

# Liturgy of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark

Order of Worship

Baptism

Marriage

Church Blessing of Civil Marriage

Funeral

Committal

Translation by

Poul-Erik Fabritius, Agnete Wulff and Thomas Jæger, 1995

Published by Council on International Relations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark

# Liturgy of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

### I. INTRODUCTION

*Before the service begins the church bells are rung three times, the last time with nine "prayer strokes", in three groups of three on one bell.*

#### **1. Organ Prelude**

#### **2. Opening Prayer**

Let us pray:

Lord, I have come into this your house to hear  
what you would say to me, God the Father, my Creator,  
you, Lord Jesus, my Saviour,  
you, good Holy Spirit, in life and death my Comforter.  
Lord, open now my heart by your Holy Spirit,  
for the sake of Jesus Christ,  
so that I may learn from your word to repent of my sins  
and to believe in life and death in Jesus,  
and every day to grow in holy life and living.  
Hear me and grant this, O God, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

*Or*

Let us pray:

Lord, I have come into your house to hear  
what you would say to me.  
Open now my heart by your Holy Spirit,  
so that from your word I may learn to repent of my sins,  
believe in Jesus Christ,  
and every day be strengthened and kept in this faith. Amen.

#### **3. Opening Hymn**

*After the hymn (or after the introductory greeting) the Kyrie (Lord, have mercy) and the Gloria (Glory to God in the highest) may be read/sung.*

#### **4. Introductory Greeting**

*Pastor:*

The Lord be with you.

*All:*

And with your spirit. *or* And also with you.

## **5. Introductory Collect**

*Pastor:*

Let us pray:

*The pastor then reads or chants one of the collects of the day.*

*All:*

Amen.

# **II. MINISTRY OF THE WORD**

## **6. Reading from the Old Testament**

## **7. Hymn**

## **8. Reading from the New Testament, Epistle or Lesson**

## **9. The Creed**

We renounce the devil and all his works and all his ways.

We believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

We believe in Jesus Christ, his only-begotten Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again from the dead, ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God, the Father almighty, whence he will come again to judge the living and the dead.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the eternal life.

*Or*

I (we) believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

And in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, light from light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; He ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

I (we) believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified. He has spoken through the

prophets.

I (we) believe in One Holy Catholic and Apostolic church. I (we) acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. I (we) look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.

*All:*

Amen.

## **10. Hymn**

## **11. Gospel Reading**

*Pastor:*

This holy gospel is written by the evangelist ...

*All:*

God be praised for his glad and joyful message.

*The gospel is then read.*

## **12. Sermon**

*The sermon ends with praise:*

Praise and thanks and eternal glory be to you, our God,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
who was and is and shall be God, three in one,  
most highly praised from the beginning, now and forevermore. Amen.

*Or*

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning, is now  
and will be forever. Amen.

## **13. Prayer of the Church**

*The pastor may use his own words in the intercession or use the following prayer:*

O Lord God, comfort and strengthen all who are in sickness or sorrow, whether they be near or far. Be present with, and help, all who suffer anguish, and stand by us all in the hour of temptation. Bless and keep your holy universal Church and us within it. Bless and keep your holy sacraments, and let your word work freely among us, so that your kingdom may spread and grow with justice and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit, and the light of grace may shine on all who sit in darkness and the shadow of death.

Protect our people and our country and all its lawful authorities; bless and keep our King (name), Queen (name) and all the royal family. Grant to them and to us grace, peace and blessing, and after a Christian life eternal joy.

*After the intercession notices are read, followed by the grace:*

Let us greet one another with the apostles:

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,  
the love of God,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit  
be with all of us. Amen.

