

# Service of Marriage

## **ENTRANCE**

*The assembly stands as the ministers and the wedding group enter. Music—hymn, song, psalm, instrumental music—may accompany the entrance.*

## **GREETING**

*The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other.*

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

Dear friends: We have come together in the presence of God to witness the marriage of *name* and *name*, to surround them with our prayers, and to share in their joy.

The scriptures teach us that the bond and covenant of marriage is a gift of God in which a man and a woman are joined as one, an image of the union of Christ and the church. As *name* and *name* make their promises to each other today, we remember that at Cana in Galilee our Lord Jesus Christ made the wedding feast a sign of God's reign of love.

Let us enter into this celebration confident that, through the Holy Spirit, Christ is present with us now also. We pray that this couple may fulfill God's purpose for the whole of their lives.

## **DECLARATION OF INTENTION**

*The minister addresses the couple in these or similar words, asking each person in turn:*

*Name*, living in the promise of God,  
[joined to Christ in baptism,]  
will you give yourself to *name* in love and faithfulness?  
Will you share your life with *her/him*,  
in joy and in sorrow, in health and in sickness,  
for richer, for poorer, for better, for worse,  
and will you be faithful to *her/him* as long as you both shall live?

*Response:*

I will.

## **DECLARATION ADDRESS**

Families, friends, and all those gathered here with *name* and *name*, will you support and care for them, sustain and pray for them in times of trouble, give thanks with them in times of joy, honor the bonds of their covenant, and affirm the love of God reflected in their life together?

**We will.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

*A brief silence is kept.*

Gracious God, you sent your Son Jesus Christ into the world to reveal your love to all people. Enrich *name* and *name* with every good gift, that their life together may show forth your love; and grant that at the last we may all celebrate with Christ the marriage feast that has no end; in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

*A solo or hymn may be placed here.*

## READINGS

*The assembly is seated. Two or three scripture readings are proclaimed. When the service includes communion, the last is a reading from the gospels. Responses may include a psalm in response to a reading from the Old Testament, a sung acclamation preceding the reading of the gospel, or other appropriate hymns, songs, and psalms. Suggestions for readings follow:*

Genesis 1:26-31 --- Male and Female created by God

Psalms 98 --- Sing a new song of joy

Psalms 100 --- Praise and thanksgiving for God's love and mercy

Matthew 5:13-16 --- Live your Christian vocation in your marriage

Matthew 6:25-34 --- Have Faith in God

Matthew 19:4-6 --- Wise builders of faith

John 2:1-11 --- The wedding at Cana

John 15:9-17 --- Love one another

Romans 15:5-6 --- Harmonious Living

Romans 12:9-12 --- Exhortation to Love

Romans 15:5-6 --- The spirit of unity

I Corinthians 13 --- Love, the greatest gift and way

Ephesians 3:14-19 --- A prayer for God's wisdom

Ephesians 5: 21-23 --- Marriage and the church

Philippians 4:4-8 --- Rejoice in God & receive God's peace

I Peter 2:4-9 --- Christ is the foundation of our relationships

## SERMON

*A solo or hymn may be placed here*

## VOWS

*Name* and *name* I invite you to declare your vows to one another.

*The couple may join hands. Each promises faithfulness to the other in these or similar words.*

***OPTION A: I take you to be my***

I take you, *name*, to be my *wife/husband* from this day forward,  
to join with you and share all that is to come,

and I promise to be faithful to you until death parts us.

***OPTION B: In the presence of God***

In the presence of God and this community,  
I, *name*, take you, *name*, to be my *wife/husband*;  
to have and to hold from this day forward,  
in joy and in sorrow, in plenty and in want, in sickness and in health,  
to love and to cherish, as long as we both shall live.  
This is my solemn vow.

**GIVING OF RINGS**

*When rings are to be exchanged, the presiding minister may say this prayer.*

Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God of grace, for your love and faithfulness to your people. May these rings be symbols of the promise *name* and *name* have made with each other; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

*The couple may exchange rings with these words*

*Name*, I give you this ring as a symbol of my vow. With all that I am, and all that I have, I honor you, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**ACCLAMATION**

*The presiding minister addresses the assembly.*

*Name* and *name*, by their promises before God and in the presence of this assembly, have joined themselves to one another as husband and wife. Those whom God has joined together let no one separate. I present to you *name* and *name*, husband and wife.

**Amen. Thanks be to God.**

*The assembly may offer acclamation with applause. A sung acclamation, hymn, or other music may follow.*

*Other symbols of marriage may be given or used at this time such as a unity candle.*

**MARRIAGE BLESSING**

*The couple may kneel. The presiding minister may extend a hand over the couple while praying for God's blessing in the following or similar words.*

Most gracious God, we give you thanks for your tender love in sending Jesus Christ to come among us, to be born of a human mother, and to endure the cross for our sake, that we may have abundance of life.

By the power of your Holy Spirit pour out the abundance of your blessing on *name* and *name*. Defend them from every enemy. Lead them into all peace. Let your love be a seal upon their

hearts, a mantle about their shoulders, and a crown upon their foreheads.

Bless them so that their lives together may bear witness to your love. Bless them in their work and in their companionship; in their sleeping and in their waking; in their joys and in their sorrows; in their life and in their death.

Finally, in your mercy, bring them to that table where your saints feast forever in your heavenly home, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Seeing how greatly God has loved us, let us pray for the whole world.

For the Christian community everywhere; for the life and ministry of the baptized, and for all servants of the gospel, that the church may be the risen body of Christ in the world. Gracious and faithful God,  
**hear our prayer.**

For all who are joined by bonds of marriage, kinship, and friendship, and for communities everywhere; for the nations, for all those who govern, and for justice and peace throughout the world. Gracious and faithful God,  
**hear our prayer.**

For those we love easily, and for those with whom we struggle, for those different from us and for those familiar to us, that we might be instruments of God's peace. Gracious and faithful God,  
**hear our prayer.**

For those who suffer in any way, and those who are lonely, for the sick, the dying, and those who are bereaved, for those who are poor, hungry, homeless, or unemployed, for the victims of violence, hatred, and intolerance. Gracious and faithful God,  
**hear our prayer.**

For all those who are joined to us in love; for our families, friends, and neighbors, for those separated from us by distance or discord, and giving thanks also for those who have gone before us (especially *name/s*). Gracious and faithful God,  
**hear our prayer.**

Creator of all, you make us in your image and likeness and fill us with everlasting life. Hear the prayers of your people and grant to *name* and *name* grace to live in unity and joy all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and praise forever.

**Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

### ***OPTION A: Our Father in heaven***

*A service without communion continues as follows.*

**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.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.**

### ***OPTION B: Our Father, who art in heaven***

*A service without communion continues as follows.*

**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,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

## **BLESSING**

*The presiding minister proclaims God's blessing in these words.*

God Almighty send you light and truth to keep you all the days of your life. The hand of God protect you; the holy angels accompany you; and the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with you now and forever.

**Amen.**

**DISMISSAL**

*An assisting minister may send the assembly forth in these or similar words.*

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*A hymn may be sung or instrumental music played as the wedding group and the ministers depart.*

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