

Confirmation

Liturgy of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark

Published in Hymns in English – A selection of Hymns from the Danish Hymnbook

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Order of Service for Confirmation

Confirmation usually takes place at a regular service conducted according to the Order of Worship of the local church. The service begins with an organ prelude where the confirmands enter as a procession with the pastor either at the head or at the end of the procession. Prayers and biblical texts may be the ones used for regular services or special texts for confirmation. The Creed is not said (or sung) in its usual context but otherwise the service is conducted as a regular service until the end of the hymn following the sermon. The ritual of confirmation consists of the following parts:

The confirmands are addressed.

The Creed.

Confirmation vows.

Blessing of each confirmand.

The Lord's Prayer.

The confirmands approach the altar prior to or after the Creed. During this a hymn or part of a hymn may be sung.

ADDRESS (dialogue).

Standing at the arch of the chancel or at some other appropriate place the pastor addresses the confirmands and this may take the form of a dialogue. This can be omitted or take place in connection with the sermon.

After this address (and before the Creed) the pastor may pray for the confirmands:

Almighty, merciful God, heavenly Father,

We thank You for having received these young people

as Your children in Your holy baptism

and for having led them by the light of Your word.

We beseech You graciously to bring to completion

what You have begun in them

and let them know ever more clearly the salvation

You have prepared for them in Your only begotten Son. Amen.

Or

Our God and Father in Heaven,

We thank You for having received us

when we were baptized.

We have got to know You in Jesus Christ

that we may live as Your children

and have faith in your love.

We beseech You graciously to confirm
to these young people
that You are with them always,
even unto the end of the world.
Let Your living hope be their strength
and keep them from evil
that Your joy may be ever present in them. Amen.

THE CREED

The Renunciation and the Creed are said by the pastor and the confirmands in unison (or by all present):

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

We believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

We believe in Jesus Christ, God's only 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; He ascended into heaven, He is seated at the right hand of the Father, and He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

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

Amen.

CONFIRMATION VOWS (may be left out)

Mentioning each confirmand by name the pastor asks him or her individually and the confirmand responds to each question.

Name: Do you renounce the devil and all his works and all his ways? – I do!

Do you believe in God the Father Almighty, and in Jesus Christ His Son, and in the Holy Spirit? – I do!

Or the pastor, still mentioning each confirmand by name, asks:

Name: Do you wish to be confirmed in the Christian Faith? – I do!

Alternatively these vows are omitted and the blessing of the confirmands starts with the pastor mentioning the confirmand's name.

BLESSING OF EACH CONFIRMAND

The confirmand kneeling, the pastor places a hand on the head of the confirmand and blesses him or her:

Our triune God

who has received you as His child in His holy baptism
and has made you an heir to life eternal,

May He uphold you in the grace given in your baptism
until your last hour

May He grant you steadfastness of faith
to the salvation of your soul.

Or

Our God Almighty, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
granted you rebirth by water and the Holy Spirit
and gave you remission of sins in your baptism.

May His grace strengthen you unto eternal life.

Or

Our God Almighty, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who has accepted you, His child, in Holy Baptism,
May He strengthen your faith,
and be the giver of hope,
May He bless you and keep you in His love.

After this blessing the pastor may read a verse from the Bible or from a hymn to each confirmand.
For every group of confirmands the pastor says:
Peace be with you.

The Lord's Prayer:

When all have been confirmed, confirmands and pastor say the Lord's Prayer in unison.

(traditional)

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Or

(contemporary)

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.

The ritual of confirmation is concluded with a hymn during which the confirmands return to their seats. The service then continues as a regular service. As concluding prayer the collect following baptism is read, or a special collect for confirmation. During the organ postlude the confirmands may exit the church in the processional order in which they entered.