldova. Cristina has been involved in a variety of campus activities, including Gustavus Women in Leadership, Gustavus Mentoring Program, and Diversity Leadership Council. Additional honors include: Saint Lucia Court and 2022 Lucia, as well as Alpha Alpha Alpha Honor Society and Phi Beta Kappa.



Taona Mhwandagara '25 is a Business Management major with an Arts Entrepreneurship minor from Zimbabwe. An Eddie Philips Scholar, Taona has been involved in a variety of campus activities, including Men's Tennis, Peer Assistants, Pan-Afrikan Student Organization, Big Partner-Little Partner, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Student Athlete Advisory Committee, and Prepare Ministries.

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