

**CONVOCATION  
and  
THE ORDER OF THE HOLY COMMUNION**

**Commemorating the  
142nd ANNIVERSARY OF FOUNDING  
of  
CONCORDIA SEMINARY  
St. Louis, Missouri**



**Wednesday, December 9, 1981**

**10:00 a.m.**

**Wyneken Chapel**

## THE PRELUDE

### THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN “Thy Strong Word Did Cleave the Darkness”

1. Thy strong Word did cleave the darkness;  
At Thy speaking it was done;  
For created light we thank Thee,  
While Thine ordered seasons run:  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Praise to Thee who light dost send.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Alleluia without end!

2. Lo, on men who dwelt in darkness,  
Dark as night and deep as death,  
Broke the light of Thy salvation,  
Breathed Thine own life-breathing breath:  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Praise to Thee who light dost send.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Alleluia without end!

3. From the Cross Thy wisdom shining  
Breaketh forth in conquering might;  
From the Cross forever beameth  
All Thy bright redeeming light:  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Praise to Thee who light dost send.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Alleluia without end!

4. Thy strong Word bespeaks us righteous;  
Bright with Thine own holiness,  
Glorious now, we press toward glory,  
And our lives our hope confess:  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Praise to Thee who light dost send.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Alleluia without end!

5. Give us lips to sing Thy glory,  
Tongues Thy mercy to proclaim,  
Throats that shout the hope that fills us,  
Mouths to speak Thy holy name:  
Alleluia! God of glory!  
May the light which Thou dost send  
Fill our songs with alleluias,  
Alleluias without end!

6. God the Father, Light-Creator,  
To Thee laud and honor be;  
To Thee, Light of Light begotten,  
Praise be sung eternally;  
Holy Spirit, Light-Revealer,  
Glory, Glory be to Thee;  
Men and angels, now and ever  
Praise the Holy Trinity. Amen.

## THE ACADEMIC CONVOCATION

### *The conferring of the degree of Doctor of Divinity*

#### The Reverend Eldor W. Meyer

Outstanding leadership abilities and an energetic enthusiasm for the Lord and His church identify the untiring spirituality and commitment of the President of the Nebraska District of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

Although by nature a quiet, unassuming and humble person, President Meyer's ministry and accomplishments as pastor and district leader attest to a consecration made possible by his total commitment to the Scriptures and his reliance on God's Holy Spirit. In critical situations in recent history he has been an effective voice for biblical, confessional Lutheranism.

The Lord Jesus Christ prepared him for his leadership role in a very special way. As a farmer, as cashier in a bank, and as an insurance agent, he became increasingly sensitive to the needs of the people he served, so that his desire for deeper ministry culminated in his graduation from Concordia Theological Seminary in Springfield, Illinois in 1964.

After serving a multiple parish in Minnesota, Eldor Meyer became campus pastor at Kearney State College, where he also earned his Master's degree in education and counseling. In 1971 he accepted the call to Trinity Lutheran Church in Grand Island, Nebraska, first as assistant and then as administrative pastor. His joyous optimism in the face of need prompted him to spearhead several building programs: a new student center and chapel at Kearney

College and two building projects at Trinity Church in Grand Island.

After serving his District as First and Second Vice-President, Pastor Meyer was chosen as President of the Nebraska District in 1978. In this capacity he also serves as a member of the Board of Regents of Concordia Teachers College in Seward. The spectacular success in the Forward in Remembrance drive in his District illustrates the kind of spirit and loyalty President Meyer engenders in people and pastors.

In honoring Eldor Meyer, Concordia Seminary expresses its sincere gratitude to all officials in the church who faithfully apply the truth of God's Word as they lead the pastors, teachers, and laity entrusted to their care. To them apply particularly the words written by St. Paul to Timothy: "Hold to the true words that I taught you, as the example for you to follow, and stay in the faith and love that are ours in union with Christ Jesus. Keep the good things that have been entrusted to you, through the power of the Holy Spirit who lives in us." (2 Timothy: 1:13-14)

THE RESPONSE

*The Participants*

- Acting President ..... John W. Klotz, Ph.D.  
Faculty Marshal ..... Robert G. Hoerber, Ph.D.  
For the Honors Committee ..... Martin A. Haendschke, M.S., Ph.D., Th.D.

## THE ORDER OF THE HOLY COMMUNION

### THE PRELUDE

#### THE HYMN ..... "O Lord Our God in Years Long Gone"

1. O Lord our God in years long gone,  
Our God for all the years to be,  
Accept the sacrifice of praise  
We bring to you on bended knee.

