

THE MARRIAGE SERVICE

The Entry

The people stand.

The minister may greet the bridal or marriage party with:

Blessed are they who come in the name of the Lord.

We bless you from the house of the Lord.

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,

For his steadfast love endures for ever. *Psalms 118: 26; 136: 1 (adapted)*

A hymn may be sung or instrumental music played during the entrance.

GREETING

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

The minister may say

God is love, and those who live in love live in God,
and God lives in them. *1 John 4: 16*

The Introduction

The minister says

We have come together in the presence of God
to witness the marriage of and,
to ask his blessing on them
and to share in their joy.

Our Lord Jesus Christ was himself a guest
at a wedding at Cana of Galilee,
and through his Spirit he is with us now.

The scriptures set before us marriage as part of God's creation
and a holy mystery
in which man and woman become one flesh.
It is God's purpose that, as husband and wife
give themselves to each other
in love throughout their lives,
they shall be united in that love
as Christ is united with his Church.

Marriage was ordained that husband and wife
may comfort and help each other,
living faithfully together in plenty and in need,
in sorrow and in joy.

It is intended that with delight and tenderness
they may know each other in love,
and through the joy of their bodily union
they may strengthen the union of their hearts and lives.

It is intended that they may be blessed
in the children they may have,
in caring for them and in bringing them up
in accordance with God's will
to his praise and glory.

In marriage husband and wife begin a new life together in the community.
It is a permanent commitment that all should honour.
It must not be undertaken carelessly, lightly or selfishly,
but by God's help, with reverence, responsibility,
respect and the promise to be faithful.

This is a way of life, created and hallowed by God,
that and are now about to begin.
They will each give their consent to the other;
they will join hands and exchange solemn vows,
and in token of this they will give and receive a ring.

Therefore on this their wedding day we pray with them,
that, strengthened and guided by God,
they may fulfil his purpose
for the whole of their earthly life together.

THE COLLECT

The minister says

Almighty God,
through your Son Jesus Christ you send the Holy Spirit
to be the life and light of all your people:
Open the hearts of these your servants
to the riches of his grace,
that they may bring forth the fruit of the Spirit
in love and joy and peace;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Proclaiming and Receiving the Word

One or more readings from the Holy Scriptures.

READINGS

*Genesis 1: 26-28; Song of Solomon 2: 10-13; 8: 6, 7; Ecclesiastes 3: 1-8;
Ecclesiastes 4: 9-12; Jeremiah 31: 31-34*

Psalms 67, 121, 127, 128

*Romans 12: 5-7,13; 1 Corinthians 13; Ephesians 3: 14-21; Ephesians 4: 1-6;
Ephesians 5: 21-33; Philippians 4: 4-9; Colossians 3: 12-17; 1 John 3: 18-24;
1 John 4: 7-12*

*Matthew 5: 1-10; Matthew 7: 21, 24-27; Mark 10: 6-9,13-16; John 2: 1-11;
John 15: 1-8 or 15: 9-17*

THE SERMON

The Marriage

The minister says to the congregation

I am required by law to ask anyone present who knows a reason why
and may not lawfully marry to declare it now.

The minister says to the couple

The vows you are about to take
are to be made in the name of God,
who is judge of all
and knows all the secrets of our hearts;
therefore if either of you knows any reason
why you may not lawfully marry
you must declare it now.

THE CONSENT

The minister says to the bridegroom

..... will you take to be your wife?
Will you love her, comfort her,
honour and care for her,
and, forsaking all others,
be faithful to her as long as you both shall live?

He answers

I will.

The minister says to the bride

.... will you take to be your husband?
Will you love him, comfort him,
honour and care for him,
and, forsaking all others,
be faithful to him as long as you both shall live?

She answers

I will.

THE VOWS

The bride and bridegroom face each other. The bridegroom takes the bride's right hand in his and says

I take you to be my wife,
to have and to hold
from this day forward,
for better, for worse,
for richer, for poorer,
in sickness, and in health,
to love and to cherish
till death us do part,
according to God's holy law.
This is my solemn vow.

