



Eastern Synod
of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

Ordination of

Sherry Coman

Called To:

A Specialized Ministry of Word and Service at Martin Luther University College by the
Eastern Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

Jordan Ryan Bowman Smith

Called To:

A Ministry of Word and Sacrament by Emmanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church,
Toronto, ON

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, New Hamburg, ON

Feast day of St. John of the Cross Monday, December 14, 2020

Gathering

Prelude

Variations on *Veni Creator Spiritus* – arr. Hopson
All Are Welcome

Welcome and Territorial Acknowledgement

Pastor Tanya Ramer

Gathering Song # 579 Lord, You Give the Great Commission



1 Lord, you give the great com - mis-sion: "Heal the sick and
2 Lord, you call us to your ser-vice: "In my name bap -
3 Lord, you bless with words as - sur - ing: "I am with you



preach the word." Lest the church ne - glect its mis - sion,
tize and teach." That the world may trust your prom - ise,
to the end." Faith and hope and love re - stor - ing,



and the gos - pel go un - heard, help us wit - ness
life a - bun - dant meant for each, give us all new
may we serve as you in - tend and, a - mid the



to your pur - pose with re - newed in - teg - ri - ty:
fer - vor, draw us clos - er in com - mu - ni - ty:
cares that claim us, hold in mind e - ter - ni - ty:



With the Spir-it's gifts em-pow'r us for the work of min - is - try.

Greeting

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

A: And also with you.

Song of Praise

1 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;
2 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;
3 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;

yours is the prom - ise, the bless - ing, the birth.
yours the ho - san - nas, the dy - ing, re - birth.
yours the a - noint - ing, the ra - di - ant worth.

Ours the re - joic - ing for Word giv - en frame;
Ours the re - joic - ing for na - ture re - claimed;
Ours the re - joic - ing for spir - its a - flame;

ours the thanks - giv - ing to your ho - ly name.

Ours be the tell - ing of deeds great - ly done;

yours be the glo - ry, O God, yours a - lone.

Prayers of the Day

B: Sustaining God, we praise you for your servant John of the Cross, through whom you have called the church to its tasks and renewed its life. Raise up in our own day teachers and prophets inspired by your Spirit, whose voices will give strength to your church and proclaim the reality of your reign, through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

A: Amen.

B: 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 Sherry and Jordan, now to be ordained, may carry out this ministry faithfully in the power of your Spirit; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord.

A: Amen.

Word

First Reading

Micah 6:6-8

'With what shall I come before the LORD,
and bow myself before God on high?
Shall I come before him with burnt-offerings,
with calves a year old?
Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,
with tens of thousands of rivers of oil?
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?'
He has told you, O mortal, what is good;
and what does the LORD require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?

Second Reading

Colossians 3:12-17

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Gospel Acclamation



Noth-ing in all cre - a - tion can sep - a - rate us from the love of God.



Noth-ing in all cre - a - tion can sep - a - rate us from the love of God.

Gospel

John 13:12-17

After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, 'Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.

Sermon

Bishop Michael Pryse

Hymn of the Day

715 Christ, Be Our Light



1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for
2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for
3 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone
hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.
has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.
to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

Ordination

A representative of the synod presents the ordinands.

Rep: I present Jordan Smith for ordination to the ministry of Word and Sacrament and Sherry Coman for ordination to the ministry of Word and Service. Jordan and Sherry have been prepared, examined, and approved for this ministry and have been called by the Church to this ministry through the Eastern Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada.

A: Thanks be to God.

Congregation is seated and the Bishop addresses the ordinands

B: All baptized Christians are called to share in Sherry and Jordan's ministry of love and service in the world, to the glory of God and for the sake of the human family and the whole creation. According to apostolic usage you, Sherry, are now to be entrusted with the office of Word and Service; and you, Jordan, with the office of Word and Sacrament, in the one holy catholic Church by the laying on of hands and by prayer.

A reading from Luke: Jesus said, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." (Luke 4:18-19)

A reading from First Corinthians: There are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. (1 Corinthians 12:4-7)

A reading from Second Corinthians: The love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them. From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! (2 Corinthians 5:14-17)

The bishop questions the ordinands.