2. For mercies to our parents shown,  
For all your grace, so rich and free,  
To you, great God, the One in Three,  
We raise the hymn of jubilee.

3. You led our people to this land,  
A land of beauty, bounty, pow'r;  
You blest the labors of their hands,  
Upheld them in each trying hour.

4. You kept them faithful to your Word,  
Were not ashamed their God to be.  
To you their children thankfully  
Now raise our hymn of jubilee.

5. Lord, make us channels of your love,  
Your endless mercy, pow'r, and peace;  
So build your church in ev'ry place  
And day by day its strength increase.

6. May we hold high the cross of Christ,  
Who rose and lives eternally,  
That all in him their Savior see  
And join our hymn of jubilee.

7. Grant us your mercy to the end,  
With all your Spirit's pow'r and grace  
'Til with the ransomed, white-robed throng  
We stand at last before your face.

8. Where we with bright angelic choirs,  
And all who served you faithfully,  
Will blend our voices endlessly  
In an unending jubilee.

9. To God the Father and the Son  
And Holy Spirit, Three in One,  
Praise, honor, might, and glory be  
From age to age eternally. Amen.

### THE ORDER OF THE CONFESSION (*spoken*)

V: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
R: Amen.

V: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid, cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the enlightenment of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.  
R: Amen.

V: Since we are assembled here to hear God's Word, to call upon him in prayer, and to receive the body and blood of Christ, let us think of our unworthiness, confess before God that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and realize also that by our own strength we cannot free ourselves from our sinful nature. Therefore, we take refuge in his infinite mercy, seeking and imploring his grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

R: O almighty God, merciful Father, I, a troubled and penitent sinner, confess to you all my sins and iniquities with which I have offended you and justly deserved your present and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray you of your boundless mercy and for the sake of the sufferings and death of your Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being. Forgive me all my sins, and grant me the power of the Holy Spirit that I may amend my sinful life.

V: Upon this, your confession, I, by virtue of my office as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to all of you, and in the stead and by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

R: Amen.

**THE HYMN ..... “Kyrie, God Father in Heaven Above”**

Kyrie, God Father in heav’n above,  
Great art Thou in grace and love,  
Of all things the Maker and Preserver.  
Eleison, eleison!  
Kyrie, O Christ, our King,  
Salvation for sinners Thou didst bring.  
O Lord Jesus, God’s own Son,  
Our Mediator at the heav’nly throne,  
Hear our cry and grant our supplication.  
Eleison, eleison!  
Kyrie, O God the Holy Ghost,  
Guard our faith, the gift we need the most;  
Do Thou our last hour bless;  
Let us leave this sinful world with gladness.  
Eleison, eleison!

**THE LESSON**

**Isaiah 2:2-5**

**THE EPISTLE**

**I Peter 2:1-10**

**THE HOLY GOSPEL**

**Saint John 10:22-30**

**THE ANTHEM**

**“Built on the Rock”**

**THE SERMON**

**“Remembering the Past; Looking to the Future”**

**Psalms 100:3-5**

**THE PRAYERS**

V: You are worthy, O Lord, to receive power and riches and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and blessing:

**R: We praise and magnify you, O Lord.**

V: Blessed be your glorious name, that your Word has sounded forth, not only in Jerusalem and Antioch, in Athens and in Rome, but that in every place the faith of Christ is spread abroad:

**R: All glory be to you, O Lord.**

V: For your good soldiers in every age, striving lawfully, enduring unto the end:

**R: We bless and praise your glorious name.**

V: For the wisdom of doctors, the zeal of evangelists, the eloquence of prophets:

**R: We bless and praise your glorious name.**

V: For the love of pastors; for the praise of children, the service of women, the purity of the young, the fervor of the aged; for all the signs of your presence; for all the marks of your Cross:

**R: We bless and praise your glorious name.**

V: For the light of your everlasting Gospel, sent to every nation and kindred and tongue and people, shining so long in our midst:

**R: All glory be to you, O Lord.**

V: For your church, the pillar and ground of the truth, against which the gates of hell shall not prevail:

**R: All glory be to you, O Lord.**

V: For your gracious word of promise that they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars forever and ever:

R: All glory be to you, O Lord.

V: O God, you govern and sanctify your church through those whom you have called into the sacred ministry of your Word and sacraments; support with the help of your Holy Spirit, we pray, the labors of those who teach and the studies of those who are taught at our theological seminaries, that from these schools there may continue to come forth more excellent ministers of your new covenant. Make them firm in the faith once for all delivered to your holy people, zealous for the expansion of your kingdom, and devout in their own worship of you. Let them be examples to the believers in speech and conduct, in love, in faith and in purity, and keep them conscious that you have made them guardians of your church not that they may enjoy privileges but that they may spend themselves in service; through him who is the church's Head, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

R: Amen.

