



THE INAUGURATION OF

THOMAS J. EGGER

AS THE 11TH PRESIDENT
OF CONCORDIA SEMINARY
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

The Chapel of St. Timothy and St. Titus
Friday, August 27, 2021
2:30 P.M.



DR. THOMAS J. EGGER

Dr. Thomas J. Egger is president of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. He also is the Gustav and Sophie Butterbach Professor of Exegetical Theology.

Before being named the 11th president of Concordia Seminary in 2021, Egger was installed in the Butterbach chair and was appointed as chairman of the Department of Exegetical Theology. He also has served as associate professor of Exegetical Theology and as academic adviser for first-year students. He has been a faculty member since 2005.

Previously, Egger served as pastor at Zion Lutheran Church in Storm Lake, Iowa, from 2000-05. Also, he served as a guest instructor at Concordia Lutheran Seminary in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, in 1999.

Egger earned his Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) and Master of Divinity (M.Div.) (2019, 1997) from Concordia Seminary. He received a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in English and German from Central College in Pella, Iowa (1993).

His areas of interest and expertise include biblical Hebrew, the books of Genesis and Exodus, Old Testament theology, Old Testament Christ-typology, divine justice, narrative and rhetorical analysis, the nature and authority of Scripture, and “objectionable” texts in the Bible (those often raising criticisms of divine violence and accusations of divine immorality).

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PRE-CEREMONY MUSIC

As the hymn is introduced, please stand and face the processional cross, turning as it passes you.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

With the Lord Begin Your Task (LSB 869)

1 With the Lord be - gin your task; Je - sus will di - rect it.
2 Let each day be - gin with prayer, Praise, and ad - o - ra - tion.
3 With your Sav - ior at your side, Foes need not a - harm you;
4 If your task be thus be - gun With the Sav - ior's bless - ing,
For His aid and coun - sel ask; Je - sus will per - fect it.
On the Lord cast ev - 'ry care; He is your sal - va - tion.
In His prom - is - es con - fide, And no ill can harm you.
Safe - ly then your course will run, Toward the prom - ise press - ing.
Ev - 'ry morn with Je - sus rise, And when day is end - ed,
Morn - ing, eve - ning, and at night Je - sus will be near you,
All your trust and hope re - pose In the might - y Mas - ter,
Good will fol - low ev - 'ry - where While you here must wan - der;
In His name then close your eyes; Be to Him com - mend - ed.
Save you from the tempt - er's might, With His pres - ence cheer you.
Who in wis - dom tru - ly knows How to stem dis - as - ter.
You at last the joy will share In the man - sions yon - der.

- 5 Thus, Lord Jesus, ev'ry task
Be to You commended;
May Your will be done, I ask,
Until life is ended.
Jesus, in Your name begun
Be the day's endeavor;
Grant that it may well be done
To Your praise forever.

INVOCATION AND PRAYER

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 8:11-9:7

CHORAL ANTHEM

Thee, Lord, Would I Serve

Music: Mark Bender • Text: Martin H. Franzmann

Thee, Lord, would I serve yet how can I serve Thee?
Cleanse my unclean lips that I may praise Thee.
Give me eyes unsealed to see Thy purpose.
Give me strength of heart to serve my brothers.

Let me hear at last “Well done, faithful servant.”

INAUGURATION

Presentation of the President

Dr. Timothy Saleska
Co-chairman, Presidential Search Committee
Dean of Ministerial Formation, Concordia Seminary

Rite of Inauguration

Dr. Todd A. Peperkorn
Chairman, Board of Regents, Concordia Seminary

Inaugural Address

Dr. Thomas J. Egger
President, Concordia Seminary

THE HYMN

Lord Jesus Christ, with Us Abide (LSB 585)



1 Lord Je - sus Christ, with us a - bide, For round us
 2 In these last days of great dis - tress Grant us, dear
 3 To hope grown dim, to hearts turned cold Speak tongues of
 4 May glo - rious truths that we have heard, The bright sword



falls the e - ven - tide. O let Your Word,
 Lord, true stead - fast - ness That we keep pure
 fire and make us bold To shine Your Word
 of Your might - y Word, Spurn Sa - tan that



that sav - ing light, Shine forth un - dimmed in - to the night.
 till life is spent Your ho - ly Word and Sac - ra - ment.
 of sav - ing grace In - to each dark and love - less place.
 Your Church be strong, Bold, u - ni - fied in act and song.

