

A Service for Marriage

FIRST FORM

- 1 At the day and time appointed for solemnization of matrimony, the persons to be married come into the church with their friends and neighbours; and there standing together, the man on the right hand, and the woman on the left, the priest says

We have come together here in the sight of God, and in the presence of this congregation, to join together this man and this woman in holy matrimony; which is an honourable state of life, instituted from the beginning by God himself, signifying to us the spiritual union that is between Christ and his Church.

Christ adorned and beautified matrimony with his presence, and with the first sign by which he revealed his glory, at the marriage in Cana of Galilee; and holy scripture commands that all should hold it in honour.

It is therefore not to be entered upon unadvisedly, lightly, or merely to satisfy physical desires; but prayerfully, with careful thought, and with reverence for God, duly considering the purposes for which it was ordained.

It was ordained for the procreation of children and that they might be brought up in the nurture and instruction of the Lord, to the praise of his holy name.

It was ordained so that those to whom God has granted the gift of marriage might live a chaste and holy life, as befits members of Christ's body.

And it was ordained for the mutual companionship, help, and comfort, that the one ought to have of the other, both in prosperity and adversity.

Into this holy manner of life N and N come now to be joined. Therefore if anyone can show any just cause why they may not lawfully be joined together, let him speak now, or hereafter remain silent.

2 Speaking to the persons to be married, the priest says ·

I charge you both, as you will answer before God, who is the judge of all and from whom no secrets are hidden, that if either of you know any reason why you may not lawfully be joined together in matrimony, you now confess it. For be assured that those who marry otherwise than God's word allows are not joined together by God, neither is their matrimony lawful in his sight.

THE CONSENT

3 If no impediment be alleged, the priest says to the man.

N, will you have N as your wife,
to live together, as God has ordained,
in the holy state of matrimony?
Will you love her, cherish her,
honour and protect her,
in sickness and in health;
and, forsaking all others,
be faithful to her, as long as you both shall live?

The man answers

I will.

4 Then the priest says to the woman

N, will you have N as your husband,
to live together, as God has ordained,
in the holy state of matrimony?
Will you love him, obey him,
honour and protect him,
in sickness and in health;
and, forsaking all others,
be faithful to him, as long as you both shall live?

The woman answers

I will.

‡5 If the bride is to be given away, the priest says

Who gives this woman to be married to this man?

And he receives her at her father's or friend's hands, taking her
by the right hand.

THE BETROTHAL AND WEDDING

6 They give their troth to each other in this manner.

They face each other, and the minister causes the man with his
right hand to take the woman by her right hand and to say

I N take you N to be my wife,
according to God's holy ordinance:
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,
until we are parted by death.
And to this I pledge you my word.

7 Then they loose their hands; and the woman, with her right hand
taking the man by his right hand, says

I N take you N to be my husband,
according to God's holy ordinance:
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 obey,
until we are parted by death.
And to this I pledge you my word.

- 8 They again loose their hands, and the man gives the woman a ring, placing it on the book*. The priest takes it and gives it to the man to put it on the fourth finger of the woman's left hand. The man holds the ring there, and says

With this ring I wed you,
with my body I worship you;
with all that I am and all that I have
I honour you:
in the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

- 9 They both kneel. The minister says

Let us pray.
Eternal God,
creator and preserver of all mankind,
giver of all spiritual grace
and author of everlasting life:
send your blessing upon this man and this woman
whom we bless in your name;
that as Isaac and Rebecca lived faithfully together,
so N and N may surely perform and keep
the vow and covenant made between them,
of which this ring given and received is a token and pledge,
and may ever remain in perfect love and peace together,
and live according to your laws;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

- * At §8 while the ring is on the book the priest may say

Lord, we pray that this ring may be to your servants
a token of their solemn vows,
and a pledge of pure and abiding love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

If the bride is to give the bridegroom a ring, she does so after §8.

10 Then the priest joins their right hands together and says

Those whom God has joined together
let not man put asunder.

THE DECLARATION OF THE MARRIAGE

11 The priest addresses the people

N and N have now witnessed to their mutual consent
before God and this company;
they have pledged their solemn word to each other;
and they have confirmed it
by the giving and receiving of a ring
and by the joining of hands.
I therefore declare them to be husband and wife:
in the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

And he adds this blessing

God the Father,
God the Son,
God the Holy Spirit,
bless, preserve, and keep you;
the Lord mercifully with his favour look upon you
and fill you with all spiritual blessing and grace,
that you may so live together in this life,
that in the world to come you may have life everlasting.

Amen.

THE PRAYERS

- 12 One of the following psalms is said or sung. The minister, followed by the man and the woman, may go to the Lord's table during the reading or singing of the psalm.

Psalm 128

- 1 Blessed is everyone who | fears the | Lord:
and walks in the | confine | of his | ways.
 - 2 You will eat the | fruit of · your | labours:
happy shall you | be and | all · shall go | well with you.
 - 3 Your wife with | in your | house:
shall | be · as a | fruitful, vine;
 - 4 Your children a | round your, table:
like the fresh | shoots | of the | olive.
 - 5 Behold thus shall the | man be | blessed:
who | lives · in the | fear · of the | Lord.
 - 6 May the Lord so | bless you · from | Zion:
that you see Jerusalem in prosperity | —
all the | days · of your | life.
 - 7 May you see your | children's | children:
and in | Israel | let there · be | peace.
- Glo | ry to | God: Father | Son and | Holy | Spirit;
As in the be | ginning · so | now: and for | ever | A | men.

Psalm 37.3-7

- 3 Trust in the | Lord and · do | good:
and you shall dwell in the land —
and | feed in | safe | pastures.
- 4 Let the Lord be | your de | light:
and he will | grant you · your | heart's de | sire.
- 5 Commit your | way · to the | Lord:
trust | him and | he will | act.

- 6 He will make your righteousness—
shine as | clear · as the | light:
and your | inno · cence | as the | noonday.

- 7 Be still | before | the Lord:
and wait | patientl|y for | him.

Glo|ry to | God: Father | Son and | Holy | Spirit;
As in the be|ginning · so | now: and for | ever | A|men.

Psalm 67

- 1 Let God be gracious to | us and | bless us:
and make his | face | shine up|on us,
2 That your ways may be | known on | earth:
your liberating | power · a|mong all, nations.
3 Let the peoples | praise you · O | God:
let | all the | peoples | praise you.
4 Let the nations be | glad and | sing:
for you judge the peoples with integrity
and govern the | nations · up|on | earth.
5 Let the peoples | praise you · O | God:
let | all the | peoples | praise you.
6 Then the earth will, yield its | fruitfulness:
and | God our | God will | bless us..
†7 God | shall | bless us:
and all the | ends · of the | earth will | fear him.
Glo|ry to | God: Father | Son and | