

# Order of Worship

## Liturgy of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark

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## Order of Worship

### I THE ENTRANCE

Prior to the service the church bells are rung three times. At the end of the third time, three times three strokes of the bell are heard, calling to prayer.

#### 1. OPENING (ORGAN PRELUDE/THE VOLUNTARY)

After the final nine strokes of the bell the service begins with the organist playing a prelude (the voluntary) or a biblical hymn or the choir singing, during which the pastor goes and stands before the altar.

#### 2. INTRODUCTORY PRAYER

The introductory prayer is read by the cantor or the sexton or a member of the congregation. During this prayer the pastor kneels before the altar.

Let us pray.

Lord, I have come into Your house

to hear what you will speak to me,

You, Lord,

Jesus Christ, my Saviour,

and Holy Spirit, my Comforter in life and death.

Lord, through Your Holy Spirit, and for the sake of Jesus Christ, open my heart

that I may learn from your word

to grieve over my sins,

to believe in Jesus in life and death,

and daily increase in righteousness and holiness of life.

Grant this, O Lord, through Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Or

Let us pray.

Lord, I have come into Your house

to hear what you will speak to me.

Through Your Holy Spirit open my heart

that I may learn from your word to repent of my sins,

to believe in Jesus Christ

and daily to be strengthened and upheld by this faith.

Amen.

### **3 OPENING HYMN**

After the hymn (or after the introductory greeting) the responses of “Lord, have mercy upon us” (The Kyrie) may be said or sung and the hymn of praise (Gloria) be sung.

### **4. GREETING**

The pastor, facing the congregation, says or chants:

The Lord be with you!

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

### **5. INTRODUCTORY COLLECT**

The pastor continues:

Let us pray.

Here the Collect of the Day is said or chanted by the pastor, turning to face the altar.

Amen.

## **II THE LITURGY OF WORD**

### **6 OLD TESTAMENT READING**

All stand for the reading of the biblical texts.

### **7 HYMN**

**8 NEW TESTAMENT READING**, from the epistles or the gospels.

### **9 THE APOSTLES' CREED**

All stand for the Creed, which is said or sung by the pastor and congregation in unison (or by the pastor only). The Creed may be introduced by the pastor with the following words: Let us profess our Christian faith. The pastor may also read the Creed from the pulpit after the sermon. When a baptism takes place during the service the Creed may be omitted here.

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 to the dead. 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.

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.

Or

I (we) believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds; God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God; beotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made.

Who, for us men and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again, with glory, to judge

the quick and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I (we) believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of Life; who proceeds from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets. And I (we) believe in one holy Catholic and Apostolic Church. I (we) acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and I (we) look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.

After the Creed the congregation answer: Amen

### **10 HYMN preceding the sermon**

### **11 GOSPEL READING**

From the pulpit the pastor introduces the reading from the Gospel with the following words:

From the Holy Gospel according to .... (Matthew, Mark, Luke or John)

All stand and sing the response:

God be praised for his joyful tidings.

The text is read by the pastor.

### **12 THE SERMON**

The sermon may start with a short prayer.

The sermon concludes with a doxology:

Praise and thanks and eternal glory be to You,  
our God,

Father, Son and Holy Ghost,

who was and is and shall be one, triune God,

most praised from the beginning, now and for evermore.

Amen.

Or

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son:

and to the Holy Ghost;

as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:

world without end. Amen.

### **13 PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

This prayer is said from the pulpit in connection with the sermon or it can be said from the altar after the hymn preceding the sermon.

If there is no baptism or Holy Communion the prayer is concluded with the Lord's Prayer.

The prayer may be freely formulated or the pastor may read the following prayer or use it as a guideline.

God, bring comfort and strength to all who are ill and full of sorrow, be they near or far. With your abiding grace help those burdened by doubts and give us your guidance in the time of trial.

Bless and keep your Holy Church and bless us who are in it. Bless and keep your Holy Sacraments and let your Word have free reign among us so that your Kingdom may unfold and grow, in justice and peace and joy through The Holy Spirit, and let the light of your grace shine forth upon those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death.

May your Hand protect our people and our country and all those in authority, bless and keep our king (name), queen (name) and our royal family (names). Grant them and us your grace, peace and blessing and, after a Christian life, eternal bliss.