## 14. Hymn

# III. COMMUNION

## 15. Eucharistic Prayer

*The communion begins with one of the three following Eucharistic prayers:*

a)

*Pastor:*

Dear friends in Christ. Our Lord Jesus himself said, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to me shall not hunger; and whoever believes in me shall never thirst." In his holy supper the crucified and risen Saviour gives us himself, so that whoever hungers and thirsts after righteousness will find there the food and drink for eternal life. Therefore, follow in obedient faith his invitation when he says, "Take, eat, drink this, all of you; do this for the remembrance of me." Then you will be united with him, so that on your journey upon earth you may ever remember him and at last be gathered together with him in his kingdom. For this we now pray from our hearts:

Risen Lord and Saviour,  
you who are present among us  
with all the richness of your love:  
Grant that we receive your body and blood  
in remembrance of you,  
and in confirmation of our faith in the forgiveness of sins.  
Cleanse us from sin  
and strengthen us in the hope of eternal life.  
Grant that we grow in love,  
so that we, with all the faithful, may be united in you,  
as you are one with the Father.

*All:*

Amen.

*The Lord's Prayer and the introductory words follow.*

b)

*Pastor:*

Lift up your hearts to the Lord.  
Let us praise his name.  
Holy, holy, holy is the Lord, God the Almighty,  
Who was, and is, and is to come.

*All:*

Hosanna in the highest.

*Pastor:*

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

*All:*

Hosanna in the highest.

*All:*

O Lamb of God,  
Upon the cross  
Full ransom for our sinning  
And our salvation winning,  
Your mercy show  
To us below.

O Lamb of God,  
Upon the cross  
Full ransom for our sinning,  
Of peace the true beginning,  
Give of your love  
Peace from above.

O Lamb of God,  
Upon the cross  
Full ransom for our sinning,  
Our life with you beginning,  
From death set free  
Eternally.

*(Translation by Edward R. Phillips, 1994)*

*Pastor:*

Risen Lord and Saviour,  
you who are present among us,  
with all the richness of your love.  
Grant that we receive your body and blood  
in remembrance of you,  
and in confirmation of our faith in the forgiveness of sins.  
Cleanse us from sin  
and strengthen us,  
that you may dwell in our hearts by faith.  
Make us firm in the hope of eternal life.  
Grant that we grow in love,  
so that we, with all the faithful, may be united in you,  
as you are one with the Father.

*All:*

Amen.

*The Lord's Prayer and the introductory words follow.*

*c.*

*Pastor:*

Lift up your hearts to the Lord.  
Let us praise his name.

We give thank and praise to you, God, Father Almighty,  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord.  
You created heaven and all its powers,  
the earth and all that is upon it.  
You give us life and breath  
and satisfy us daily with your fullness.  
Therefore, together with your church  
on earth and in heaven  
and in tune with all angels,  
we will sing praise to your glory:

*All sing:*

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.

*Pastor:*

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

*All:*

Hosanna in the highest.

*Pastor:*

Risen Lord and Saviour,  
You who are present among us  
with all the richness of your love:  
Grant that we receive your body and blood  
in remembrance of you,  
and in confirmation of our faith in the forgiveness of sins.  
Cleanse us from sin  
and strengthen us  
that you may dwell in our hearts by faith.  
Make us firm in the hope of eternal life.  
Grant that we grow in love,  
so that we, with all the faithful, may be united in you  
as you are one with the Father.

*Or*

Praise be to you, holy God and Father,  
that you set us free from the power of darkness  
and brought us into the kingdom of your beloved Son.  
We remember with thanksgiving  
his bitter suffering and death,  
his victorious resurrection and ascension,  
and we look for his coming in glory.  
We pray you:  
Send your Holy Spirit upon us and this holy meal.  
Grant that we receive in faith

the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ  
and so share in the fullness of his sacrifice  
for the forgiveness of sins and for eternal life.

Through his love may we  
grow in unity with all believers  
and be gathered into your church  
when it is perfected in your kingdom.

*All:*

Amen.

## **16. The Lord's Prayer**

*Pastor (or all):*

Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come.

Your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.

Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,  
now and forever.

*All:*

Amen.