## THE HYMN ..... "God of Grace and God of Blessing"

(Written for the dedication of Concordia Seminary in 1926 by Dr. W. G. Polack, revised in 1939 for publication in *The Lutheran Hymnal*.)

1. God of grace and God of blessing,  
Humbly now we come to Thee,  
Offering devout thanksgiving,  
All unworthy though we be;  
Freely Thou hast showered blessings,  
Countless as the ocean's sands,  
Blessings rich and overflowing,  
On the labors of our hands.

2. Thou didst guide our fathers' footsteps  
To this land we hold so dear;  
Lengthening the cords and curtains  
Of their habitation here;  
Strengthening Thy Temple's pillars,  
As Thou hast from age to age;  
Giving us, their sons and daughters,  
An enduring heritage.

3. Help us ever, God of mercy,  
In our hearts the truth retain:  
That, except Thou art the Builder,  
All our labor is in vain.  
Keep us from all pride and boasting,  
Vanity, and foolish trust,  
Knowing that our work without Thee  
Soon will crumble into dust.

4. God of grace and God of blessing,  
Thine alone the praise shall be!  
Give us hearts to trust Thee only  
And to serve Thee willingly.  
Grant us here Thy future blessing,  
Till we join the heavenly host,  
There to serve and praise Thee ever,  
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost! Amen.

## THE ORDER OF THE HOLY COMMUNION (*The Lutheran Hymnal*, pp. 24-28)

### THE DISTRIBUTION

## THE HYMN ..... "At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing"

1. At the Lamb's high feast we sing  
Praise to our victorious King,  
Who has washed us in the tide  
Flowing from his pierced side.  
Alleluia!

2. Praise we him, whose love divine  
Gives his sacred blood for wine,  
Gives his body for the feast,  
Christ the Victim, Christ the Priest.  
Alleluia!

3. Where the Paschal blood is poured,  
Death's dark angel sheathes his sword;  
Israel's hosts triumphant go  
Through the wave that drowns the foe.  
Alleluia!

4. Mighty Victim from the sky.  
Hell's fierce powers beneath thee lie;  
Thou hast conquered in the fight,  
Thou has brought us life and light.  
Alleluia!

5. Now no more can death appall,  
Now no more the grave enthrall;  
Thou hast opened Paradise,  
And in thee thy saints shall rise.  
Alleluia!

6. Easter triumph, Easter joy,  
Sin alone can this destroy;  
From sin's power do thou set free  
Souls newborn, O Lord, in thee.  
Alleluia!

7. Hymns of glory, songs of praise,  
Father, unto thee we raise:  
Risen Lord, all praise to thee  
With the Spirit ever be.  
Alleluia! Amen.

## THE HYMN

## “For All the Saints”

1. For all the saints who from their labors rest,  
Who Thee by faith before the world confest,  
Thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!

2. Thou wast their Rock, their Fortress, and their Might;  
Thou, Lord, their Captain in the well-fought fight;  
Thou, in the darkness drear, their one true Light.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!

3. Oh, may Thy soldiers, faithful, true, and bold,  
Fight as the saints who nobly fought of old  
And win with them the victor's crown of gold.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!

4. O blest communion, fellowship divine,  
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;  
Yet all are one in Thee, for all are Thine.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!

5. And when the fight is fierce, the warfare long,  
Steals on the ear the distant triumph song,  
And hearts are brave again, and arms are strong.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!

6. But, lo, there breaks a yet more glorious day;  
The saints triumphant rise in bright array;  
The King of Glory passes on His way.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!

7. The golden evening brightens in the west;  
Soon, soon, to faithful warriors cometh rest.  
Sweet is the calm of Paradise the blest.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!

8. From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,  
Through gates of pearl, streams in the countless host,  
Singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,  
Alleluia! Alleluia!

## THE HYMN

## “O Lord, We Praise Thee”

1. O Lord, we praise Thee, bless Thee, and adore Thee,  
In thanksgiving bow before Thee.  
Thou with Thy body and Thy blood didst nourish  
Our weak souls that they may flourish:  
O Lord, have mercy!  
May Thy body, Lord, born of Mary,  
That our sins and sorrows did carry,  
And Thy blood for us plead  
In all trial, fear, and need:  
O Lord, have mercy!

