



**THE ORDINATION**  
OF  
**MIRIAM RUTH SMITH**  
TO THE  
**SACRED ORDER OF DEACONS**

BY  
THE RIGHT REVEREND ALAN SCARFE  
BISHOP OF IOWA

St. Paul's Episcopal Church  
Council Bluffs, Iowa

Sunday, September 13, 2020  
Two o'clock in the afternoon

*The people standing, the Bishop says*

People Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.  
And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

*All* **Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## The Presentation

*The bishop and people sit. A Priest and a Lay Person, and additional presenters if desired, standing before the bishop, present the ordinand, saying*

Alan, Bishop in the Church of God, on behalf of the clergy and people of the Diocese of Iowa, we present to you Miriam Ruth Smith to be ordained a deacon in Christ's holy catholic Church.

*Bishop*

Has she been selected in accordance with the canons of this Church? And do you believe her manner of life to be suitable to the exercise of this ministry?

*Presenters*

We certify to you that she has satisfied the requirements of the canons, and we believe her to be qualified for this order.

*The Bishop says to the ordinand*

Will you be loyal to the doctrine, discipline, and worship of Christ as this Church has received them? And will you, in accordance with the canons of this Church, obey your bishop and other ministers who may have authority over you and your work?

*Answer*

I am willing and ready to do so; and I solemnly declare that I do believe the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the Word of God, and to contain all things necessary to salvation; and I do solemnly engage to conform to the doctrine, discipline, and worship of The Episcopal Church.

*The Ordinand then signs the above Declaration in the sight of all present.*

*All stand. The Bishop says to the people*

Dear friends in Christ, you know the importance of this ministry, and the weight of your responsibility in presenting Miriam Smith for ordination to the sacred deacons. Therefore, if any of you know any impediment or crime because of which we should not proceed, come forward now, and make it known.

*If no objection is made, the Bishop continues*

Is it your will that Miriam be ordained a deacon?

*The People respond in these or other words*

*People*      **It is.**

*Bishop*      Will you uphold her in this ministry?

*The People respond in these or other words*

*People*      **We will.**

*The Bishop then calls the people to prayer with these or similar words*

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

## **The Litany of Ordination**

*All kneel as able*

*Leader*      God the Father,  
*People*      **Have mercy on us.**

*Leader*      God the Son,  
*People*      **Have mercy on us.**

*Leader*      God the Holy Spirit,  
*People*      **Have mercy on us.**

*Leader*      Holy Trinity, one God,  
*People*      **Have mercy on us.**

*Leader*      We pray to you, Lord Christ.  
*People*      **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For the holy Church of God, that it may be filled with truth and love, and be found without fault at the Day of your Coming, we pray to you, O Lord.

*People*      **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For all members of your Church in their vocation and ministry, that they may serve you in a true and godly life, we pray to you, O Lord.

*People*      **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For Michael our Presiding Bishop, for Alan our own Bishop, and for all bishops, priests, and deacons that they may be filled with your love, may hunger for truth, and may thirst after righteousness, we pray to you, O Lord.

*People*      **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For Miriam, chosen deacon in your Church, we pray to you, O Lord.

*People*      **Lord, hear our prayer.**

That she may faithfully fulfill the duties of this ministry, build up your Church, and glorify your Name, we pray to you, O Lord.

*People*      **Lord, hear our prayer.**

That by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit she may be sustained and encouraged to persevere to the end, we pray to you, O Lord.

*People*      **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For her family, that they may be adorned with all Christian virtues, we pray to you, O Lord.

*People*      **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For all who fear God and believe in you, Lord Christ, that our divisions may cease and that all may be one as you and the Father are one, we pray to you,  
O Lord.

*People*      **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For the mission of the Church, that in faithful witness it may preach the Gospel to the ends of the earth, we pray to you, O Lord.

*People*      **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For those who do not yet believe, and for those who have lost their faith, that they may receive the light of the Gospel, we pray to you, O Lord.

*People*      **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For the peace of the world, that a spirit of respect and forbearance may grow among nations and peoples, we pray to you, O Lord.

*People*      **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For those in positions of public trust, that they may serve justice and promote the dignity and freedom of every person, we pray to you, O Lord.

*People*      **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For a blessing upon all human labor, and for the right use of the riches of creation, that the world may be freed from poverty, famine, and disaster, we pray to you, O Lord.

*People*      **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For the poor, the persecuted, the sick, and all who suffer; for refugees, prisoners, and all who are in danger; that they may be relieved and protected, we pray to you, O Lord.

*People*      **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For ourselves; for the forgiveness of our sins, and for the grace of the Holy Spirit to amend our lives, we pray to you, O Lord.

*People*      **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For all who have died in the communion of your Church, and those whose faith is known to you alone, that, with all the saints, they may have rest in that place where there is no pain or grief, but life eternal, we pray to you, O Lord.