## **17. Preparation**

*Pastor:*

In the night in which he was betrayed, Our Lord Jesus Christ took bread, and gave thanks; broke it and gave it to his disciples saying: "Take and eat, this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

Again, after supper he took the cup, gave thanks and gave it for all to drink, saying: "Drink this all of you; this cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, for the remembrance of me."

## **18. Communion**

*After the preparation the communicants go up to the altar and kneel at the rail. The pastor gives the bread to each communicant with the words:*

The body of Jesus Christ.

*The pastor gives the wine to each communicant with the words:*

The blood of Jesus Christ.

*Pastor:*

The crucified and risen Saviour,  
our Lord Jesus Christ,  
has now bestowed upon you (us) his holy body and blood,  
which he gave for the remission of all your (our) sins.



May he strengthen and preserve you (us) in true faith unto eternal life.  
Peace be with you.

## IV. DISMISSAL

### 19. Final Collect

*Pastor:*

Let us pray:

*After communion:*

We thank you, Lord our God, almighty Father,  
that in your mercy  
you refresh us with your gracious gifts of life.

We pray  
that your gifts may benefit us  
to strengthen our faith,  
to confirm our hope,  
and to give life to our love towards one another,  
for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

*Alternatively the following collect may be used:*

We thank you, Lord our God, almighty Father,  
that you have strengthened us with your gracious gifts of life.

We pray  
that you will fulfil what you have begun in us,  
strengthen our faith,  
confirm our hope,  
and give life to our love towards one another,  
through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one true God for ever and ever.

*After baptism and communion the following collect may be used:*

Lord our God, heavenly Father,  
we thank you for your infinite mercy,  
that through your dear Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,  
you have given us your word and your sacraments for our consolation,  
that we may there find forgiveness for our sins.

We pray  
that you give us your Holy Spirit,  
so that we may believe your word with all our hearts,  
and through baptism and communion be strengthened in faith  
day by day until eternal life  
through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

One true God, forever and ever.

*All:*

Amen.

## **20. Blessing**

*Pastor:*

The Lord be with you.

*All:*

And with your spirit. *or* And also with you.

*Pastor:*

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine upon you, and be gracious to you.

The Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.

*All:*

Amen. Amen. Amen.

## **21. Closing Hymn**

### **22. Closing Prayer**

Let us pray:

Lord, I thank you with all my heart  
that you have taught me what you want me to do.

Help me now, O God,  
through your Holy Spirit for the sake of Jesus Christ,  
that I may keep your word in a pure heart,  
and so be strengthened in faith,  
improved in holy living,  
and comforted in life and death. Amen.

*Or*

Let us pray:

Lord, I thank you  
that you have taught me what you want me to do.  
Help me now, O God,  
to keep your word firmly in mind  
and by it be strengthened and comforted in life and death. Amen.

### **23. Organ Postlude**

# BAPTISM

*Baptism usually takes place in the church during a service. In case of illness baptism can take place at home or in hospital.*

*Baptism during morning service may take the place of the creed, take place after the first reading, after the hymn following the sermon, or after the communion.*

*If there is a special baptism service it may be introduced by an organ prelude, an opening hymn and an address by the pastor before the baptismal hymn.*

## **Baptismal Hymn**

*At a baptism during morning service the baptismal hymn can be one of the normal morning hymns.*

*Pastor:*

Has the child been baptized at home? - No.

*At the baptism of adults the pastor asks:*

Have you been baptized before? - No.

## **Praise and Prayer**

*Pastor:*

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

By his great mercy

he has given us a new birth into a living hope

through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

Let us pray:

We thank you, heavenly Father,

that through your only-begotten Son you have given us holy baptism

in which you make us your children

and give us the Holy Spirit, with the forgiveness of sins and eternal life.

We pray you,

receive into your grace this child (these children)

whom we bring before you.

Make him/her/them a member (members) of your church.

Keep him/her/them in your fellowship on earth and in heaven.

Amen.

