

# Sending Litany

LUTHERAN  
SUMMER  
MUSIC  
ACADEMY & FESTIVAL

This litany is intended for “**Young Musicians Partnership**” congregations to use to commission students from the congregation to Lutheran Summer Music 2017, but may be used in other contexts as well.

The litany may be used in the “Sending” portion of the service, following Communion and preceding the Benediction/Blessing.

*The assisting minister invites Young Musicians Partnership students who are attending Lutheran Summer Music to gather in the nave. The students may be called forward by name.*

*The assisting minister addresses the assembly:*

A: *These members/This member of our congregation will shortly be departing for the 2017 Lutheran Summer Music Academy and Festival. For four weeks, they/he/she will live in intentional community with other student musicians and faculty and staff from across the country. They/he/she will study, practice, worship, and perform, deepening their/his/her musical skills and broadening their/his/her understanding of God’s gift of music.*

*The presiding minister addresses the YMP students:*

P: St. Paul writes:

Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.<sup>i</sup>

And Martin Luther writes:

I would gladly see all the arts, especially music, in the service of him who gave and created them.<sup>ii</sup>

Music is an endowment and gift of God, not a gift of men. It drives away the devil and makes people cheerful...I place music next to theology and give it the highest praise.<sup>iii</sup>

*[Name/s], child/children of God: God has blessed you with a talent for music. [Name of congregation] recognizes and encourages this gift in you. Supporting your participation in Lutheran Summer Music, we send you now to grow in your God-given musical abilities, that you may continue to share your talent with a world in need. Will you thankfully and prayerfully do this?*

*Response:* I will, and I ask God to help and guide me.

*The presiding minister addresses the congregation.*

P: Sisters and brothers in Christ, we send these musicians out to practice their art in the company of other believers, knowing that the Holy Spirit goes before them and that they will not return to us unchanged. Will you, members of *[name of congregation]*, pray for them on this journey, and, upon their return, give thanks for their renewed spiritual and musical gifts?

**C: We will, and we ask God to help and guide us.**

P: Let us pray.

God of majesty, whom saints and angels delight to worship: Pour out your Holy Spirit on your servants who, with the gift of music, enliven our praises and proclaim your word with power. Through this ministry give us new awareness of your beauty and grace, and join our voices with all the choirs of heaven, both now and forever; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.<sup>iv</sup>

**C: Amen.**

*The service continues with the Benediction/Blessing.*

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<sup>i</sup> Colossians 3:14-17.

<sup>ii</sup> *Preface to the Wittenberg Hymnal*, Luther's Works 53:316.

<sup>iii</sup> *Luther's Works* 15:980.

<sup>iv</sup> Prayer for Church Musicians, *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, 74.

Written By: Dr. Zebulon Highben