



BLESSING OF CONVENTION PARTICIPANTS

Those going to an LWML convention are invited forward.

PASTOR: St. Paul says in Galatians 3:27-28, *For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.*

CONGREGATION: There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

PASTOR: King David says in Psalm 133, *Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers [and sisters] dwell in unity!*

CONGREGATION: *It is like the precious oil on the head, running down on the beard, on the beard of Aaron, running down on the collar of his robes!*

PASTOR: *It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion! For there the Lord has commanded the blessing, life forevermore.*

PASTOR: At your Baptism, you were claimed by God, and promises were made on your behalf. At your confirmation, you publicly professed that faith created in you in Baptism and nurtured and nourished through the Means of Grace to this very day. Here are some of the promises you made at your confirmation:

- to renounce the devil, his works and his ways;
- to remain true to God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit;
- to hear God's Word and receive the Lord's Supper faithfully; and
- to continue steadfast in this Confession and Church and suffer all, even death, rather than fall from it.

PASTOR: As we send you to name of city for the name of convention, we send you there knowing that we are sending you to live out your Baptism and those promises you made at your confirmation among the people you will be in contact with there.

PASTOR: We pray that you return to us reinvigorated in your Christian walk as you will have had the opportunity to be refreshed and renewed through the many opportunities you will be given to be gathered around the Word of God and the Sacrament of Holy Communion with your sisters, and even a few brothers, in Christ.

PASTOR: And while you are away, be assured that we will support you with our prayers, and when you return we will welcome you with open arms asking to hear of the awesome deeds of our heavenly Father while you were away.

PASTOR: Therefore, we send these ladies (and gentlemen) forth as disciples to experience the body of Christ beyond this place. While there, they will be fed and nourished on God's Holy Word and through fellowship with each other. They will return to us with a new commitment to serve all God's people, following the example of Jesus, and with new skills to be used in the service of our Lord in this place.

PASTOR: The Lord be with you.

CONGREGATION: And also with you.

PASTOR: 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 to all those You place in our lives. We pray now that You would grant Your peace to all those attending the name of convention in the days ahead. Guide them by Your Word, renew them by Your Spirit; protect them as they travel, make their way safe, and their homecoming joyful. We pray this in the precious name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

CONGREGATION: Amen.

PASTOR: Sisters (and brothers) in Christ, you are set apart as representatives of the body of Christ and of this congregation to represent us at the name of convention. As St. Paul reminds us in *Colossian 3:17*, "*Whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.*" Amen!

PASTOR: Go now in the power of our heavenly Father, ready, as we profess in our League Pledge, to serve Him "wherever and whenever He has need of us." Amen!

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