*At the baptism of adults:*

We pray you

to receive him/her graciously

who today comes to the Christian baptism.

Make him/her a member of your church.

Keep him/her in your fellowship on earth and in heaven.

Amen.

## **Readings**

Our Lord Jesus Christ says,

All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

The evangelist Mark writes,

People were bringing little children to Jesus in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, 'Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.' And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

Let us therefore help this child (these children)  
to receive his blessing  
by baptizing him/her/them  
in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

*At the baptism of adults:*

So we will now help you to receive his blessing  
by baptizing you  
in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

## **Sign of the Cross**

*If there are several children, each child is carried to the font separately.*

*The pastor makes the sign of the Cross before the face and breast of the candidate and says:*

Receive the sign of the Holy Cross  
upon your brow and upon your heart  
as witness  
that you belong to the crucified Lord Jesus Christ.

What is the child's name? - N.

*At the baptism of adults this question is usually omitted.*

## **The Creed**

N., do you renounce the devil and all his works and all his ways? - I do (*or* Yes).

Do you believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth? - I do.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only-begotten Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried, descended into hell, rose again on the third day, ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God, the Father almighty, whence he will come again to judge the living and the dead? - I do.

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the eternal life? - I do.

Will you be baptized into this faith? - I will.

## **Baptism**

*The pastor pours water three times on the head of the candidate and says:*  
N., I baptize you  
in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

*The pastor lays his hand on the head of the candidate and says:*  
The almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who has now borne you again by water and the Holy Spirit,  
and has given you the remission of sin,  
may he strengthen you with his grace until eternal life.  
He preserve your going out and your coming in  
now and forever more. Amen.

### **The Lord's Prayer**

*During the Lord's Prayer the pastor lays his hand on the head of the baptized person.*  
Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name.  
Your kingdom come.  
Your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins,  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.

Peace be with you.

### **Address to the Godparents**

*The congregation sits down. The pastor says to the child's (children's) godparents and parents:*  
You godparents of this child (these children) can now witness that he/she/they is/are baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. And you should know what you owe to the child (children) whose godparents you are. If the parents should die before the child comes of age, you must see to it, as far as it is in your power, that the child is brought up in Christian teaching, in order that he/she may remain in Christ, as he/she has now been grafted unto him through baptism.  
Peace be with you.

*Or*

Parents and godparents of this child (these children), you are now witnesses that he/she/they is/are baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Parents, you must bring up your child in the Christian faith and pray for him/her that he/she may remain in Christ, even as he/she has been grafted unto him through baptism. And should the parents die before the child comes of age, then you, the godparents, as far as it is in your power, must see that he/she is brought up in the Christian faith.  
Peace be with you.

*The pastor is free to use his own words but may use one of the above addresses as a guide to what should be said.*

*At the baptism of adults the pastor ends with a short address to the sponsors.*

### **Baptismal Hymn**

*After the baptism a hymn is sung. When baptism takes place at the normal morning service the hymn may be one of those normally used at the service, which proceeds as usual.*

### **(Baptismal Collect)**

*At services without communion and at special baptism services the following baptismal collect is used to end the service:*

Let us pray:

Lord our God, our heavenly Father,  
we thank you with all our hearts  
that you have brought us to your gracious baptism  
in which you give us the forgiveness of sins,  
the Holy Spirit and eternal life,  
for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ.

We pray you:

Keep us in the faith,  
that we may never doubt this gift of yours,  
and strengthen us through your Holy Spirit  
to fight against sin and to remain in the grace of our baptism,  
until we are forever blessed,  
through your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you in unity with the Holy Spirit,  
one true God forever and ever.

*All:*

Amen.

*When there is a special service for baptism, it ends with the blessing, a hymn and an organ postlude.*

# MARRIAGE

*Marriage in church is solemnised by a pastor in the presence of at least two witnesses.  
Bells may be rung or chimed before the service in accordance with local custom.*

## **Organ Prelude**

## **First Hymn**

## **Introductory Greeting**

*Pastor:*

The Lord be with you.

