

# **Marriage**

## **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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### **The Marriage Service**

A church wedding is solemnized by a pastor in a church in the presence of at least two witnesses. Prior to the marriage service the church bells may be rung or chimed according to local custom.

### **OPENING (ORGAN PRELUDE/THE VOLUNTARY)**

#### **OPENING HYMN**

#### **GREETING**

Pastor:

The Lord be with you!

And with your spirit! or: And also with you!

This greeting may be left out or the pastor may say:

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,

and the love of God,

and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost,

be with you all.

#### **INTRODUCTORY PRAYER AND READING**

Pastor (standing at the altar or in the chancel):

Lord God, Heavenly Father.

We thank You for giving us life

and for the gift of all the people who have

supported and loved us

from our childhood to this day

We beseech You gracefully

to continue to give us what we need

and every day renew the love we have for each other

through Jesus Christ, our Lord

Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit,

one true God now and for all eternity.

Amen.

The pastor continues:

It is written:

When God had created heaven and earth, the sea, the sun and the moon, stars, plants and animals, He said: "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." So God created man in his own 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:

Have you not read that He 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 then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate.

And the Apostle Paul writes:

Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ. Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which is the bond of perfection.

## **HYMN**

### **SPEECH TO BRIDE AND GROOM**

The couple may step forward to the altar or wait until after the speech.

### **EXCHANGE OF VOWS AND PRONOUNCEMENT.**

Pastor:

I ask you, (groom’s name):

Will you take (bride’s name) who stands by your side,  
to be your wedded wife? – I will!

Will you love her and honour her  
and live with her for better or for worse  
in whatever fortune God may grant you  
as it is fitting that a husband should live with his wife  
until death do you part? – I will!

Likewise, I ask you, (bride’s name):

Will you take (groom’s name) who stands by your side,  
to be your wedded husband? – I will!

Will you love him and honour him  
and live with him for better or for worse  
in whatever fortune God may grant you  
as it is fitting that a wife should live with her husband  
until death do you part? – I will!

Then join your right hands together.

The pastor places a hand on the joined hands of the couple and says:

Since you have given your consent and made your marriage vows to each other, and you have confessed it publicly before the eyes of God and in the presence of this congregation and have confirmed it by the joining of hands I now pronounce you to be husband and wife before God and man.

At this point bride and groom may exchange rings.

### **INTERCESSION/NUPTIAL BLESSING**

Pastor:

Let us pray.

Bride and groom kneel. The pastor places a hand on each head and says:

Almighty God who created man and woman  
that they may live together in holy matrimony  
and blessed them,  
We beseech You:  
Bless this bride and groom  
Guide them by Your grace always  
and let them live in mutual love.

Or  
Dear Heavenly Father,  
Grant this bride and groom grace, happiness and blessings  
in body and soul.  
Ensure their steadfast love for one another  
that they may serve You faithfully in all their doings  
and live as Your precious children  
finally to be gathered with You in your eternal mansions.  
In the name of Jesus we pray:

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.

If the wedding service ends with the ensuing hymn the pastor gives the Benediction to the couple rather than saying: Peace be with you!  
Bride and groom return to their seats.

### **HYMN**

If a child is to be baptized in the course of the ceremony, baptism follows immediately after the marriage ceremony and the concluding collect may then be a baptismal collect.

### **CONCLUDING PRAYER**

The pastor says or chants:

Lord God, Heavenly Father,  
We thank You for the gift of marriage  
and we beseech You  
to preserve this ordinance and blessing  
to be unshakably in our midst.  
Through Your Holy Spirit  
enable all Christian couples to help each other  
and never lose sight of Your saving grace.  
Let them rejoice in hope,  
be patient in affliction,  
and be constant in prayer  
and strengthen them to be members  
of Your living church  
that they may one day 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, God, Heavenly Father.  
We thank You for the gift of marriage  
and we beseech You:  
Pour out Your grace upon (groom's name) and (bride's name),  
who have entered into marriage  
and grant them Your blessings  
that they may be joined in mutual love  
and a godly life  
and not cause strife and anger  
May they always feel Your merciful presence,  
also in times of trial,  
Let them and all of us live our lives here on earth  
faithfully and obediently  
until we come to share eternal bliss  
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.

## **THE BENEDICTION**

The pastor says or chants (facing the congregation):

The Lord be with you!

All:

And with your spirit! or: And also with you!

This greeting may be omitted or be said prior to the closing prayer.

All stand for the Benediction. The pastor says or chants:

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

All sing:

Amen, amen, amen

## **CLOSING HYMN**

## **ORGAN POSTLUDE**