B: 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?

O: I will, and I ask God to help me.

B: 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?

O: I will, and I ask God to help me.

B: 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?

O: I will, and I ask God to help me.

B: Will you give faithful witness in the world, through word and deed, that God's love may be known in all that you do?

O: I will, and I ask God to help me.

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

A: Amen.

Congregation stands.

B: Let us confess the faith of the church, the faith in which all of life's vocations are given expression.

B/A: I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

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

A: For the holy catholic church,
that, filled with your love,
it may hunger for truth and thirst after righteousness:
God of mercy,

B: hear our prayer.

A: For all members of the church,
that they may serve you in true and godly lives:
God of mercy,

B: hear our prayer.

A: For Sherry and Jordan
that, sustained by your Holy Spirit,
they may carry out their ministries with joy and a spirit of bold trust,
serve your people and the world in need, and glorify your name:
God of mercy,

B: hear our prayer.

A: For all ministers of word and service;
for all ministers of word and sacrament;
for Michael and Susan, our bishops;
that, together with all those responsible for the care and nurture of your people,
they may support one another in serving Christ:
God of mercy,

B: hear our prayer.

A: For the peace of the church,
that our divisions may be overcome,
so that, united in Christ, we may serve the world
and bear witness to the good news:
God of mercy,

B: hear our prayer.

A: For the mission of the church,
that in faithful witness it may proclaim the gospel
and in humble love serve all in need:
God of mercy,

B: hear our prayer.

A: For the nations of the world and their leaders,
that they may work for justice
and promote the dignity and freedom of every person:
God of mercy,

B: hear our prayer.

A: For the whole creation,
that everything you have made may fulfill your purpose
and that we may exercise care for your diverse gifts:
God of mercy,

B: hear our prayer.

A: For the poor, the persecuted, the sick, the lonely, the forgotten, and all who suffer;
for refugees, prisoners, and all who are in danger;
that they may be relieved and protected:

God of mercy,

B: hear our prayer.

A: For the glorious company of all the saints, especially St. John of the Cross and all
those who have died in faith and those who live in certain hope, we praise you.

That their witness may give us courage until the day of Jesus Christ:

God of mercy,

B: hear our prayer.

The presiding minister concludes the prayers with these or similar words.

B: Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray,
trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

A: Amen.

The ordinands kneel for the hymn.

Hymn

578 Creator Spirit, Heavenly Dove

The image shows three staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like. Below the notes, the lyrics are written in a spaced-out format to match the rhythm of the music.

1 Cre - a - tor Spir - it, heav'n - ly dove, de - scend
up - on us from a - bove; with grac - es man - i -
fold re - store your crea - tures as they were be - fore.

2 Teach us to know the Father, Son,
and you, of both, to be but one;
that through the ages all along
your praise may be our endless song.

Text: Rhabanus Maurus, 776-856; tr. composite
Music: KOMM. GOTT SCHÖPFER, J. Klug, Geistliche Lieder, 1543

The bishop begins the thanksgiving with the ordinands standing.

B: The Lord be with you.

A: And also with you.

B: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

A: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

B: 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, deacons and bishops
to equip your people for their work of ministry for building up the body of
Christ.

*Ordinand Jordan Smith kneels. The bishop lays both hands on the head of the ordinand.
Sponsors impose their right hands.*

Eternal God, through your Son, Jesus Christ,
pour out your Holy Spirit upon Jordan
and fill him with the gifts of grace for the ministry of Word and Sacrament.
Bless his proclamation of your Word and administration of your Sacraments,
so that your church may be gathered for praise and strengthened for service.
Make him a faithful pastor, patient teacher, wise counselor.
Grant that in all things he may serve without reproach,
that your people may be renewed and your name be glorified in the Church;
through Jesus Christ our Saviour and Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

A: Amen

The ordinand stands.

B: Receive this anointing with the oil of gladness. Recall the ministry of Word and
Sacrament to which you are enjoined under the sign of the cross.

O: Amen.

B: 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]

O: Amen.

Sponsors present additional symbols of the pastoral office.

S1: Receive these Holy Scriptures as a token of your calling to the ministry of Word and Sacrament.