*All:*

And with your spirit. *or* And also with you.

*These words may be omitted, or the pastor may say:*

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,  
the love of God,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit  
be with all of you.

## **Introductory Prayer and Reading**

*Pastor:*

Let us pray:

Lord our God, heavenly Father,  
we thank you for the gift of life,  
and for all who have shown us love  
from our childhood until this day.

We pray you:

Give us always what we need  
and daily renew our love to one another,  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one true God forever and ever. Amen.

*Pastor:*

It is written,

When God had created heaven and earth, the sea, the sun, the moon and the stars, all plants and animals, he said, 'Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness. Let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.' So God created humankind in his image; in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. And God blessed them.

And our Lord Jesus Christ says,

Haven't you read that the one who made them at the beginning made them male and female, and

said, 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.

And the apostle Paul writes,

Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfil the law of Christ. As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if one has a complaint against the other, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

### **Hymn**

*The bride and bridegroom go up to the altar, or they may wait till after the address.*

### **Address**

#### **Interrogation and Declaration**

*Pastor:*

I now ask you, N. *(the bridegroom's name)*,  
will you take N. *(the bride's name)*, standing by your side,  
to be your wife? - I will.

Will you love and honour her,  
and live with her in prosperity and adversity  
in what fortune God, the Almighty, will send you,  
as a husband should live with his wedded wife,  
until death parts you? - I will.

Likewise I ask you, N. *(the bride's name)*,  
will you take N. *(the bridegroom's name)*, standing by your side,  
to be your husband? - I will.

Will you love and honour him,  
and live with him in prosperity and adversity,  
in what fortune God, the Almighty, will send you,  
as a wife should live with her wedded husband,  
until death parts you? - I will.

Then join your hands together.

*The pastor lays his hand on their hands and says,*

Since you have promised one another that you will live together in marriage and have now confirmed this before God, and before us who are present, I declare you to be man and wife before God and all mankind.

*At this point the bride and bridegroom may exchange rings.*

### **Intercession**

*Pastor:*

Let us pray:



*While the bride and bridegroom kneel, the pastor lays his hand on their heads and says:*

Almighty God,  
who created man and woman  
that they may live together in holy matrimony  
and blessed them.

We ask you, bless this man and this woman,  
and let them always live in your grace  
and in love for each other.

*Or*

Dear heavenly Father,  
grant this man and this woman  
grace, happiness and blessing  
in soul and body.

Grant that they may love one another with faithful love  
and serve you sincerely in all things,  
that they may live as your dear children  
and finally be gathered unto you in the eternal mansions.  
Hear us in the name of Jesus.

### **The Lord's Prayer**

Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name.  
Your kingdom come.  
Your will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.

Peace be with you.

*If the marriage ends with the following hymn the pastor blesses the couple instead of saying, Peace be with you. The bride and bridegroom sit down.*

### **Hymn**

#### **Final Collect**

*Pastor:*

Let us pray:  
Lord our God, heavenly Father,  
we thank you for the ordinance of marriage,  
and we pray you

that you will keep it strong among us with your blessing.  
Grant that through the Holy Spirit all Christian married couples  
may help one another to remain in your saving grace.  
Make them joyful in hope,  
patient in adversity  
and persevering in prayer,  
and strengthen them to become living members of your church,  
that they may finally be united with you in your kingdom,  
where you live and reign with your Son and the Holy Spirit,  
one true God, forever and ever.

*Or*

Lord, our God, heavenly Father,  
we thank you for the ordinance of marriage,  
and we pray you:  
Be graciously present with those who have this day entered into holy matrimony.  
Bless them,  
that they may be god fearing and live with one another in love,  
and give no cause for anger or strife.  
In the face of temptation,  
may they always experience the help of your grace.  
Grant to them, and to all of us, to live our lives here on earth in faith and obedience,  
and finally to live in eternal blessedness,  
through your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one true God, forever and ever.  
*All:*  
Amen.

