



COMMISSIONING LITANY

A congregational blessing and sending for
your Gathering participants

The adults who have been preparing youth for the experience of the Youth Gathering may stand with the participants. They may place a hand on the shoulder of the participant.

The presiding minister addresses the congregation with these or similar words:

At your baptism, you were claimed by God, and promises were made on your behalf. At your confirmation, you claimed your faith as your own and made promises to yourself. Here are the promises you made:

- To live among God's faithful people,
- To hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,
- To proclaim the good news of God in Christ through words and deed,
- To serve all people, following the example of Jesus,
- To strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

As we send you to Houston for the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering, *This Changes Everything*, we know that we are sending you to live out your baptism and live out these promises.

In the waters of Baptism, we are reborn children of God,
beloved members of the Church, the body of Christ.
As we live in community with God and one another,
We grow in faith, love, and obedience to the will of God,
witnesses to Jesus' way of compassion and justice.
We pray that you return to us renewed in your Christian vocation as imitators of Christ

The presiding minister then addresses the congregation:

We send these young people and adults forth on their journey to the Bayou City to experience the body of Christ beyond this place. They will return to us with a new commitment to serve all God's people, following the example Jesus, and with new skills to be able to strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

Will you accept the gift of their witness with love and gratitude?

We will.



The presiding minister may gesture with outstretched hands toward those who are gathered, and invite the respondents to return the gesture.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray:

We give you thanks, O God,
that through Baptism you have made us all sisters and brothers in Christ.
In this community of faith
we have heard your loving Word for us
and for all of creation.
We have been fed and forgiven at your holy table
and called to be witnesses to your Gospel of justice and peace.

The presiding minister may invite the congregation to raise their hands in a gesture of blessing.

We ask you:

grant peace and safety to those attending the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering and bless them,
form them by your hand,
guide them by your Word,
renew them by your Spirit,
protect them as they travel,
make their ways safe,
and their homecomings joyful.

God has looked with favor on this community
and God has blessed us through the lives of these young people.
As they have been a blessing to us,
so now we send them forth as missionaries to the larger church,
and to be a blessing to the people of Detroit,
through Jesus Christ, our truth and life.

Amen.

Assisting minister:

Go now with Jesus, to Rise up Together!

Amen.

A song may be sung.

The service continues with either the prayers or the final blessing.

