

The 2026
Closing Convocation

DUKE
DIVINITY
SCHOOL



11:45 a.m.
Thursday, April 16, 2026
Duke University Chapel
Durham, North Carolina

Order of Worship

**Please stand as you are able.*

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Praeludium in D Major, BuxWV 139

Dietrich Buxtehude
(c. 1637–1707)

GREETING

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN UMH 90

Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones

LASST UNS EFREUEN

Ye watchers and ye holy ones,
bright seraphs, cherubim, and thrones,
raise the glad strain: "Alleluia!"
Cry out, dominions, pryncedoms, pow'rs,
Virtues, archangels, angels' choirs:
"Alleluia! Alleluia!" Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

O higher than the cherubim,
more glorious than the seraphim,
lead their praises: "Alleluia!"
Thou bearer of th'eternal Word,
most gracious, magnify the Lord:
"Alleluia! Alleluia!" Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Respond, ye souls in endless rest,
ye patriarchs and prophets blest:
"Alleluia! Alleluia!"

Ye holy twelve, ye martyrs strong,
all saints triumphant, raise the song:
"Alleluia! Alleluia!" Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

O friends, in gladness let us sing,
supernal anthems echoing:
"Alleluia! Alleluia!"

To God the Father, God the Son,
and God the Spirit, Three in One:
"Alleluia! Alleluia!" Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All offer prayers of confession in silence.

Merciful God, for the things we have done that we regret,
Forgive us,

For the things we have failed to do that we regret,
Forgive us,

For all the times we have acted without love,
Forgive us,

For all the times we have reacted without thought,
Forgive us,

For all the times we have withdrawn care,
Forgive us,

For all the times we have failed to forgive,
Forgive us,

For hurtful words said and helpful words unsaid,
For unfinished tasks, and unfulfilled hopes,
God of all time, forgive us,
and help us to lay down our burden of regret.

DECLARATION OF PARDON

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

LATINO/A PASTORAL INITIATIVE CERTIFICATES IN THEOLOGY AND CERTIFICATES OF ACHIEVEMENT IN THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION

PROCLAMATION

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Creator God, who is the great architect of our hearts and
transformer of our lives; you have spoken to your people through
fire, through prophets, through gentle quiet, and through the
life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Speak to us again today,
that your Spirit may roam freely and meet each of us in our place
of need and draw us more deeply to you. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON—Deuteronomy 4:1–2, 9–14

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL LESSON—John 13:31–35

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON—Confession as Testimony

“We look forward to the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.”

***RESPONSE**

The Nicene Creed (*in unison*)

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,**

(continued on next page)

maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made;
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation

he came down from heaven;
and was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary,
and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;

he ascended to heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son
is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in the one holy catholic* and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism
for the forgiveness of sins.

We look forward to the resurrection of the dead,
and to life of the world to come. Amen.

**universal*

COMMUNION

***THE GREAT THANKSGIVING** (*Musical Setting A, page 17 in the hymnal*)

***THE LORD'S PRAYER**

THE GIVING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

At the direction of the ushers, please come forward in continuously moving lines. The elements used for communion are bread and grape juice. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request at the stations along the center aisle. Communion is received by intinction, meaning you dip the bread into the cup after receiving the bread in cupped hands.

MUSIC DURING DISTRIBUTION:

Hallelujah Sing

The Porter's Gate
(Leslie Jordan, Orlando Palmer, and Latifah Alattas)

Come now, dear ones, all are welcome
At this table, receive the bread and wine
Bring your sadness, anxious madness
Weakness, secrets, your loneliness

Alleluia sing a song of peace to me
Alleluia sing this unhidden melody
Alleluia sing in all souls residing
Alleluia sing Your light, what joy it brings
Alleluia sing, Alleluia sing

Come find shelter, breathe and rest here
Comfort and peace from burdens you bear
Alleluia sing

Alleluia sing a song of peace to me
Alleluia sing this unhidden melody
Alleluia sing in all souls residing
Alleluia sing Your light, what joy it brings
Alleluia sing, Alleluia sing

Take this bread, drink this cup with me
Alleluia sing

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Strengthen for service, Lord, the hands that have taken holy things; may the ears which have heard your word be deaf to clamor and dispute; may the tongues which have sung your praise be free from deceit; may the eyes which have seen your love shine with the light of hope; and may the bodies which have been fed with your body be refreshed with the fullness of your life; glory to you forever. Amen.

SENDING FORTH

*BENEDICTION

*RECESSIONAL HYMN UMH 166

All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine

SINE NOMINE

All praise to thee, for thou, O King divine,
didst yield the glory that of right was thine,
that in our darkened hearts thy grace might shine:
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thou cam'st to us in lowliness of thought;
by thee the outcast and the poor were sought, *(continued on next page)*

and by thy death was God's salvation wrought:
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Let this mind be in us which was in thee,
who wast a servant, that we might be free,
humbling thyself to death on Calvary:
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Wherefore, by God's eternal purpose, thou
art high exalted o'er all creatures now,
and giv'n the name to which all knees shall bow:
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Let every tongue confess with one accord
in heav'n and earth that Jesus Christ is Lord;
and God the Father be by all adored:
Alleluia! Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

*Following today's worship service, the Office of the Dean invites you enjoy
LocoPops and desserts on the Bovender Terrace.
We look forward to a time of gathering and fellowship.*

MINISTRY OF WORSHIP

- Presiding Minister Meghan F. Benson
Chaplain
- Preacher Daniel Castelo
*Associate Dean for Academic Formation;
William Kellon Quick Professor of Theology and Methodist Studies*
- Celebrant Edgardo Colón-Emeric
*Dean of the Divinity School;
Ruth and A. Morris Williams, Jr. Professor of Theology and Christian Ministry*
- Lectors Hannah Anderson
Divinity '26

Jongho Yoon
Divinity '26
- Organist Chad Fothergill
Organist, Divinity School and Duke University Chapel
- Pianist Jay Locklear
Divinity '26
- Singers Members of the Chapel Band and Gospel Choir
- Other Worship Leaders Aaron Shirley, crucifer
Jaidy Smith & Molly Herman-Gallow, torchbearers
Will Heise, Bible bearer
- Faculty Marshal Curtis Freeman
*Ruth D. Duncan Director of Baptist House of Studies;
Research Professor of Theology and Baptist Studies*

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