

Church blessing of civil marriage

Liturgy of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark

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Church Blessing of Civil Marriage

Prior to the service, the bells may be rung or chimed according to local custom.

OPENING (ORGAN PRELUDE/THE VOLUNTARY)

OPENING HYMN

GREETING

Pastor:

The Lord be with you!

All:

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

This greeting may be omitted 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 before 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 (may be omitted)

Pastor:

(husband’s name) and (wife’s name). You have already entered into a legally binding marriage and have come today to the house of God to ask for His blessing on your marriage.

I ask you, (husband’s name):

Will you love and honour (wife’s name)
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, (wife’s name):

Will you love and honour (husband’s name)
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!

INTERCESSION

Pastor:

Unless God builds the house, those who build it labour in vain. We therefore ask for God’s blessing upon this man and this woman.

Bride and groom kneel and the pastor places a 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 beseech You:

Pour out your blessings
also on (husband’s name) and (wife’s name).
Guide them by Your grace always
and let them live in mutual love.

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.

Peace be with you!

The bride and groom return to their seats.

HYMN

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 N and N,
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 left out 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:

Amen, amen, amen

CLOSING HYMN

ORGAN POSTLUDE