



FALL CONVOCATION

September 9, 2025
4:00 p.m.

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

Dennis R. Edwards, Presiding
Dean, North Park Theological Seminary

Prelude

May the Mind of Christ My Savior

Barham-Gould
arr. Schrader

Come, Let Us Join Our Cheerful Songs

Emily Maxson Porter

Processional

Trumpet Voluntary

John Stanley

Greetings

Dennis R. Edwards

Leader: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People: And blessed be God's kingdom now and forever. Amen.

*Call to Worship

Leader: Listen, God is calling!

People: We come to hear the voice of God.

Leader: Look, God is leading!

People: We come to follow the steps of God.

Leader: Be attentive, God is working!

People: Where there is hatred, God harvests love.

Leader: Rejoice, God is here!

People: We come to praise the living God!

*Opening Song

Lead Me, Guide Me/ I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

D. Akers/arr. S. Marak

Lead me, guide me along the way,
for if you lead me, I cannot stray.
Lord, let me walk each day with thee.
Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

I have decided to follow Jesus.
I have decided to follow Jesus.
I have decided to follow Jesus.
Keep turning back; keep turning back.

*Congregation rise in body or spirit.

Prayer for the Day

All: Gracious God, who has caused Holy Scripture to be written for our learning; help us to read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest its sacred teaching so that we may have the grace to cope with your generosity, the patience to love questions, and a willingness to do the truth. As it is in Jesus who shares dominion with you and the Holy Spirit, One God forever. Amen.

Old Testament Lesson

Exodus 13:15–22

Brandi Kejr, Master of Arts Christian Formation Student

Office Manager, Midwest Conference of the Evangelical Covenant Church

***Gospel Lesson**

Luke 9:18–26

Kara Sexton, Assistant Director of Seminary and International Admissions

Sermon

“Following Jesus, Leading Others”

Jay Catanus, Lead Pastor, Garden City Covenant Church

***Responsive Hymn**

Will You Come and Follow Me

J. Bell

Will you come and follow me
if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know
and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown,
will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown
in you and you in me?

Will you leave yourself behind
if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind
and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare
should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer
in you and you in me?

Will you love the 'you' you hide
if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside
and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found
to reshape the world around,
through my sight and touch and sound
in you and you in me?

Lord, your summons echoes true
when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you
and never be the same.
In your company I'll go
where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow
in you and you in me.

**Recognition of
Returning Students**

Hauna Ondrey, Dean of Faculty

**Presentation of
New Students**

Emily Wagner, Director of Student Life and Formation

A Litany for New Students

Leader: Brothers and sisters of our Lord Jesus Christ! We have assembled to acknowledge the work of the Triune God in creating, redeeming, and calling these persons to service in the household of faith. We recognize the providence of God in leading thus far in their lives and pray that we, the seminary community, may be the stewards of these gifts given to us by the church. Moreover, let us pray that a due sense of responsibility for thought, study, and life together may grace our partnership in the gospel.

**People: Rejoicing in your call to ministry and confident that God is faithful:
let love guide you, truth free you, and grace enable you. Fear no questions;
respond truthfully; live generously and graciously among all.**

Leader: May the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless you and remain with you now and always. Amen.

Prayer of Consecration

Mary K. Surridge, President, North Park University

Charge

Anthony Thomas, Director of Clergy and Congregational Care, Central Conference of the Evangelical Covenant Church

***Song of Sending**

Thuma Mina

South African

Thuma mina,
thuma mina,
thuma mina
Somandla.

Send me, Jesus,
send me, Jesus,
send me, Jesus,
send me, Lord.

2. Use me, Jesus...
3. Lead me, Jesus...

***Benediction**

Jay Catanus

Recessional

Trumpet Tune Finale

Henry Purcell

Organ

Sharon R. Peterson, University Organist

Piano

David D. Bjorlin, Assistant Professor of Worship

Banner Bearer

Tom Crozier, Master of Divinity Student

Crucifer

Valarie Grimes, Master of Arts in Christian Formation Student

Marshal

David D. Bjorlin

Usher

Yiming Zhang, Master of Divinity Student

NEW STUDENT LIST

Master of Divinity

Latricia Alexander

Sarah Bender

Anna Fuller

Destiny Goodwin

Austin Hochstetler

LeLe Hsu

Central Square Church,
Cambridge, MA

Jeanette Mottl*

Elizabeth Quinn

Genesis Winter*

Jesus People USA
Chicago, IL

Master of Arts in Theological Studies

Anthony Brundage*

Brian Davy

Master of Arts in Christian Formation

Wosen Ayele

Calvary Covenant Church,
Chicago, IL

Nancy Benser

Micah Black

Rebekah Bonilla*

Cornerstone Covenant Church,
Turlock, CA

Evariste Busanga

Matthew Foster*

Harbor Covenant Church,
Gig Harbor, WA

Amelia Harthan

Rochester Covenant Church,
Rochester, MN

Donearl Johnson

Life Church Auburn Hills,
Auburn Hills, MI

Veronica Lassley

Tim Limberg

Kristal Locke

Christo Möller

Salem Covenant Church
Duluth, MN

Hannah Nelson

Stacy Petersen

Council Tree Covenant Church,
Fort Collins, CO

Caitlin Pierson

Valley Covenant Church,
Stillman Valley, IL

Raymond Ruecker

Hillcrest Covenant Church,
Prairie Village, KS

Justin Scarbrough

Kirstin St. Jean

Ryan Starr

Lakeview Covenant Church,
Duluth, MN

Marcia Ward-Tumpkin

Life Church Southfield,
Southfield, MI

Tobias Welling

Bethlehem Covenant Church,
Waverly, NE

Tracey Wright

Master of Arts in Christian Ministry

Lore Porter

McLean Bible Church,
Vienna, VA



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