### **Blessing**

*Pastor:*

The Lord be with you.

*All:*

And with your spirit. *or* And also with you.

*These words may be omitted or used before the final collect.*

*Pastor:*

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.

*All:*

Amen. Amen. Amen.

### **Final Hymn**

### **Organ Postlude**

# CHURCH BLESSING OF CIVIL MARRIAGE

*Bells may be rung or chimed before the service in accordance with local custom.*

## **Organ Prelude**

## **First Hymn**

## **Introductory Greeting**

*Pastor:*

The Lord be with you.

*All:*

And with your spirit. *or* And also with you.

*These words may be omitted, or the pastor may say:*

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,  
the love of God,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit  
be with all of you.

## **Introductory Prayer and Reading**

*Pastor:*

Let us pray:

Lord our God, heavenly Father,  
we thank you for the gift of life,  
and for all who have shown us love  
from our childhood until this day.

We pray you:

Give us always what we need  
and daily renew our love to one another,  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one true God forever and ever. Amen.

*Pastor:*

It is written,

When God had created heaven and earth, the sea, the sun, the moon and the stars, all plants and animals, he said, 'Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness. Let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.' So God created humankind in his image; in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. And God blessed them.

And our Lord Jesus Christ says,

Haven't you read that the one who made them at the beginning made them male and female, and said, 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.

And the apostle Paul writes,  
Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfil the law of Christ. As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if one has a complaint against the other, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

## **Hymn**

*The bride and bridegroom go up to the altar, or they may wait till after the address.*

## **Address**

**Interrogation and Declaration** *(can be omitted).*

*Pastor:*

N. and N., you are lawfully joined together in marriage and have come today to obtain God's blessing of your marriage.

I therefore ask you, N. *(bridegroom's name)*,  
will you love and honour N. *(bride's name)*  
and live with her in prosperity and adversity  
in what fortune God, the Almighty, will send you,  
as a husband should live with his wedded wife  
until death parts you? - I will.

Likewise I ask you, N. *(bride's name)*,  
will you love and honour N. *(bridegroom's name)*  
and live with him in prosperity and adversity  
in what fortune God, the Almighty, will send you,  
as a wife should live with her wedded husband  
until death parts you? - I will.

## **Intercession**

*Pastor:*

Unless the Lord builds the house the work of the builders is in vain. Therefore we will now ask God for the blessing of this man and this woman.

*While the bride and bridegroom kneel, the pastor lays his hands on their heads and says:*

Almighty God,  
who created man and woman  
that they may live together in holy matrimony  
and blessed them.

We ask you, bless also this man and this woman,

let them always live in your grace  
and in love for each other.

**The Lord's Prayer**

Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.

Peace be with you.

*The bride and bridegroom sit down.*

**Hymn**

**Final Collect**

*Pastor:*

Let us pray:  
Lord our God, heavenly Father,  
we thank you for the ordinance of marriage,  
and we pray you  
that you will keep it strong among us with your blessing.  
Grant that through the Holy Spirit all Christian married couples  
may help one another to remain in your saving grace.  
Make them joyful in hope,  
patient in adversity  
and persevering in prayer,  
and strengthen them to become living members of your church,  
that they may finally be united with you in your kingdom,  
where you live and reign with your Son and the Holy Spirit,  
one true God, forever and ever.

*Or*

Lord, our God, heavenly Father,  
we thank you for the ordinance of marriage,  
and we pray you:  
Be graciously present with this man and this woman.  
Bless them,  
that they may be god fearing and live with one another in love,

and give no cause for anger or strife.  
In the face of temptation,  
may they always experience the help of your grace.  
Grant to them, and to all of us, to live our lives here on earth  
in faith and obedience,  
and finally to live in eternal blessedness,  
through your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one true God, forever and ever.

*All:*

Amen.

### **Blessing**

*Pastor:*

The Lord be with you.

