

The Service of Blessing & Sending—2019

the selflessness of your care for me.... I honor you... for your courage and patience... your wisdom and love.... Wherever I go... you will always be a part of me.... Wherever I go... your love and example... will continue to bless and guide me.... Whatever I do... I will always be your child.... I thank God for blessing my life with and through you.... I bless you... I honor you... I thank you for the gift you have been to me... and the gift I now give to the world through you. In Jesus' name.

A: Wherever you wander, no matter how cold and dark the night, may the warmth of this quilt, the love of your parents, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the fellowship of his church, and the quiet presence of the Holy Spirit be with you always. Go now with God's blessing. Amen.

A: We offer our appreciation and thanks to all who have blessed these youth and parents throughout their growing years. Finally, let us honor the graduates we now send out, and the parents who have kept their promises made so many years ago to God. Congratula-tions! (Applause)

~*~*~*~

P: Graduates, parents, and congregation, it is time to send our children off with our blessing. Would this year's graduating seniors, and their parents, please come forward as their names are read:

Kaitlin Norris

Giddeon Storkson

A: (To Parents) Parents of our graduates: Long ago in Christian love you presented your children for Holy Baptism. On that day sacred promises were made. Today, as we enter this Service of Blessing & Sending, we ask you to make one last promise. Will you, in the presence of God, who gave you this child to know and to love, offer your blessing, thanks, forgiveness, peace, and a pledge to lift your child to God in prayer every night from this day onward, as long as God grants you life and breath? If so, please take your child's hands in yours and repeat after me: I bless you, I thank you, and I forgive you...

Parents: I bless you, I thank you, and I forgive you...

A: I wish you peace, and I promise to hold you forever in my prayers.

Parents: I wish you peace, and I promise to hold you forever in my prayers.

A: (To Graduates) Dear graduating brothers and sisters in Christ: Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in Holy Baptism, to reaffirm the sacred promises you have made to God, and to live a life worthy of your calling as God grants you life and breath? If so, please answer: I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

Graduates: I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

A: Will you offer your blessings, your thanks, your forgiveness, and your peace to your parents now? Will you promise to lift your parents to God in prayer every night from this day onward, as long as God grants you life and breath? If so, please repeat after me: I bless you, I thank you, and I forgive you...

Graduates: I bless you, I thank you, and I forgive you...

A: I wish you peace, and I promise to hold you forever in my prayers.

Graduates: I wish you peace, and I promise to hold you forever in my prayers.

A: Congregation, friends, and families. Will you pledge to support and do what you can to encourage these parents and young people to keep their sacred promises? If so, please answer: We will, with God's help.

Cong: We will, with God's help.

A: On this important day as we mark your stepping into the world, we ask God's blessing on you, and the whole people of God in Christ Jesus. Let us pray:

God of all creation; We ask your blessing upon these young people and their parents as they move from this moment to a new adventure in their lives of faith. Bless them now and grant your gifts of grace.

Cong: Grant them joy as they live among your faithful people;

A: Openness to hearing your Word;

Cong: Thankfulness in sharing your supper;

A: Eagerness in spreading the good news of Christ in word and deed;

Cong: Dedication in serving all people following the example of our Lord Jesus; and a hunger for justice and peace.

A: Just as you have blessed these families in their lives together, bless the world now through them in their lives apart. Lord in your mercy...

Cong: Hear our prayer.

A: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray; trusting in your mercy, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Cong: Amen.

Presentation of the Blessing Quilt

Copyright © Faith Inkubators

A: Our quilters, on behalf of our congregation, have wonderfully made quilts for each of our graduates. At this time would the quilters please come forward and give the quilt to each of the parents.

(Quilters come forward and give quilts.)

A: We invite the graduates to kneel for the presentation of the Blessing Quilt.

Dear Friends in Christ, there was a day when your parents held you in their arms and rocked you to sleep. They cuddled you in a blanket to keep you warm, safe, and comforted. Very soon you will be launching out to begin your new life, away from the safety and security of this home, family, church, and community. As you go out into the world, may this quilt be a reminder of your parents' love and the nurture of this Christian community. Wherever you go, when the night is cold and you feel alone, may it help you remember who you are and whose you are.

A: Parents, please wrap the quilt around your graduate, place a hand on their shoulders, and repeat these words:

Parents: Precious child... we come this day before God and our church family... to bless you and thank the Creator... for the gift you have been to us.... You have given our lives a deeper meaning and calling.... Through you, we have come to understand... the nature of God's love... of joy... of forgiveness.... We thank God today for the gift... that you have been to our lives.... Wherever you go, whatever you do... you will always be a part of us.... Wherever you go, our love goes with you.... Whatever you do... you will always share a sacred space in our hearts.... May this quilt remind you of our love... and the warmth of this faith community.... And on those nights when you wander far away... and we cannot wrap you in our arms.... may you wrap yourself in this quilt.... Remember that we love you... and know that in God's family you are never alone.... We bless you, we honor you.... We thank you for the gift you have been to us... and the gift we now give to the world through you. In Jesus' name.

A: Graduates, please rise. Parents, please kneel. Graduates, place your hands on your parents' shoulders and bless them on their way by repeating these words:

Graduates: Mother/Father... you have given me your heart and your home.... You have loved and cared for me... even when times were difficult.... I bless you this day... for the sacrifices you have made to give me life.... I thank God this day... for