They loose hands. The bride takes the bridegroom's right hand in hers and says

I take you to be my husband,
to have and to hold
from this day forward,
for better, for worse,
for richer, for poorer,
in sickness and in health,
to love and to cherish
till death us do part,
according to God's holy law.
This is my solemn vow.

They loose hands.

GIVING AND RECEIVING OF A RING

The minister receives the ring(s) and may say

Heavenly Father,
may *this ring* be to and
a symbol of unending love and faithfulness
to remind them of the vow and covenant
which they have made this day.

The bridegroom takes the ring and places it on the fourth finger of the bride's left hand, and holding it there says

I give you this ring
as a sign of our marriage.
With my body I honour you,
and all that I have I share with you
in the name of God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

If this is the one ring used, before they loose hands the bride says

I receive this ring
as a sign of our marriage.
With my body I honour you,
and all that I have I share with you
in the name of God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

If the bride gives a ring, they loose hands and she places it on the fourth finger of the bridegroom's left hand, and holding it there says

I give you this ring
as a sign of our marriage.
With my body I honour you,
and all that I have I share with you
in the name of God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

THE DECLARATION

The priest addresses the people

In the presence of God, and before this congregation
.... and have given their consent
and made their marriage vows to each other.
They have declared their marriage
by the joining of hands
and by the giving and receiving of a ring.
Therefore in the name of God
I pronounce that they are husband and wife.

The priest joins the right hands of the husband and wife together, and says
What God has joined together
let no one put asunder. *Mark 10: 9*

THE BLESSING

The congregation remains standing.
The husband and wife kneel, and the priest says
God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit
bless, preserve and keep you:
the Lord mercifully grant you the riches of his grace
that you may live together in faith and love,
and receive the blessings of eternal life. **Amen.**

The newly married couple may say
O God our Father,
we thank you for uniting our lives
and for giving us to each other in the fulfilment of love.
Watch over us at all times,
guide and protect us,
and give us faith and patience,
that, as we hold each other's hand in yours,
we may draw strength from you
and from each other;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

AFFIRMATION BY THE PEOPLE

The priest says
Will you the family and friends of and support and encourage
them in their marriage?
We will.

THE ACCLAMATIONS

Blessed are you, heavenly Father:
you give joy to the bridegroom and the bride.

Blessed are you, Lord Jesus Christ:
you have brought new life to all your people.

Blessed are you, Holy Spirit of God:
you bring us together in love.

Blessed be the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit:
one God, to be praised for ever. Amen.

The registration of the marriage may take place now in the church, or at the end of the service.

A psalm or hymn may be sung.

The Prayers

The couple kneel at the Lord's Table.

The prayers are led by the minister or by others appointed by the minister, using either of the following forms. Other prayers may be included.

Silence may be kept.

THE FIRST FORM

Now that and have given themselves to each other in marriage, let us pray that God will keep them and all other married couples faithful to their marriage vows.

May they live and grow together in love and peace all the days of their life,
Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

May they truly and faithfully perform those vows which they have made together in your sight,
Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

May their life together be a witness to your love in this troubled world;
may unity overcome division, forgiveness heal injury, and joy triumph over sorrow,
Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

May their home be a place of love, security and truth, (and may they be blessed with the gift of children),

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

We pray for their families and friends, and all who share with them in the happiness of this day,

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

We pray for your Church, united to Christ as a bride is to her husband, that it may be faithful to him in love and truthfulness,

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

We remember with thankfulness our relatives and friends departed this life in your faith and fear, especially ... and we pray that we may share with them the joys of your eternal kingdom,

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

**Merciful Father,
accept these our thanksgivings and prayers
for the sake of your Son
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

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THE SECOND FORM

One or more of these prayers is said.