O: Amen.

S2: Receive this chasuble as a symbol of your calling to the ministry of Word and Sacrament.

O: Amen.

Ordinand Sherry Coman kneels. The bishop lays both hands on the head of the ordinand.

Sponsors impose their right hands.

B: Eternal God, through your Son, Jesus Christ,
pour out your Holy Spirit upon Sherry
and fill her with the gifts of grace for the ministry of word and service.
Send your power and blessing,
That she may carry out this ministry with faithfulness and perseverance.
Let your servant's life and teaching so reflect your grace
that many may come to know you and love you
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

A: Amen.

B: Receive this anointing with the oil of gladness. Recall the ministry of Word and Service to which you are enjoined under the sign of the cross.

O: Amen.

B: 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]

O: Amen.

Sponsors present additional symbols of the diaconal office.

S1: Receive these Holy Scriptures as a token of your calling to the ministry of Word and Service.

O: Amen.

S2: Receive this basin and towel as a symbol that you are to serve as Christ served, humbling himself and taking the form of a servant.

O: Amen.

B: Eternal God, Creator of our world, creator of woman and man. You anointed with the Spirit Miriam and Deborah, Samuel and Simeon; you chose Mary to be the mother of your Son Jesus, and John to announce the arrival of the Messiah; you set apart men and women for service in your holy temple. Bless this your servant Sherry who has been ordained a deacon in this Church. Protect her, and grant that in singleness of purpose and with a willing mind she may accomplish the service committed to her to the praise of Christ, to whom be glory with you and the Holy Spirit forever.

After all candidates have been ordained, the bishop addresses them:

B: "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]

"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 he obtained with the blood of his own Son." [Acts 20:28]

"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]

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

So discipline yourselves 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.

The newly ordained receive the blessing.

The God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, make you complete in everything good so that you may do God's will, working in you that which is pleasing in God's sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory forever and ever.

A: Amen.

*The congregation stands.
The newly ordained turn and face the assembly.*

B: Will you, assembled as the people of God and speaking for the whole Church, receive Sherry and Jordan 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?

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

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

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

B: Let it be acclaimed that Jordan Smith and Sherry Coman are called and ordained ministers in the Church of Christ. They have Christ's authority to serve God's people as together we bear God's creative and redeeming love to all the world.

C: **Amen. Thanks be to God.**

The assembly offers acclamation with applause.

Peace

B: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

Meal

Offering

Offertory

Offering Prayer

Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord.

Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

B: The Lord be with you.

A: And also with you.

B: Lift up your hearts.

A: We lift them to the Lord.

B: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

A: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

B: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who after his resurrection sent forth the apostles to preach the gospel and teach all nations, and promised to be with them, even to the end of the age. And so with St. John of the Cross and the glorious company of the apostles, with the choirs of angels and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and
God of might, heav - en and earth are full of your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the
Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Thanksgiving at the Table

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:
Blessed are you for the birth of creation.
Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.
Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.
Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.
Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,
the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup

we remember your Word dwelling among us,
full of grace and truth.

We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.

We look with hope for his coming.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit.

Come among us.

Bless this meal.

May your Word take flesh in us.

Awaken your people.

Fill us with your light.

Bring the gift of peace on earth.

Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours,

Holy One of Israel,

Word of God incarnate,

Power of the Most High,

one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

B: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

B/A: Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

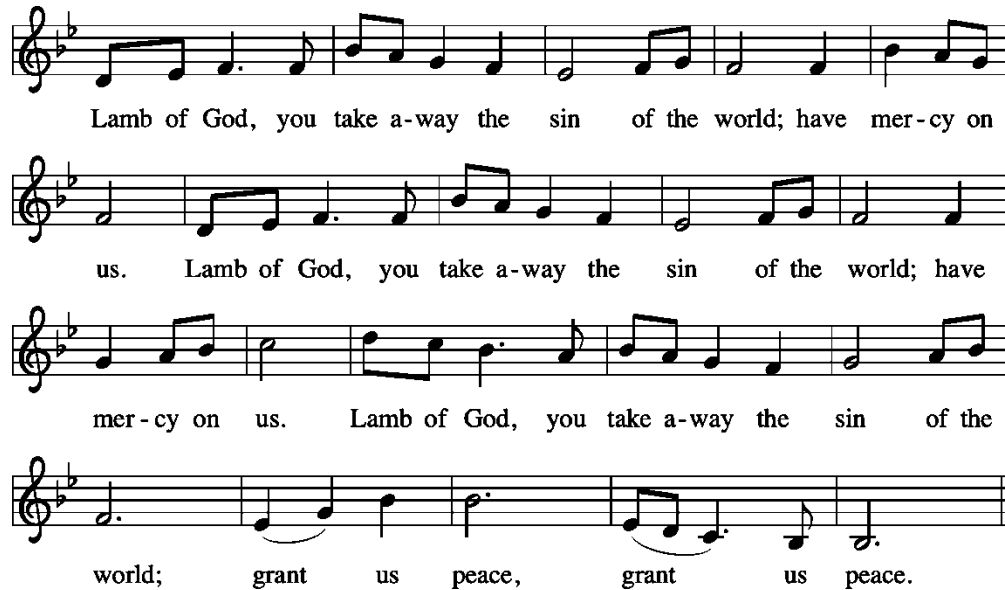
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,

now and forever. Amen.

Communion



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

Distribution of Communion

All are welcome at the Lord's Table

In keeping with public health protocols, and those established by Trinity in conjunction with the Eastern Synod Guidelines for the Resumption of In-Person Worship, we ask everyone to remain seated during the distribution of communion.

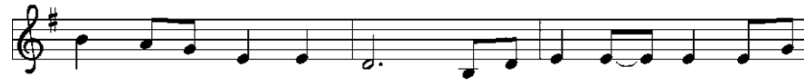
Wafers only will be distributed and are understood to be a full expression of the sacrament.

Wafers will be delivered by the ordinands to your seat.

Please wait to remove your mask until the ordinand has moved to the next pew, at which time you are invited to remove your mask, consume your wafer, and replace your mask.



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful 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 spir - it 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 ser - vant'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



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.



Refrain
 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.

Prayer after Communion

B: We thank you, gracious God, that you have fed us with heavenly food, the body and blood of your Son, uniting us through him in the communion of the Holy Spirit. As you have again raised up among us faithful servants for the ministry of word and sacrament, grant that we, with John of the Cross, may joyfully serve you all our days and finally rejoice in your glory; through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord.

A: Amen.

Sending

Blessing

Sending Song

551 The Spirit Send Us Forth to Serve



1 The Spir - it sends us forth to serve; we go in
2 We go to com - fort those who mourn and set the
3 We go to be the hands of Christ, to scat - ter
4 Then let us go to serve in peace, the gos - pel



Je - sus' name to bring glad tid - ings
bur - dened free; where hope is dim, to
joy like seed and, all our days, to
to pro - claim. God's Spir - it has em -



to the poor, God's fa - vor to pro - claim.
share a dream and help the blind to see.
cher - ish life, to do the lov - ing deed.
pow - ered us; we go in Je - sus' name.

Dismissal

Postlude

Sortie on *Rejoice, Rejoice Believers* – arr. Ashdown

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Participants

Presiding Minister:	Bishop Michael Pryse
Assisting Minister:	Dr. Mary (Joy) Philip
Candidates Presenter:	Rev. Douglas Reble
Organist:	Jamie Courtney
Cantor:	Debbie Lou Ludolph
Lectors:	T.J. Heideman
	Rev. Dr. Kristine Lund
Crucifer:	Rev. Colin Cameron
Bible Bearer:	Rev. Susan Spicer
Torch Bearers:	Rev. Anne Anderson
	Rev. Steve Hoffard
Jordan's Ordination Sponsors:	Rev. Colin Cameron
	Rev. Anne Anderson
Sherry's Ordination Sponsors:	Rev. Steve Hoffard
	Rev. Susan Spicer
Liturgical Direction:	Rev. Adam Snook
Audio Visual Direction:	Amy Courtney

Thanks to the members of Trinity, New Hamburg for hosting today's celebration.

Today's offering will go to Martin Luther University College.

Please make cheques payable to the Eastern Synod.