Closing Prayers/Litany for Companionship Sunday

All-knowing God, we uplift our brothers and sisters of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Bolivia. From the highest mountain regions of La Paz and the Altiplano to the tropical basins and lowlands of the Gran Chaco, we pray that you protect, guide, and shine your light upon those we know in Bolivia and the people they serve.

**Demos gracias a ti, O Dios** (we give thanks to you, O God)

O God, bless the spirit of accompaniment present between the Montana Synod and your church in Bolivia. Praise be to you for going before us as we seek to connect with and learn from our neighbors around the world. Challenge us to confess our brokenness and also evaluate our assumptions each and every time we encounter friends and faces from distant lands.

**Demos gracias a ti, O Dios**

Open our minds, creator of diversity and peace between nations. Encourage us to see and uplift the many colors and cultural distinctions between peoples you have put into being on this earth. Help us to acknowledge race, to recognize and give thanks for difference, and to also confess our participation in systems of racial poverty and injustice. Remind us to praise the vastness and beauty of your creation.

**Demos gracias a ti, O Dios**

God of wholeness, unite us as one catholic, meaning universal, body in Christ. Teach us to break down walls of division. Straighten our paths of communication. For the sake of your kingdom come, fortify our hopes and means for working together. We give you thanks for the countless gifts your have installed in each and every one of us, your disciples. May our skills for ministry glorify your name in Montana, in Bolivia, and throughout the world.

**Demos gracias a ti, O Dios**

Present to us your sense of peace that surpasses all understanding, Holy One. Prepare us to acknowledge the risks involved in welcoming the stranger. Hold our vulnerabilities gently when we seek to feel welcomed by strangers ourselves. Keep us forever in your grace.

**Demos gracias a ti, O Dios**

Into your hands of Lord, we commend to you all for whom we pray on this Companionship Sunday, trusting that your loving spirit will continue to swiftly accompany the sick, the neglected, the homeless, and the hurting everywhere.  *Senor, ten piedad de nosotros.*  Through our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, make us instruments of your will and purpose in the world.

**Amen.**