

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP
for the
OPENING OF THE 142nd ACADEMIC YEAR
of
CONCORDIA SEMINARY
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI



September 5, 1980

8:00 p.m.

Wyneken Chapel

Let your steadfast love come to us, O Lord,
Your salvation according to your promise.

We will also speak of your testimonies before kings,
And shall not be put to shame.

Remember your word to your servants,
In which you have made us hope.

Let your steadfast love be ready to comfort us
According to your promise to your servants.

For ever, O Lord, your word is firmly fixed in the heavens;
Your faithfulness endures to all generations.

How sweet are your words to our taste,
Sweeter than honey to our mouths.

Your word is a lamp to our feet
And a light to our path.

Your testimonies are our heritage for ever;
They are the joy of our hearts.

Your testimonies are righteous for ever;
Give us understanding that we may live.

The sum of your word is truth;
And every one of your righteous ordinances endures for ever.

Let our cry come before you, O Lord;
Give us understanding according to your word.

Our tongues will sing of your word,
For all your commandments are right.

We long for your salvation, O Lord;
Let us live, that we may praise you!

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be forever and ever. Amen.

THE PSALMODY

Psalm XXXI, In Te, Domine, speravi
Adam Reusner, 1533

1. In Thee, Lord, have I put my trust;
Leave me not helpless in the dust,
Let me not be confounded.
Let in Thy Word My faith, O Lord,
Be always firmly grounded.

2. Bow down Thy gracious ear to me
And hear my cries and prayers to Thee,
Haste Thee for my protection;
For woes and fear Surround me here.
Help me in mine affliction.

3. My God and Shield, now let Thy pow'r
Be unto me a mighty tow'r
Whence bravely I defend me
Against the foes That round me close.
O Lord, assistance lend me.

4. Thou art my Strength, my Shield, my Rock,
My Fortress that withstands each shock,
My Help, my Life, my Treasure.
Whate'er the rod, Thou art my God;
Naught can resist Thy pleasure.

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My Fortress that withstands each shock,
My Help, my Life, my Treasure.

5. The world for me has falsely set
Full many a secret snare and net
To tempt me and to harm me.
Lord, make them fail, Do Thou prevail,
Let their disguise not charm me.

6. With Thee, Lord, have I cast my lot;
O faithful God, forsake me not,
To Thee my soul commending.
Lord, be my Stay, Lead Thou the way
Now and when life is ending.

7. All honor, praise, and majesty
To Father, Son, and Spirit be,
Our God forever glorious,
In whose rich grace We'll run our race
Till we depart victorious. Amen.

THE LESSONS

Hebrews 13:7–15
Saint Luke 12:4–12

THE HYMN

“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”
Martin Luther, 1529
(Translation by F. Samuel Janzow for *Lutheran Worship*)

1. A mighty fortress is our God,
Strong shield and glorious weapon.
He breaks the cruel scourge and rod
When hordes of evil threaten.
Our old and evil foe,
Sworn to work us woe,
Comes armed with dread might,
Deep cunning, deadly spite —
Our God is our one refuge.

2. To trust in our own human might
Would force our sure surrender.
The right man comes, takes up the fight,
God's choice for our defender.
“Who is he?” you may ask.
Christ takes on the task,
Of heaven's hosts, Lord.
There is no other God.
He holds the field triumphant.

3. Though roaring devils fill the world
To drive us to the burning
The Lamb his banner has unfurled;
See how the battle's turning.
Their prince may scowl in rage,
His legions engage,
Yet we escape harm,
God's judgment binds his arm.
One little word can fell him.

4. The Word shall stand forever sure;
In vain they spurn and jeer it.
God stands beside us, we're secure;
He arms us with his Spirit.
The foes who harm our life,
Goods, fame, child, or wife,
Can't undo what's done,
Our vict'ry has been won.
We hold cross, crown, and kingdom.

THE SERMON

*“Et loquebar de testimoniis tuis in conspectu regum
et non confundebam.”*

*“I will also speak of thy testimonies before kings,
and shall not be put to shame.”*

THE LITANY FOR THE SEMINARY AND THE CHURCH

O Lord,
Have mercy on us.

O Christ,
Have mercy on us.

O Lord,
Have mercy on us.

O Christ,
In mercy, hear us.

O God the Father in heaven,
Have mercy on us.

O God the Son, Redeemer of the world,
Have mercy on us.

O God the Holy Spirit,
Have mercy on us.

Be gracious to us,
Help us, good Lord.

From all that disturbs and halts our worship;
From apathy toward your holy Word;
From unconcern toward our sin;
From mouthing of our prayers;
From callousness toward our brethren in this place;
From hardness of heart to the need of people throughout the world:
Good Lord, deliver us.

Though unworthy, we implore you
To hear us, O Lord God.

To sustain our bodies in all their tasks;
To refresh body and spirit with wholesome play;
To hallow our enjoyment of all useful arts;
To give wisdom and patience to those who teach and those who learn:
We implore you to hear us, good Lord.

To bless us as we go forth to speak your Word to others;
To give courage to every testimony of our lives and lips;
To make this school a light of your Word to many;
To make us mindful of the brother who is near as well as the stranger who is far;
To make our witness winsome and our speech ever seasoned with salt:
We implore you to hear us, good Lord.

To sustain and reward all who guide or minister to us in this place;
To remember in grace our parents and those dear to us;
To encourage and guide our fathers and brethren in every ministry of the Word;
To protect missionaries of your Word, especially those in loneliness and danger;
To give wisdom and patience to the leaders of our church;
To bless our Synod in the fulfillment of its tasks in your name:

To keep us kind in judgment and ready to help in weakness;
To defend us from pride and from the desire to be right for our own sake;
To give us the mind of Christ to esteem others better than ourselves;
To bless all the words of reproof, correction, and counsel said to one another.
We implore you to hear us, good Lord.

O Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,
We implore you to hear us.

O Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
Have mercy on us.

O Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
Have mercy on us.

O Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
Grant us your peace.

O Christ,
Hear us.

O Lord,
Have mercy on us.

O Christ,
Have mercy on us.
Lord, have mercy on us. Amen.

THE HYMN

"O Thou Whose Fiery Blessing"
Martin H. Franzmann, 1960

1. O Thou whose fiery blessing can
Make pure the unclean lips of man,
Who takest man and makest him,
A singer with the seraphim,

2. O Thou who buildest mighty praise
From shouts that children's voices raise,
Who canst, when human voices die,
Make silent stones to prophesy,

3. Oh, speak to us Thy potent Word,
That we may say, "Thus saith the Lord,"
That in our frailty we may be
A wall of brass that echoes Thee. Amen.

THE RITE OF INSTALLATION

(The department chairmen join the officiants in the laying on of hands.)

THE WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS OF THE SEMINARY STAFF

THE HYMN

"Thou Whose Glory None Can See"
Martin H. Franzmann, 1957

1. Thou whose glory none can see,
Wisdom comes by fear of Thee;
Fear of Thee we cannot know
Till forgiveness Thou bestow.

2. Send Thy Spirit from on high,
Who Thy Son shall glorify,
Who shall show us in Thy Son
All Thy grace and truth have done.

3. He shall give us eyes to see
In the Cross Thy mastery,
In Thy Son's death Satan's doom,
Life eternal from His tomb.

4. Thou Forgiver, fear of Thee
Shall from folly set us free,
Set us free from self-sought ways,
Set us free to sing Thy praise.

5. All that man has sought and found,
All that man has caught and bound,
We shall take, and let it be
First fruits offered unto Thee.

6. Then at world's end we shall raise
The full harvest home of praise
To Thee, Father, to Thy Son,
To Thy Spirit, Three in One!

THE OPENING OF THE ACADEMIC YEAR

THE BENEDICTION

THE RECESSIONAL HYMN

"Our God, Our Help in Ages Past"
Isaac Watts, 1719

1. Our God, our Help in ages past,
Our Hope for years to come,
Our Shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal Home!

2. Under the shadow of Thy throne
Thy saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is Thine arm alone,
And our defense is sure.

3. Before the hills in order stood
Or earth received her frame,
From everlasting Thou art God,
To endless years the same.

4. A thousand ages in Thy sight
Are like an evening gone,
Short as the watch that ends the night
Before the rising sun.

5. Thy word commands our flesh to dust:
"Return, ye sons of men!"
All nations rose from earth at first
And turn to earth again.

6. Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
Bears all its sons away;
They fly forgotten as a dream
Dies at the opening day.

7. Like flowery fields the nations stand,
Pleased with the morning light;
The flowers beneath the mower's hand
Lie withering ere 'tis night.

8. Our God, our Help in ages past,
Our Hope for years to come,
Be Thou our Guard while troubles last
And our eternal Home! Amen.

THE POSTLUDE

The Officials: **The Reverend Paul Ph. Spitz, President**
 The Missouri District, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

The Reverend Ewald J. Otto
 Chairman, Board of Control

The Reverend Professor William J. Schmelder
 Academic Advisor and Registrar, Chaplain

The Preacher: **The Reverend Professor Ralph A. Bohlmann**
 President

The Organist: **The Reverend Professor Alfred Fremder**

Everyone is invited to an informal reception after the service in the Seminary Quadrangle. Refreshments will be served by the Seminary Guild.

NEW MEMBERS OF THE STAFF

RICHARD BENKE, M. Div., *Admissions Counselor*, was graduated from Concordia College, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, in 1957, and from Concordia Senior College, Fort Wayne, Indiana, in 1959. He is a 1962 graduate of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, and has done post-graduate work at Marquette University in Milwaukee. Pastor Benke's service to the church includes five years at Racine Lutheran High School, Racine, Wisconsin, where he taught a variety of subjects in addition to serving as head of the religion department and Guidance Counselor. From 1967 to 1970 he was pastor of Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Racine, Wisconsin, and since 1970 he has been on the faculty of Baltimore Lutheran High School, Baltimore, Maryland, serving as head of the religion department and Dean of Students. Mrs. Benke is the former Carlee Esther Mutschink. Their children are Dawn Berith, Steven Job, and Mark Andrew.

THOMAS F. NAHNSEN, M.S. in Ed., *Assistant Dean of Student Life and Athletic Director*, is a 1955 graduate of Concordia College, River Forest, Illinois. In 1962 he received his Master's degree in education from Northern Illinois University in DeKalb. He also studied at several other schools: Kent State University, Western Illinois University, Knox College, University of Wyoming, Triton College, and Elgin Community College. His teaching ministry in Lutheran schools includes St. Luke's in Cleveland, Ohio (1955-57), St. John's in Elgin, Illinois (1957-60), and Walther Lutheran High School in Melrose Park, Illinois (1960-68). Since 1968 he has been at St. John's College, Winfield, Kansas, serving as associate professor of mathematics and physical education, as Athletic Director for seven years, and as Dean of Students for the past three years. Mrs. Nahnsen is the former Carole Joyce Herbold. Their children are Pamela Joyce Beltz, Timothy Carl, and Jenifer Rose.