*People*      **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Rejoicing in the fellowship of St. Paul and all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life to Christ our God.

*People*      **To you, O Lord our God.**

Lord, have mercy.

*People*      **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord, have mercy.

*Bishop*      The Lord be with you.

*People*      **And also with you.**

*Bishop*      Let us pray.

O God of unchangeable power and eternal light: Look favorably on your whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery; by the effectual working of your providence, carry out in tranquility the plan of salvation; let the whole world see and know that things which were cast down are being raised up, and things which had grown old are being made new, and that all things are being brought to their perfection by him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## The Ministry of the Word

*The people may sit*

### First Reading

Jeremiah 1:4-9

*Reader*      A reading from the Book of Jeremiah

Now the word of the Lord came to me saying, “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.” Then I said, “Ah, Lord God! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy.” But the Lord said to me, “Do not say, ‘I am only a boy’; for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and you shall speak whatever I command you, Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, says the Lord.” Then the Lord put out his hand and touched my mouth; and the Lord said to me, “Now I have put my words in your mouth.

*Reader*      The Word of the Lord

*People*      **Thanks be to God.**

### Psalm 84 — *all pray the psalm in unison*

**How dear to me is your dwelling, O Lord of hosts! \***

**My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the Lord;  
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.**

**The sparrow has found her a house and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young; \*  
by the side of your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.**

**Happy are they who dwell in your house! \* they will always be praising you.**

**Happy are the people whose strength is in you! \* whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.**

**Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a place of springs, \***

for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.  
They will climb from height to height, \* and the God of gods will reveal himself in Zion.  
Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer; \* hearken, O God of Jacob.  
Behold our defender, O God; \* and look upon the face of your Anointed.  
For one day in your courts is better than a thousand in my own room, \*  
and to stand at the threshold of the house of my God  
than to dwell in the tents of the wicked.  
For the Lord God is both sun and shield; \* he will give grace and glory;  
No good thing will the Lord withhold \* from those who walk with integrity.  
O Lord of hosts, \* happy are they who put their trust in you!

## Second Reading

Acts 6:2-7

*Reader* A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

And the twelve called together the whole community of the disciples and said, 'It is not right that we should neglect the word of God in order to wait at tables. Therefore, friends, select from among yourselves seven men of good standing, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint to this task, while we, for our part, will devote ourselves to prayer and to serving the word.' What they said pleased the whole community, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. They had these men stand before the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them. The word of God continued to spread; the number of the disciples increased greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.

*Reader* Hear what the Spirit is saying to the people.  
*People* **Thanks be to God.**

## The Holy Gospel

Luke 22:24-27

*Reader* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.  
*People* **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

A dispute also arose among them as to which one of them was to be regarded as the greatest. But he said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those in authority over them are called benefactors. But not so with you; rather the greatest among you must become like the youngest, and the leader like one who serves. For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one at the table? But I am among you as one who serves.

*Reader* The Gospel of the Lord.  
*People* **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

## The Sermon

The Rt. Rev. Alan Scarfe

## The Nicene Creed

*All stand as able and say together: the Nicene Creed.*

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
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:  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,  
and was made man.  
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 into 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.  
With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified.  
He has spoken through the Prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## The Examination

*All are seated except the ordinand, who stands before the Bishop.*

*The Bishop addresses the ordinand as follows*

My sister, every Christian is called to follow Jesus Christ, serving God the Father, through the power of the Holy Spirit. God now calls you to a special ministry of servanthood directly under your bishop. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are to serve all people, particularly the poor, the weak, the sick, and the lonely.

As a deacon in the Church, you are to study the Holy Scriptures, to seek nourishment from them, and to model your life upon them. You are to make Christ and his redemptive love known, by your word and

example, to those among whom you live, and work, and worship. You are to interpret to the Church the needs, concerns, and hopes of the world. You are to assist the bishop and priests in public worship and in the ministration of God's Word and Sacraments, and you are to carry out other duties assigned to you from time to time. At all times, your life and teaching are to show Christ's people that in serving the helpless they are serving Christ himself.

My sister, do you believe that you are truly called by God and his Church to the life and work of a deacon?

*Answer* I believe I am so called.

*Bishop* Do you now in the presence of the Church commit yourself to this trust and responsibility?

*Answer* I do.

*Bishop* Will you be guided by the pastoral direction and leadership of your bishop?

*Answer* I will.

*Bishop* Will you be faithful in prayer, and in the reading and study of the Holy Scriptures?

*Answer* I will.

*Bishop* Will you look for Christ in all others, being ready to help and serve those in need?

*Answer* I will.

*Bishop* Will you do your best to pattern your life [and that of your family, *or* household, *or* community] in accordance with the teachings of Christ, so that you may be a wholesome example to all people?

*Answer* I will.

*Bishop* Will you in all things seek not your glory but the glory of the Lord Christ?

