

Ceremony of Confirmation.

During the Morning Service, after the Kedushah, the Confirmants are conducted into the Temple by the two highest officers of the Congregation, while the Choir sings "Welcome to the house of the Lord." The Minister then continues the service—page 105—107, 110—127.

ANTHEM. SERMON. CONFIRMATION HYMN.

FIRST PRAYER.

OUR God and Father, we come to Thee in this solemn hour to ask Thy blessing. O strengthen us and sanctify our hearts, that we may profess our faith in Thee, O God, in sincerity of spirit, and purity of soul. Help us through life, that to the end of our days we may cling steadfastly to Thy law, and walk in Thy ways, that our hearts be ever perfect with Thee, even as they are at this hour. Let Thy light and Thy truth illumine our path, that we may never go astray. May the remembrance of this hour be ever present to our soul, that we may not, for the sake of earthly gain or pleasure, deny the religion of our fathers, nor depart from Thy laws of virtue and righteousness.

Accept us, O God, into Thy holy covenant, and help us to become worthy sons and daughters of Israel.

Preserve, O God, the lives of our dear parents, who have tenderly cared for our bodily and spiritual welfare, watched over us in the days of our helplessness, and safely guided us to this hour of our religious consecration. Bless them, O Father, and teach us so to live that by our deeds we may sweeten every hour of their appointed days on earth.

Great, O God, is the responsibility which we take upon ourselves in this hour, the turning point of our lives. Yet according to the greatness of the task, which Thou layest upon us, will be the strength with which Thou wilt bless us. Amen.

FLOWER OFFERING.

OUR Father, we beseech Thy grace,
 As in Thy presence reverently,
 In this Thy holy dwelling-place,
 We dedicate our lives to Thee.
 Not proudly do we seek Thy care,
 In fond humility we move
 Nearer Thy shrine, and nestle there,
 To ask Thy love.

To-day in reverent awe we strew
 Thy altar with fresh offerings sweet;
 Not as of yore our fathers slew
 Thy creatures dumb, and deemed it meet
 To shed their blood in sacrifice:
 We bear instead these flowers new-blown,
 That with their breath our prayers may rise
 Unto Thy throne.

As blossoms that in stony ways,
In fragrant clusters oft are found;
So teach our lives to show Thy praise,
That we may sweeten life's dull round:
To toil with faith through busy years;
And though dark clouds obscure the sun,
To whisper still through blinding tears:
Thy will be done!

EXAMINATION.

Choir:

ANTHEM.

SILENT PRAYER OF THE PARENTS OF THE CONFIRMANTS.

GOD and Father, who art all goodness and mercy,
we lift up our eyes and our hearts to pray for
these, our children. We bring them to Thee, that
they may remain Thine for ever. Thou hast created
them and hast watched over them with paternal
kindness and love from the first moment of their
life. Thou hast cared for them and guided them
safely, and hast brought them to this beautiful
day. Thou hast charged us to be their guardians,

to lead them in the path where Thou mayest be found. Thou hast unfolded their minds to receive the knowledge of Thy holiness. Thou hast revealed to them Thy will, as Thou didst reveal it to our fathers, and hast drawn their hearts to Thee, that they may serve Thee in purity and sincerity. Receive them graciously, O Father, into Thy covenant; protect and guide them! Take them by their right hand and lead them through this life, so full of danger and trouble. Watch over them, and strengthen them that they may bravely resist the allurements of sin! Awaken their consciences when, blinded by their passions, they may be ready to yield to the voice of temptation!

Joy and sorrow fall to the lot of all, and our children will not remain free from trials and tribulations. Be Thou near to them, God of mercy, when they may be in want of comfort; in sickness and distress, and in every trial! Do not leave them nor forsake them. And when gone astray, they return to Thee in grief and repentance, O, do not, then, turn away Thy face from them; but let them find comfort and give them peace!

Grant, O God, that our children may grow up to be Thy faithful servants, that they may develop a steadfast and noble character, and reflect honor and glory upon their name and upon Israel! Amen.