*All:*

And with your spirit. *or* And also with you.

*These words may be omitted or used before the final collect.*

*Pastor:*

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.

*All:*

Amen. Amen. Amen.

### **Final Hymn**

### **Organ Postlude**

# FUNERAL

*Two rituals for funerals follow, a long and a short one. Either may be used at burials or at cremations. They are only intended as a guide to the order of service, but the order of the service of committal is always the same. At a burial the service ends with casting earth on the grave in the cemetery. In the case of cremation the earth is cast on the coffin in the church or chapel.*

## I. LONGER VERSION

*Guide to the order of service*

### **Organ Prelude**

### **Hymn**

### **Greeting**

*Pastor:*

Grace to you  
and peace from God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ.

*Or*

The Lord be with you.

*All:*

And with your spirit. *or* And also with you.

### **Introductory Collect**

*Pastor:*

Let us pray:

Almighty, eternal God,  
Father of mercy and God of all compassion,  
hear us who call upon you  
in sorrow and bereavement  
and grant us consolation and strength in our need,  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

*Or*

Almighty, eternal God, heavenly Father,  
we thank you  
that you so loved the world,  
that you gave your only Son,  
so that everyone who believes in him may not perish,  
but may have eternal life.  
We pray you

to comfort and strengthen us all in our sorrow,  
and keep us in living faith in your only-begotten Son,  
that, with all whom you have saved, we may finally come home to you  
and praise and honour you forever  
through your beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

*Or*

Merciful Father,  
we thank you for the life you have given us  
with its joys and sorrows;  
we thank you that we know  
that all things may work for good for those who love you.  
Keep us now in our sorrow firmly with you;  
remind us  
that through the death and resurrection of your Son,  
you have borne all our sorrows  
and renewed us to a living hope.  
Help us never to forget  
that in our baptism you have made us yours  
and have promised us the forgiveness of sins and eternal life.  
In this faith we thank you  
for all good gifts which you have given us through the life of him/her  
who has now passed away,  
and we commit his/her body and soul into your hands  
asking you to keep him/her  
for a joyful resurrection on the last day.  
Send us your help that our sense of loss may be eased,  
and strengthen us in the hope of your coming kingdom,  
into which you lead all your children home to yourself,  
to praise and honour you forever. Amen.

*Or*

Our Creator and Father in heaven,  
you see all our sorrows;  
this we know from your beloved Son,  
Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who shared life and death with us here  
so that we might share his life with you forever.  
We now pray you:  
Give us your Holy Spirit,  
grant us love from your own love,  
sorrow from your sorrow,  
life from your life  
that we take courage  
and believe the word of your Son,  
to cast away all fear



and live joyfully with one another on earth,  
until you make us forever glad in your light,  
you who lives and reigns with the Son  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one true God,  
forever and ever. Amen.

### **Reading(s)**

*The pastor continues with one or two readings from the Old or/and the New Testament.*

### **The Creed**

We renounce the devil and all his works and all his ways.

We believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

We believe in Jesus Christ, his only-begotten Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again from the dead, ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God, the Father almighty, whence he will come again to judge the living and the dead.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the eternal life. Amen.

### **Hymn**

*May be omitted or there may be a hymn between two readings instead.*

### **Sermon**

*If two readings are desired, the second one should be read immediately before the sermon.*

### **Hymn**

#### **Committal** *(in church or chapel)*

*When the committal takes place in church or chapel, it should take place after the hymn following the sermon.*

*The committal must be carried out in accordance with the prescribed form.*

### **Final Collect**

*Pastor:*

Let us pray:

Lord God, our heavenly Father,  
we thank you with all our hearts  
that you have granted us to live in this blessed time  
when we can hear your holy gospel,  
know your divine and fatherly will,  
and see your Son, Jesus Christ.

We pray you  
in your abundant mercy,  
graciously keep the holy light of your word among us.  
Lead and guide our hearts by your Holy Spirit,  
that we may never swerve from your word,  
but firmly remain in it

so that we would rather leave behind all else,  
and at last obtain eternal life,  
through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one true God, forever and ever. Amen.