5 Restrain, O Lord, the human pride
 That seeks to thrust Your truth aside
 Or with some man-made thoughts or things
 Would dim the words Your Spirit sings.

6 Stay with us, Lord, and keep us true;
 Preserve our faith our whole life through—
 Your Word alone our heart's defense,
 The Church's glorious confidence.

GREETINGS

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Provost, Concordia Seminary

Students of Concordia Seminary

Donald Stein
Fourth-Year Seminarian

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Dr. Matthew C. Harrison
President, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

PRAYER

BENEDICTION

RECESSIONAL HYMN

Saints, See the Cloud of Witnesses (LSB 667)



1 Saints, see the cloud of wit - ness - es sur - round us;
 2 These saints of old re - ceived God's com - men - da - tion;
 3 They call to us, "Your tim - id foot - steps length - en;
 4 Come, let us fix our sight on Christ who suf - fered,



Their lives of faith en - cour - age and as - tound us.
 They lived as pil - grim - heirs of His sal - va - tion.
 Throw off sin's weight, your halt - ing weak - ness strength - en.
 He faced the cross, His sin - less life He of - fered;



Hear how the Mas - ter praised their faith so
 Through faith they con - quered flame and sword and
 We kept the faith, we shed our blood, were
 He scorned the shame, He died, our death en -



fer - vent: "Well done, My ser - vant!"
 gal - lows, God's name to hal - low.
 mar - tyred; Our lives we bar - tered."
 dur - ing, Our hope se - cur - ing.

5 Lord, give us faith to walk where You are sending,
 On paths unmarked, eyes blind as to their ending;
 Not knowing where we go, but that You lead us—
 With grace precede us.

6 You, Jesus, You alone deserve all glory!
 Our lives unfold, embraced within Your story;
 Past, present, future—You, the same forever—
 You fail us never!

POST-CEREMONY MUSIC

Soli Deo Gloria

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Rev. Randy Asbury

Interim Dean of Chapel

Pastor, Hope Lutheran Church, St. Louis

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Kreft Chair for Music Arts

Director of Music Arts

Matthew Janssen

Kantor, Hope Lutheran Church, St. Louis

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He also has made contributions in the area of American Lutheran history, especially the history of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) and its first president, Dr. C.F.W. Walther. Another area of special interest is the theology of Luther’s catechisms and the intersection of the catechism and the Bible in Lutheran teaching and piety.

He has written articles for a number of publications, including *Concordia Journal*, *Modern Reformation*, *Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society*, *Concordia Pulpit Resources* and *The Lutheran Witness*, and pieces for the LCMS Commission on Theology and Church Relations (CTCR).

Egger currently serves on the Concordia Historical Institute (CHI) Awards Committee. He previously served on the Board of Regents for Concordia University Chicago, River Forest, Ill. He served three terms on the CTCR and was part of the seven-member LCMS Catechism Revision Committee, which prepared the 2017 revision of the Synod’s explanation of Luther’s Small Catechism. For 10 years, he served on the Board of Directors of Providence Classical Christian Academy, a K–12 school in St. Louis.

His favorite pastimes are running, Cardinals baseball, birdwatching, hiking, golf, reading stories and poetry to his children, and singing hymns with his family. He and his wife, Victoria, live on campus and have six children: Andrew, Stacey, Abram, Bonnie, Ellen and Mary.





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