After the Prayer of the Church (or the sermon) announcements are made. The Apostolic blessing concludes what is said from the pulpit and all stand for the blessing.

Let us with the Apostles wish one another:  
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
and the love of God,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,  
be with us all evermore. Amen.

#### **14 HYMN FOLLOWING THE SERMON**

During this hymn the pastor goes and stands before the altar.

The Prayer of the Church can be said after this hymn. If so, the Prayer of the Church is followed by a hymn before the Communion.

If there is no Communion the closing Collect is said (no. 19) or The Prayer of the Church ending in The Lord's Prayer.

### **III HOLY COMMUNION**

#### **15 THE PRAYER OF HOLY COMMUNION**

Holy Communion begins with one of the following three introductions

a The pastor says (facing the congregation):

Dear friends in Christ! Our Lord Jesus Christ Himself said: "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst." In His holy supper our crucified and resurrected Saviour gives Himself to us, so that whoever hungers and thirsts for righteousness may find the food and drink of eternal life here. Come to Him in faithful obedience and receive His invitation when He says: "Take and eat; drink from it, all of you; do this in remembrance of me!" He will then unite himself to you, that you may always remember Him on your journey on this earth and one day be welcomed at His feast in heaven. With all our heart we pray:

This introduction may be omitted.

The pastor says (facing the altar):

Our Lord and Saviour who rose from the dead  
to be lovingly and richly present in our midst  
Grant us that may we receive Your body and blood  
in remembrance of You  
and as the affirmation of our belief in the forgiveness of sins.  
Cleanse us from our sins  
and let the hope of eternal life shine forth in our lives.  
Make our heart ever more loving  
and let us with all believers be united with You  
as You are one with the Father.

All:

Amen.

Here follow the Lord's Prayer and the Words of Institution.

b The pastor says or chants (facing the congregation) :

Lift up your hearts to the Lord,

Let us praise His name.

The pastor continues (facing the altar):

Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God 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  
Hosanna in the highest!

All sing (possibly only the 1st verse):

O Lamb of God

Tune: Thomas Laub 1888

1. O Lamb of God

upon the cross,

You bore all sins full knowing,  
our comfort thence is flowing;

on us below

Your mercy show!

2. O Lamb of God

upon the cross,

You bore all sins full knowing  
from there all peace is flowing;

from heav'n above

give peace and love.

3. O Lamb of God

upon the cross,

You bore all sins full knowing  
from there all life is flowing;

though we must die,

raise us on high!

Text: Agnus Dei (Latin), German c. 1500, N.F.S. Grundtvig 1837

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The pastor says or chants:

Our Lord and Saviour who rose from the dead

to be lovingly and richly present in our midst

Grant us that we may receive your body and blood

in remembrance of you

and as the affirmation of our belief in the forgiveness of sins.

Cleanse us from our sins

and let the hope of eternal life shine forth in our lives.

Make our heart ever more loving

and let us with all believers be united with you

as you are one with the Father.

All:  
Amen.

Here follow the Lord's Prayer and the Words of Institution.

c The pastor says or chants (facing the congregation) :

Lift up your hearts to the Lord

Let us praise His name

The pastor continues (facing the altar):

We thank and praise You, Almighty God, Father,  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

You created heaven and all its hosts,  
earth and everything upon it.

You give us the breath of life  
every day You fill us with your goodness.

Joining our voices with all the choirs of angels,  
with the church on earth

and the hosts of heaven

we therefore sing Your praise:

All sing:

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty.

Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Pastor:

Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord.

All:

Hosanna in the highest.

The pastor says or chants:

Our Lord and Saviour who rose from the dead

to be lovingly and richly present in our midst

Grant us that we may receive Your body and blood

in remembrance of You

and as the affirmation of our belief in the forgiveness of sins.

Cleanse us from our sins

and let the hope of eternal life shine forth in our lives.

Make our heart ever more loving

and let us with all believers be united with You

as You are one with the Father.

All:

Amen.

Or

Holy God and Father, we praise You

that You have rescued us from the power of darkness

and transferred us into the kingdom of Your beloved Son,

With gratitude we recall

His bitter suffering and death,

His victorious resurrection and ascension

and look forward to His glorious return.  
We beseech You:  
Send Your Holy Spirit upon us and to this meal  
Grant that we may faithfully receive the body and blood  
of Our Lord Jesus Christ  
and thereby take part in His perfect sacrifice  
that brings forgiveness of sins and eternal life.  
Let us through His love be ever more united  
with all believers  
and be one with Your people  
when You gather them in Your kingdom.