*Or*

Our God and Father in heaven,  
we thank you  
for receiving our Lord Jesus Christ into your kingdom  
when he gave his life  
to save the world.  
We pray you:  
Receive also us  
who are baptized unto his death.  
May we not be lost in fear and anger  
on this day of sorrow,  
but let us live according to the will of the Lord,  
full of hope in his faith,  
until we are forever blessed,  
through your crucified and risen Son,  
Jesus Christ, our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one true God, forever and ever. Amen.

*Or*

Loving, righteous God,  
helper of the helpless,  
saviour of lost souls,  
judge of the blessed,  
give us, we pray, your Holy Spirit.  
Keep our hope alive  
so that we do not despair in times of misfortune;  
keep our faith alive  
so that we are not lost for you;  
keep our love alive  
so that we are not lost for each other in our sorrow,  
but live as best we can  
until you gather us to yourself  
in the new heaven on the new earth  
born again through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

### **Blessing**

*Pastor:*

The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face shine upon you, and be gracious to you.

The Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.

*All:*

Amen. Amen. Amen.

## **Hymn**

## **Organ Postlude**

## **Committal** (*in the cemetery*)

*The committal takes place in accordance with the prescribed form.*

*A short closing hymn.*

# **II. SHORTER VERSION**

*Guide to the order of service*

## **Hymn**

*Pastor:*

Grace to you  
and peace from God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ.

## **Reading**

*The pastor continues with one of the readings from the longer version. The reading may be omitted if the creed is said.*

## **The Creed**

We renounce the devil and all his works and all his ways.

We believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

We believe in Jesus Christ, his only-begotten Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again from the dead, ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God, the Father almighty, whence he will come again to judge the living and the dead.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the eternal life.

## **Sermon**

*A short sermon follows.*

*Instead of the sermon or at the end of the sermon, one of the following prayers may be used:*

Our Father in heaven,  
we thank you for your love and faithfulness  
through your Son, Jesus Christ,  
for all the gifts of this life,

for our loved ones  
and for all you have given us through him/her,  
whom we have now lost.  
We ask you  
to take him/her in your hands,  
comfort us in our sorrow,  
judge us mercifully at our end,  
and give us a glorious resurrection for the sake of Jesus. Amen.

*Or*

Our Father in heaven,  
we thank you for every good gift in this life  
and for the hope of eternal life  
into which we have been reborn  
through the resurrection of Jesus.  
Be merciful to him/her,  
who has now left us,  
and, for the sake of Jesus, be a merciful judge of us all.  
Confirm us in the faith,  
so that, together with all those you have saved,  
we may honour and praise you through all eternity. Amen.

*(Alternatively one of the collects from the longer version may be used.)*

## **Hymn**

**Committal** *(in church or chapel)*

*When the committal takes place in church or chapel, it should take place after the hymn following the sermon in which case the service finishes with a hymn and postlude.*

*The committal takes place in accordance with the prescribed form.*

## **Blessing**

*Pastor:*

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine upon you, and be gracious to you.

The Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.

*All:*

Amen.

*Or:*

Amen. Amen. Amen.

## **Hymn**

## **Organ Postlude**

**Committal** *(in the cemetery)*

*The committal takes place in accordance with the prescribed form.*

*A short closing hymn.*

## COMMITTAL

*The pastor begins with the acclamation:*

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
By his great mercy  
he has given us a new birth into a living hope  
through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

*The pastor throws earth on the coffin three times with the words:*

N., from dust you have come.  
To dust you shall return.  
From dust you shall rise again.

Let us pray:

Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.

*Pastor:*

The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face shine upon you, and be gracious to you.  
The Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace. Amen.

*If the Aronitic blessing has been used previously, the Apostolic blessing may be used instead:*

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,  
the love of God,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit  
be with all of us. Amen.

