



FALL CONVOCATION

September 15, 2026
4:00 p.m.

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

Mary C. Miller, Presiding
Interim Dean, North Park Theological Seminary

Prelude	On Eagle's Wings	Michael Joncas arr. Sue Mitchell-Wallace
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Processional	The Processional	Lloyd Larson
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Commissioning of Interim Dean	Mary K. Surridge, President, North Park University
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Greetings	Mary C. Miller
	Leader: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. People: And blessed be God's kingdom now and forever. Amen.

*Call to Worship (adapted from <i>The Worship Sourcebook</i>)	Leader: Let us worship the eternal God, the Source of Love and life, who creates us. People: Let us worship Jesus Christ, the Risen One, who lives among us. Leader: Let us worship the Spirit, the Holy Fire, who renews us. People: To the one true God, the first and last, be all glory, honor, and praise yesterday, today, and forever.
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*Opening Song	Alpha and Omega	Erasmus Mutambira
	You are Alpha and Omega, we worship you, our Lord, you are worthy to be praised.	Eres Alfa y Omega, te adoramos, O Señor, eres digno de alabar.
	We give you all the glory, we worship you, our Lord, you are worthy to be praised.	Te damos toda gloria, te adoramos, O Señor, eres digno de alabar.

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.
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*Congregation rise in body or spirit.

Old Testament Lesson

Deuteronomy 6:4–9
Paul De Neui, Professor of Missiology

***Gospel Lesson**

John 5:39–45
D. Darrell Griffin, Senior Pastor, Oakdale Covenant Church

Sermon

“Theology in Service Toward the Living God”
Richard Westley Johnson, Director of the C. John Weborg Center for
Spiritual Direction

***Responsive Hymn**

Take, O Take Me as I Am

John L. Bell

Take, O take me as I am;
summon out what I shall be;
set a seal upon my heart and live in me.

**Recognition of
Returning Students**

Hauna Ondrey, Academic Dean

**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 further 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

Charge

Tammy Swanson-Draheim, President, Evangelical Covenant Church

***Song of Sending**

O Source of All Knowledge

David Bjorlin
Welsh Ballad

O Source of all knowledge passed down age to age,
a holy tradition we humbly engage:
We thank you for sages whose work still displays
a lifetime of wonder beginning in praise.

O Rabbi of Nazareth, wandering guide,
who lived the tradition in forms not yet tried:
We thank you for teachers who show us new ways
to seek out your wonder and sing out your praise.

O Wisdom untamable, learning's true goal,
the flame of tradition beyond our control:
We thank you for prophets who set hearts ablaze
to burn with your wonder in unending praise.

***Benediction**

Richard Westley Johnson

Recessional

Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven

John Goss
arr. Sue Mitchell-Wallace

Postlude

Dance

Alan Ridout

Organ

Sharon R. Peterson, University Organist

Director of Worship

David D. Bjorlin, Associate Professor of Worship

Banner Bearer

Adam Gin, Master of Divinity Student

Crucifer

Christie Dean, Master of Divinity and Business Administration Student

Marshal

David D. Bjorlin

NEW STUDENT LIST

Master of Divinity

Tanesia Belvin*

LeRoy Covenant Church
LeRoy, MI

Hannah Coffman

Eden, A Covenant Church
Muncie, IN

Adama Diakhate*

Vineyard Christian Church Evanston
Evanston, IL

Teresa Escoto

New Life Church
Rio Linda, CA

Carlos Gonzalez*

New Community Covenant
Church (Logan Square)
Chicago, IL

Caitlin Wong Hickernell

New Community Covenant
Church (Bronzeville)
Chicago, IL

Rufus Hines*

Shane Huffaker*

New City Church
Naperville, IL

Gregory Johnston*

Naperville Covenant Church
Naperville, IL

Wesley Kriz

Bellingham Covenant Church
Bellingham, WA

Joy Laprade

Megan Lyons

Sherrin Melcher

Wiley Heights Covenant Church
Yakima, WA

Nathaniel Mullins

Life Church
Oklahoma City, OK

Brandon Pattison

Anne Radakovich*

Yamille Senol

Immanuel Church
Gurnee, IL

Erik Shearer

St. Luke's Lutheran Church
Park Ridge, IL

Master of Arts in Theological Studies

Erin Nuttall*

Sangho Park

Hisway Church
Yong-In, South Korea

Master of Arts in Christian Formation

Sarkis Ajamian

Adriana Alvarez

University Covenant Church
Davis, CA

Jasmine Anderson

Anthony Barocio

Cornerstone Covenant Church
Turlock, CA

Sarah Benevides

Covenant Grove
Modesto, CA

Alyeska Callis

Ella Cave

Clairemont Covenant Church
San Diego, CA

Lisa Comeau

Covenant Congregational
North Easton, MA

Sara Davis

Seattle First Covenant Church
Seattle, WA

Asher Del Buono

Peter Ek

Thornapple Covenant Church
Grand Rapids, MI

Mia Ernst

City Covenant Church
Spokane, WA

Shoney Eyster

Scott Firestone

Ryan Flores

Kelsey Foster

David Hayden

Simi Covenant Church
Simi Valley, CA

Rachel Garcia

Covenant Grove Church
Modesto, CA

NEW STUDENT LIST

Kimberly Giles

Trailhead Covenant Church
Longmont, CO

Eloy Gonzalez

City Church Cleveland
Cleveland, OH

Marcus Imlig

Grace Community Covenant Church
Olympia, WA

Sunny Kim

The Garden Church
Chatsworth, CA

Susan Lee

The Garden Church
Chatsworth, CA

James Leonard

The Gathering (Patterson
Covenant Church)
Patterson, CA

Martine Mance

Mountain View Covenant Church
San Juan Capistrano, CA

Daniel Namkung

Pasadena Covenant Church
Pasadena, CA

Lauren Pottenger**Jonathan Rea**

First Covenant Church
Oakland, CA

Matthew Ronan

Dolores Park Church
San Francisco, CA

Heather Sandall

Naperville Covenant Church
Naperville, IL

Timothy Sato

Fountain of Life Covenant Church
Long Beach, CA

Irene Siniy-Bailey**Stephanie Soltero**

Crossroads Covenant Church
Concord, CA

Hannah Taylor

Crossview Covenant Church
North Mankato, MN

Erika Ver Beek

Oakdale Park Church
Grand Rapids, MI

Kira Vilhauer

Roseville Covenant Church
Roseville, MN

Abraham Walker**Angela Weszely**

Vineyard Christian Church Evanston
Evanston, IL

Dirrick Williams*

All Things New
Monterey, CA

Certificate of Christian Studies

Luis Navarro

* Began in Spring 2026



NORTH PARK
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
CHICAGO