When Communion Prayer c is used the hymn “O Lamb of God” is sung either before or during the administering of the bread and wine.

### **16 THE LORD’S PRAYER**

The pastor (or the pastor and the congregation 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

### **17 THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

All stand and the pastor continues to read or chant the Words of Institution. Whilst saying or chanting the words the pastor holds up the bread and the chalice, facing the congregation (alternatively the altar).

On 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 in remembrance of me.

Likewise, after supper, He took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sin. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

### **18 COMMUNION**

After the Words of Institution communicants go to the altar and kneel. To each communicant the pastor delivers the bread, saying:

The Body of Christ.

And then the chalice, saying:

The Blood of Christ.

Before each group of communicants leaves the altar, the pastor says (whilst making the sign of the cross with the chalice):

The crucified and risen Saviour,

Our Lord, Jesus Christ

who has now given you/us His holy body and blood

for your/our redemption

may He strengthen and uphold you/us

in true faith unto eternal life.

After each group of communicants except the last the pastor may prefer to say:

Peace be with you!

During the administering of bread and wine a hymn may be sung, the organ may play, or there is silence.

After communion each group of communicants returns to their seats and a hymn may be sung.

## **IV THE DISMISSAL**

### **19 CLOSING COLLECT**

The pastor says or chants (facing the congregation):

Let us pray!

The closing collect is spoken or chanted by the pastor (facing the altar).

Following communion:

We thank You, Lord, our God, Father Almighty,

that You have so mercifully showered these gifts of life upon us.

We beseech You

that You will let Your wondrous gifts come to life within us

so that our faith may be strengthened and our hope be deeply rooted

and the love of our neighbour may be vibrant in our hearts  
for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Alternatively one of the closing collects of the special feasts of the church year may be used or the following collect:

We thank You, Lord, our God, Father Almighty,  
that You have strengthened us  
with Your gifts of life.  
We beseech You  
bring to completion  
what You have begun in us  
so that our faith may be strengthened and our hope be deeply rooted  
and the love of our neighbour may be vibrant in our hearts  
through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord  
Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit,  
one true God now and for all eternity.

Following baptism and communion:

Lord, our God, heavenly Father,  
We thank You for your infinite mercy  
that You have given us Your words and sacraments  
through Your precious Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,  
to comfort us  
and to thus let us find forgiveness for our sins.  
We beseech You:  
Grant us Your Holy Spirit  
that we may believe in Your words with all our heart  
and through baptism and communion  
be strengthened in our faith every day  
until we come to share eternal bliss  
through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord  
who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit,  
one true God for ever and ever.

Following baptism:

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 and the Holy Spirit,  
one true God for ever and ever.

When there has been neither baptism nor communion:

Lord, our God, heavenly Father,  
We thank You for Your holy and blessed word  
through which You also gather us into Your church.

We beseech You:

Stay with us through Your Holy Spirit  
that we may keep and live according to Your word  
and faithfully live our daily life  
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 for ever and ever.

All:

Amen

If there is no communion the closing collect may be left out when the Prayer of the Church and the Lord's Prayer are said from the altar after the hymn following the sermon.

## **20 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 collect.

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

After the Benediction, the pastor makes the sign of the cross.

## **21 CLOSING HYMN**

### **22 CLOSING PRAYER**

This prayer is read by the cantor or the sexton or a member of the congregation. During this prayer the pastor kneels before the altar.

Let us pray.

Lord, I thank You with all my heart

that You have taught me

what You want me to do.

Help me, God,

through Your Holy Spirit and for the sake of Jesus Christ

to preserve Your word in a pure heart

and so be strengthened in my faith

to live a better, holy life

and in Your word find comfort  
in life as in death. Amen.

Or

Let us pray.  
Lord, I thank You  
that You have taught me what to do.  
Help me, God,  
to hold on to Your words  
and in them find strength and comfort  
in life as in death. Amen.

### **23. ORGAN POSTLUDE**

Collections for charity usually take place as people are leaving the church.