

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE BLANKET PRESENTATION

Today we celebrate those who are taking another step in their faith journey. High School graduates and your parents please come forward as the student's names are read.

Parents, in Christian love you presented your children for Holy Baptism and made promises on their behalf *"to faithfully bring them to the services of God's house, to teach them the Lord's Prayer, the Creed and the Ten Commandments, to place in their hands the Holy Scriptures, and to provide for their instruction in the Christian faith."* As parents of these young women and men, it is part of your calling to see that these sacred promises are kept. You are fulfilling these promises. As your children now reach a new milestone in their faith journey we ask you to covenant with this congregation in the ongoing support of these young people.

(Parents) We will with God's help.

Congregation, will you continue to pray for these young people and parents, and all our young people as we seek to nurture them in their faith?

(Congregation) We will with God's help.

Graduates, do you intend to continue in the relationship God initiated with you at Holy Baptism: *to live among God's faithful people, to hear God's Word and share in his supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of our Lord Jesus and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?*

(Graduates) I do and I ask God to help and guide me.

Let us pray: Dear God of creation, we ask your blessing on these young adults as they enter a new period in their lives of faith. Bless them and watch over them. Guide them into your truth. **Amen.**

The blankets you see here have been specially made for our Graduates by members of this congregation. There is a tag on each blanket saying who created it. We thank everyone who helped with this project. Parents, receive these blankets as a gift from the congregation. Graduates, please face your parents. Parents, please wrap your child in the blanket.

Graduates, 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. Soon you will be launching a new life away from the safety and security of your home and family. As you go out into the world, may this blanket be a reminder of your parents' love, your church's love, and God's love for you. May it help you remember you are never alone.

(Parents) We come this day before God to bless you and thank our creator for the gift you have been to us. You have given our lives a deeper meaning and a deeper calling. As parents, we have come to understand more deeply 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 and whatever you do, you will always be a part of us. We bless you in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. May this blanket remind you of our love, the warmth of church, and the power of the Holy Spirit. When you wrap yourself in this blanket may you remember that God is always with you.

(Graduates to Parents) You have given of your heart and of your home. You have loved and cared for me, even when it was difficult. I bless you this day for the sacrifice you made to give me life. I thank God this day for the power and selflessness of your love. I honor you for your courage, your patience, your wisdom, and your love. Wherever I go, your love, example, and faith will continue to guide me. I thank God for blessing my life with you.

(Graduates to the Congregation) We thank you for the many ways over the years you have shared your faith with us. For your prayers, for Pastors, and staff, for Sunday School and Confirmation teachers, for music groups and youth groups, bible camp, retreats and special trips. There are so many ways we have grown in faith, and now we thank you for this blanket that will always remind us of our church home.

(Congregation) Wherever you wander, no matter how dark the night, may the warmth of this blanket represent for you the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit. Go in peace with God's blessing and serve the Lord.

(All) Thanks be to God.