



Leader: We begin in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. “Jesus called the children to Him and said, ‘Let the little children come to Me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.’” (Luke 18:16-17 NIV)

All: *(Responses are excerpts from On Galilee’s High Mountain, LSB 835, and may be spoken or sung.)*

**On Galilee’s high mountain, Christ gave the great command
In words of strength and promise which all can understand:**

Leader: Jesus, who loves all children of the world, commands us His followers to go make disciples of all people. As Lutheran Women in Mission we are blessed by God’s grace to hear and heed His call as we support missionaries throughout the world. But sometimes we are discouraged by this seemingly impossible task.

All: **“All power to Me is given to do what I shall choose:
Therefore I send My children, their witness I will use.”**

Leader: In His grace and power as almighty ruler of the world, God brings people to Him through various means. At this time in our history, God is bringing people of many nations and people groups to the cities of the United States to seek a better life for themselves and their families.

All: **And not alone to nations in far away retreats,
But ev’rywhere I broadcast His love through crowded streets:**

Leader: In response to the many previously unchurched people from various backgrounds moving to the heart of Cleveland, members of Trinity Lutheran Church, a 155 year old congregation near downtown, heard Jesus’ call and in the early 1990’s began an outreach ministry to these children of God. This was the beginning of “Building Hope in the City” (BHITC) whose mission is to: *Connect Christians in mission by planting new urban congregations and helping revitalize existing inner-city ministries.*

All: **The lives that my life touches, however great or small –
Let them through me see Jesus, Who served and saved us all.**

Leader: By God’s power and grace, BHITC is reaching many Appalachian, Hispanic, African immigrants, Arabic and other people with the good news that Jesus loves them all and lived, died and rose again to make all who believe in Him a part of His family to live forever.

All: **Lord gather all Your children, wherever they may be,
And lead them on to heaven to live eternally
With You, our loving Father, and Christ, our brother dear,
Whose Spirit guards and gives us the joy to persevere.**

Leader: We thank You, Heavenly Father, for the work done by Building Hope in the City as they touch the lives of many people in the heart of the cities by showing and telling them of Jesus’ love. Open our hearts to support this and similar efforts to reach all nations with the Good News of Jesus so that many more may enter Your family and someday be gathered together with You in Heaven. In Jesus’ precious Name, we pray. Amen