For husband and wife

Lord God, faithful from generation to generation,
bless these your servants.

May your word be a lamp to their feet
and a light to their path;
that they may obey your will,
live in safety under your protection,
and abide in your love unto their lives' end;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Almighty God, giver of life and love:
Bless and whom you have now joined in marriage.
Grant them wisdom and devotion in their life together,
that each may be to the other a strength in need,
a comfort in sorrow, and a companion in joy.
So unite their wills in your will
and their spirits in your Spirit,
that they may live and grow together in love and peace
all the days of their life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Almighty and merciful Father,
the strength of all who put their trust in you:
We pray that as you have brought and together,
you will so enrich them by your grace
that they may truly and faithfully keep those vows
which they have made to one another in your sight;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

O God, you consecrated marriage
to be a sign of the spiritual unity between Christ and his Church:
Bless these your servants,
that they may love, honour and cherish each other
in faithfulness and patience,
in wisdom and true godliness;
that their home may be a place of blessing and peace;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

God of all grace, friend and companion,
look in favour on and
and on all who are made one in marriage.
In your love deepen their love,
strengthen their wills
to keep the promises they have made this day,
that they may continue in life-long faithfulness to each other;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

God our Creator,
we thank you for your gift of sexual love
by which husband and wife may delight in each other,
and share with you the joy of creating new life.
By your grace may the love of and remain strong
and may they rejoice in your goodness all their days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

For the gift of children

Heavenly Father, maker of all things,
you enable us to share in your work of creation:
Bless this couple with the gift of children,
and give them grace to make their home
a place of love, security and truth,
that their children may grow up to know and love you
in your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

For Christian witness in marriage

Eternal God, true and loving Father,
in marriage you make your servants one.
May their life together witness to your love
in this troubled world,
may unity overcome division,
forgiveness heal injury,
and joy triumph over sorrow;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
you gave marriage to be a source of blessing:
We thank you for the joys of family life:
May we know your presence and peace in our homes,
fill them with your love,
and use them for your glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The couple may say

God of tenderness and strength,
you have brought our paths together
and led us to this day;
go with us now as we travel through good times,
through trouble or through change.
Bless our home, our partings and our meetings.
Make us worthy of each other's best,
and tender with each other's dreams,
trusting in your love in Jesus Christ. Amen.

THE PEACE

The minister says

Jesus said, A new commandment I give to you,
that you love one another:
even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. *John 13: 34*

The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

It is appropriate that the congregation share with one another a sign of peace.

This may be introduced by the words:

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

A hymn may be sung.

The bride and bridegroom should receive Holy Communion at the time of their marriage or at the first opportunity after their marriage.

When Holy Communion is celebrated at the time of the marriage the Holy Communion begins at Celebrating at the Lord's Table on (page 208) or in Holy Communion One at Lift up your hearts ... (page 186).

PROPER PREFACE

We give you thanks
because you have made the union
between Christ and his Church
a pattern for the marriage
between husband and wife:

The minister says

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, so we pray

Our Father in heaven ...

or

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to say

Our Father, who art in heaven ...

The minister may say

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.**

or

God the Holy Trinity
make you strong in faith and love,
defend you on every side,
and guide you in truth and peace:
And the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit
be with you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

NOTES

- 1 As much notice as possible should be given to the minister of the parish to allow sufficient time for adequate pastoral preparation before marriage.
- 2 All readings in Proclaiming and Receiving the Word must be from Holy Scripture. These may be used where printed in the service or after The Affirmation by the People. At Holy Communion there are at least two readings, of which the Gospel must be one.
- 3 Hymns or canticles may be sung at suitable points during the service.
- 4 The minister and the couple should together choose the readings, hymns, music and the prayers to be used in the service. If a Bible or New Testament is to be presented to the bride and bridegroom it is appropriate that this should be done before the readings.
- 5 If Holy Communion is celebrated at the marriage, its reception should not be restricted to the bridal party.