*Answer* I will.

*Bishop* May the Lord by his grace uphold you in the service he lays upon you.

*Answer* Amen.

## **The Consecration of the Deacon**

*All now stand except the ordinand, who kneels facing the Bishop*

### ***Veni Sancte Spiritus***

*A period of silent prayer follows, the people still standing.*

*The Bishop then says this Prayer of Consecration*

O God, most merciful Father, we praise you for sending your Son Jesus Christ, who took on himself the form of a servant, and humbled himself, becoming obedient even to death on the cross. We praise you that you have highly exalted him, and made him Lord of all; and that, through him, we know that whoever would be great must be servant of all. We praise you for the many ministries in your Church, and for calling this your servant to the order of deacons.



*Here the Bishop lays hands upon the head of the ordinand, and prays*

Therefore, Father, through Jesus Christ your Son, give your Holy Spirit to Miriam; fill her with grace and power, and make her a deacon in your Church.

*The Bishop then continues*

Make her, O Lord, modest and humble, strong and constant, to observe the discipline of Christ. Let her life and teaching so reflect your commandments, that through her many may come to know you and love you. As your Son came not to be served but to serve, may this deacon share in Christ's service, and come to the unending glory of him who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever.

*The People in a loud voice respond*    **Amen.**

*The new deacon is now vested according to the order of deacons.*

*The Bishop then gives a Bible to the newly ordained, saying*

Receive this Bible as the sign of your authority to proclaim God's Word and to assist in the ministration of his holy Sacraments.

*The Bishop greets the newly ordained.*

## **The Peace**

*Bishop*        The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People*        **And also with you.**

*All greet the new deacon and one another, maintaining six feet of social distancing between different households.*

## **Welcome and Announcements**

*Monies collected will be put into the Ministry Discretionary Fund for new deacon Miriam Smith.*

## **The Holy Communion**

### **The Great Thanksgiving**

*All stand as able.*

*Bishop:*        The Lord be with you.

*People*        **And also with you.**

*Bishop*        Lift up your hearts.

*People*        **We lift them to the Lord.**

*Bishop*        Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

*The bishop continues:*

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, Creator

of heaven and earth through the great shepherd of your flock, Jesus Christ our Lord; who after his resurrection sent forth his apostles to preach the Gospel and to teach all nations; and promised to be with them always, even to the end of the ages. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

*Bishop and People:*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

*The bishop continues:*

Holy and gracious God: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and maker of all. Jesus stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Savior Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

*Bishop and People*    **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

*The bishop continues:*

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, Almighty God, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving.

Recalling Christ's death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in Christ. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through Jesus Christ our Savior. By Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever.

*All say loudly:* **AMEN.**

*All pray the* **Lord's Prayer:**

**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.

## The Breaking of the Bread

*The bishop breaks the consecrated Bread.*

*A period of silence is kept. Then may be said*

*Bishop* Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
*People* **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

*Bishop* The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

## Communion

*At the bishop's bidding, the people physically present are invited to **sanitize hands and then form a line maintaining 6 feet of distance from other households while lining up, waiting to receive, and returning to their places, and to keep their faces covered until back at their places, where they can consume the bread.** The bishop will drop a piece of bread into each person's hand without contact. If there is contact then the bishop will re-sanitize his hands. The bishop will receive last (bread and wine), sanitizing hands before and after receiving. No wine will be consumed except by the bishop.*

*Remote participants and those present who choose not to receive are assured that **all the benefits of Communion are received even though the Sacrament is not received with the mouth** (BCP, 457). If desired, these participants may pray the following from the Prayer Book for the Armed Services:*

In union, O Lord, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church, where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I desire to offer to you praise and thanksgiving. I remember your death, Lord Christ; I proclaim your resurrection; I await your coming in glory. Since I cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

*After Communion, the bishop says*  
Let us pray.

*All stand, as able, and say*

**Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us with the holy food of the Body and Blood of your Son, and for uniting us through him in the fellowship of your Holy Spirit. We thank you for raising up**

among us faithful servants for the ministry of your Word and Sacraments. We pray that Miriam may be to us an effective example in word and action, in love and patience, and in holiness of life. Grant that we, with her, may serve you now, and always rejoice in your glory; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*The Bishop then blesses the people:*

The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

## **Dismissal**

*The new Deacon dismisses the people:*

*Deacon* Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit. Alleluia, alleluia.

*People* **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

## **Participants in Today's Liturgy**

Presider	The Rt. Rev. Alan Scarfe
Ordinand	The Rev. Miriam Smith
Presenters:	The Rev. Catherine Scott Ms. Barbara Christie Mr. John Turner
Litanist	Ms. Betty Craft
Lectors	Mr. Robert Collins, Ms. Karen Collins
Technology Coordinators	The Rev. Meg Wagner, Mr. Matthew Schmidt