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## Commencement Invocation

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**Commencement Invocation**  
**May 5, 2019**  
**Elyse Nelson Winger, University Chaplain**

Across skies and seas  
through cities and towns  
past fields and plains  
we've traveled

Across generations  
from many countries and cultures  
traditions and faiths  
we're gathered  
to give thanks together  
for the 2019 graduates of Illinois Wesleyan

This is thanks-giving time  
for students  
whose achievements and discoveries we are here to praise  
whose struggles and challenges we are here to revere  
whose callings and passions we are here to affirm

This is thanks-giving time  
for faculty and mentors  
staff and coaches  
whose scholarship and service we are here to recognize  
whose care and guidance we are here to honor

This is thanks-giving time  
for friends and families  
whose support we are here to celebrate  
whose love these graduates cannot have done without

May the words spoken and praises sung this day  
fill our hearts and lift our spirits  
that might all be renewed in our shared callings  
to seek wisdom and pursue justice  
to love our neighbors and befriend the stranger  
to repair our broken yet beloved world.

You may be seated.