

Confirmation

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Objective The confirmands are aware of their personal responsibility and are able to take their vow in a devout manner.

Contents The significance of confirmation.
My responsibility – my obligation – God's blessing.
The confirmation vow.
The sequence of events in a divine service with confirmation.
Practical questions (with the children's parents present).

1 Lead-in

Workbook exercise

The confirmands do the exercise in their workbook. They complete the story. The confirmation teacher may also give the parents a copy of the workbook exercise so that they can likewise create an ending to the story. Afterwards the results are compared. The confirmation teacher then relates the rest of the original fable:

Tell

The fruit of the field was the treasure

The children could not find a treasure. But the fields richly rewarded their efforts: from year to year the fields brought a bountiful harvest. The children eventually understood: the treasure which their father had told them about was the fruitfulness of the field.

Explain

An active spiritual life yields a bountiful harvest

Although it was managed by the farmer, the inheritance of the fathers mentioned to in the fable already belonged to the children to a certain extent. At the end of the farmer's life he then entrusted it completely to them. From that moment on they were responsible for it.

The farmer's concerns can be compared to those of your parents. So far they have borne the responsibility for your spiritual life, which you now assume. Do not 'sell' your childhood in God. Rather nurture it through an active and joyful spiritual life. Grasp your salvation and work upon your soul so that it resembles Jesus' nature. Pray regularly and fervently. Occupy yourselves with God's work so that you will become firm in faith. Joyfully offer and make sacrifices and be active in God's work. All of this will result in a wonderful treasure on the day of the Lord Jesus. You will belong to the bride of Christ.



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2 Our consent – our promise – our vow

Ask

What is the difference between a consent, a promise, and a vow?

Listen to answers and supplement

We often consent to do something. Sometimes we even say “yes” somewhat superficially, especially when it does not involve important matters. We do not always feel obligated to keep our word when it is lightly spoken. It can even happen that we forget it.

We are quick to say yes

A promise obligates us

A promise obligates us to more. We do not carelessly make a promise. We first think about it seriously and try to assess all of the consequences associated with such a promise.

A vow is binding

A vow taken before God has an even greater significance: it may never be questioned. We often think about it, endeavour to keep it wholeheartedly, and live our life in accordance with the vow. On the day of confirmation our heavenly Father affirms this vow and grants us His blessing.

3 The confirmation vow

Ask

What does the word ‘confirmation’ mean?

Listen to answers and supplement

The word ‘confirmation’ is derived from the Latin *confirmare* (i.e. certify, acknowledge). At a child’s Holy Baptism and Holy Sealing the parents vow to bring up the child in the church’s doctrine and to cultivate the child’s soul in accordance with divine standards. At their confirmation the confirmands assume the responsibility for the further development and care of their soul. From that time onwards they are fully responsible to God for everything they do.

We confirm our parents’ vow

The students recite aloud (homework)

I renounce Satan and all his work and ways and surrender myself to You, O triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, in belief, obedience, and the earnest resolution to remain faithful to You until my end. Amen.

Ask

What do you solemnly promise with your confirmation vow?

Listen to answers and supplement

With our confirmation vow we acknowledge our decision to commend ourselves completely to God. We promise to obey the triune God and to align our lives with His will. The resolution to remain faithful until our end is to be rooted deep within our hearts.

We pledge loyalty to the Lord

If we are uncertain how we are to conduct ourselves we ask the Lord in prayer. We may of course also turn to our bearers of blessing (see lesson 20, section 4).





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Explain

Sequence of events

The sequence of events in a divine service with confirmation is the same as for a regular divine service up to the time Holy Communion has been dispensed to the priestly ministries.

Afterward the act proceeds as follows:

- The Chief Apostle's letter is read out to the confirmands.
- This is followed by the officiant's address to the confirmands.
- The confirmands are asked whether they wish to pursue their future path as New Apostolic Christians in faithfulness to God.
- The confirmands answer by saying: "Yes".
- They reinforce their "Yes" by reciting their confirmation vow.
- The officiant dispenses the confirmation blessing upon the confirmands.
- The confirmands take their seats again.
- The divine service continues with the dispensation of Holy Communion for the congregation.

Explain

Let us invite our friends to the confirmation service.

The main points

I also want to **keep my confirmation vow!**

Homework

The confirmands are to prepare themselves intensively for their confirmation.

