

# **Baptism**

## **Liturgy of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark**

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

© 2009 Det Kgl. Vajsenhus' Forlag

Translation: Liselotte Horneman Kragh, Edward Broadbridge

### **Order of Service for Baptism**

Baptism usually takes place in church during a service, and usually at the point in the service where the Creed is said, i.e. in connection with the first biblical reading. Or it may take place after the hymn following the sermon or after communion. In case of illness the child may be baptized at home or in hospital.

When baptism takes place at a special baptismal service this service may begin with a prelude, an introductory hymn and a short sermon before the baptismal hymn.

### **BAPTISM IN CHURCH**

#### **BAPTISMAL HYMN**

When baptism takes place during the service the baptismal hymn may be one of the hymns of the regular service.

A common baptismal hymn is the following:

See, His arms are open wide  
Tune: English 1834, C.E.F. Weyse 1838

See, His arms are o-pen wide,  
little ones find bless-ing!  
Child-ren come to Je-sus' side,  
in His love pro-gress-ing.  
Lord, bap-tize them now, we pray,  
let them grow to pon-der  
their new birth, so from Your way  
they may nev-er wan-der!

Text: N.F.S. Grundtvig 1837  
Trans: Edward Broadbridge 2009  
DDS 447

After the baptismal hymn, the pastor may ask:

Is the child baptized at home? – No!

When adults are baptized, the pastor may ask:

Have you been baptized before? – No!

### **PRAISE AND PRAYER**

Pastor:

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has born us anew to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. (1 Peter 1:3)

Let us pray:

We thank You, Heavenly Father,

that through Your only begotten Son,  
You have given this Holy Baptism  
in which You make us your children  
and give us the Holy Spirit  
with the forgiveness of sins and eternal life.  
We beseech You graciously  
to receive this child (these children) whom we bring before You:  
Make him/her(them) a member (members) of Your church  
and keep him/her (them) in communion with You now and forever.  
Amen.

When adults are baptized:  
We beseech You graciously to receive this man/woman  
who comes to be baptized.  
Make him/her a member of Your church  
and keep him/her in communion with You now and forever.  
Amen.

### **READINGS**

All stand for the readings and the pastor continues:  
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: Teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you: and behold, I am with  
you always, even unto the end of the world (Matthew 28:18-20).

And in the gospel according to Mark we read:  
And they were bringing children to him that he might touch them, and the disciples rebuked them.  
But when Jesus saw it, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the children come to me, do not  
hinder them, for to such belongs the Kingdom of God. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive  
the Kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it." And He took them in His arms, put His hands  
upon them and blessed them (Mark 10:13-15).

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

When adults are baptized:  
Let us therefore help you to receive His blessing  
by baptizing you  
in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

### **SIGN OF THE CROSS**

If there is more than one child, each child is carried to the font individually.  
When adults are baptized, each baptismal candidate steps forward to the font.  
The pastor makes the sign of the cross above the face and chest of the baptismal candidate and  
says:  
Receive the sign of the Holy Cross upon your brow and upon your chest, as a testimony that you  
shall belong to the crucified Lord Jesus Christ.

What is the name of the child?  
The responsible adult says the child's full name  
When adults are baptized this question is usually left out.

### **THE CREED**

(Child's name) Do you renounce the devil and all his works and all his ways? – I do!  
Do you believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth? – I do!  
Do you 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 to judge the living and the dead? – I do!  
Do you 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? – I do!  
Will you be baptized in this faith? – I will!

### **BAPTISM**

The pastor pours water three times over the head of the baptismal candidate and says:  
(The child's name) I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.  
Amen.

The pastor places a hand on the head of the baptized child/person and says:  
The Almighty God, the father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
has now granted you rebirth by water and the Holy Spirit  
and has bestowed upon you the remission of sins,  
May His grace strengthen you unto eternal life.  
He shall preserve your going out and your coming in  
from this time forth and forever more. Amen.

If more children are to be baptized, the pastor repeats the ritual from the sign of the cross.

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

During the Lord's Prayer the pastor places a hand on the head of the baptized child/ children.

Let us pray:

(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

Pastor: Peace be with you. Amen.

### **INSTRUCTION OF GODPARENTS**

All sit, except parents and godparents while the pastor instructs them in their duties:  
You, the godparents of this child (these children), bear witness to the fact that he/she (they) has (have) been baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. If the parents die before the child comes of age, it is the duty of the godparents, as far as you are able, to ensure that he/she (they) learns (learn) about the basics of Christianity in order that he/she (they) may remain in Christ, even as he/she (they) now through baptism has (have) been grafted into Him.  
Peace be with you.

Or

You, the parents and godparents of this child (these children), have now witnessed how he/she (they) was (were) baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. It is your duty as parents to bring up your child in the Christian faith and to pray for him/her (them) in order that he/she (they) may remain in Christ, even as he/she (they) through baptism has (have) now been grafted into Him. If the parents die before the child comes of age, it is the duty of the godparents, as far as they are able, to ensure that the child learns about the Christian faith.  
Peace be with you.

This instruction may be freely formulated or one of instructions given above may be used as a guideline.

When adults are baptized, the pastor usually ends with a few words freely composed and addressed to the godparents/sponsors.

### **BAPTISMAL HYMN**

After baptism follows a hymn. When baptism takes place within a regular service, the service continues as usual and the hymn may be one of the hymns of the regular service.

### **(BAPTISMAL PRAYER)**

At services without communion and at special baptismal services the following baptismal prayer may be used as a concluding prayer.

Lord, our God, heavenly Father,  
We thank You with all our heart  
that You have let us be mercifully baptized  
and thereby bestowed upon us the forgiveness of sins,  
the Holy Spirit and eternal life  
for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ.  
Keep us faithful and let us never doubt this precious gift of Yours.

and by the strength of Your Holy Spirit  
let us fight against sin and thus rest in the mercy of our baptism  
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.

When baptism takes place at a special baptismal service, this service is concluded with the  
Benediction, a concluding hymn and an organ postlude.