2. Thy holy body into death was given,  
Life to win for us in heaven.  
No greater love than this to Thee could bind us;  
May this feast thereof remind us!  
O Lord, have mercy!  
Lord, Thy kindness did so constrain Thee  
That Thy blood should bless and sustain me.  
All our debt Thou hast paid;  
Peace with God once more is made:  
O Lord, have mercy!

3. May God bestow on us His grace and favor  
To please Him with our behavior  
And live as brethren here in love and union  
Nor repent this blest Communion!  
O Lord, have mercy!  
Let not Thy good Spirit forsake us;  
Grant that heav'nly-minded He make us;  
Give Thy Church, Lord, to see  
Days of peace and unity:  
O Lord, have mercy! Amen.

## THE DISMISSAL

## THE THANKSGIVING

**V:** O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good.

**R:** And His mercy endureth forever.

**V:** Almighty and ever-living God, we thank you for having fed us with the body and blood of our Savior Jesus Christ, assuring us thereby that we are truly members of his body, the church. And we ask you to help us by your Holy Spirit that we may continue in this fellowship and do the good works which you desire us to do; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, to whom, with you and the same Spirit, be all honor and glory, forever and ever.

**R:** Amen.

## THE BENEDICTION



## THE RECESSIONAL HYMN



## "One Thy Light, the Temple Filling"

1. One Thy Light, the Temple filling,  
Holy, Holy, Holy, Three!  
Meanest men and brightest angels  
Wait alike the word from Thee;  
Highest musings, lowliest worship,  
Must their preparation be.

2. Now Thou speakest, hear we trembling,  
From the glory comes a voice,  
Who accepts th' Almighty's mission?  
Who will make Christ's work his choice?  
Who for us proclaim to sinners,  
Turn, believe, endure, rejoice?

3. Here are we, Redeemer, send us!  
But because Thy work is fire  
And our lips unclean and earthly,  
Breathe no breath of high desire,  
Send Thy seraph from the altar,  
Veiled, but in his bright attire.

4. Cause him, Lord, to fly full swiftly  
With the mystic coal in hand,  
Sin consuming; soul transforming  
Faith and love will understand.  
Touch our lips, Thou wondrous Mercy,  
With Thine own keen healing brand.

5. Thou didst come that fire to kindle;  
Fain would we Thy torches prove,  
Far and wide Thy beacons lighting  
With th' undying spark of love.  
Only feed our flame, we pray Thee,  
With Thy breathings from above.

6. Now to God, the soul's Creator,  
To His Word and Wisdom sure,  
To His all-enlightening Spirit,  
Patron of the frail and poor,  
Three in One, be praise and glory  
Here and while the heavens endure.

## THE POSTLUDE

*Soli Deo Gloria*

### *The Participants*

The Preacher

The Reverend Professor John W. Klotz  
*Acting President*

The Celebrant

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

The Officiants

The Reverend Professor Richard J. Schultz  
*Chairman, Department of Practical Theology, Colloquy Advisor*  
David C. Brighton  
*Student Association President*

The Organist

The Reverend Professor Alfred Fremder

## NOTES ON FOUNDERS DAY

Concordia Seminary was founded 142 years ago on December 9, 1839, in a log cabin in Perry County, Missouri, approximately 100 miles south of St. Louis. A replica of the first school stands on the present campus.

The original school was not planned as a theological training institution only, but also as an elementary and preparatory school. The first enrollment consisted of eleven students: seven boys and four girls, ranging in age from five to fifteen years.

When The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod was organized in Chicago in 1847, the congregations in Perry County and St. Louis were asked to relinquish their control of the school to the Synod. Both congregations agreed to this, although considerable discussion was given to the location of the institution. In 1849 the seminary was moved to St. Louis. Two acres of land were sold by Trinity Congregation to the Missouri Synod for \$1.00 to serve as the campus. The cornerstone for the first building, the southern wing, was laid on November 8, 1849. The building was dedicated on June 11, 1850. Two additions were made to the original building. The right wing was erected in 1852; the center section, filling the gap between the two wings, was built during 1856-57.

One hundred years ago, the Predestinarian Controversy was resolved in the Missouri Synod with the adoption of the Thirteen Theses. The convention, meeting in Fort Wayne in May of 1881, which took this action also determined that a new seminary complex was needed in St. Louis. In the summer of 1882 the old buildings were demolished to prepare for the erection of the new seminary, which was dedicated in 1883, and served until 1926, when the present campus was dedicated.

As we observe the 142nd birthday of Concordia Seminary today, we thank and praise God for the fathers and founders who established this institution. Under God, we rededicate ourselves to the same unswerving commitment they had to the hallmarks of Lutheranism: *sola Scriptura*, *sola gratia*, and *sola fide*.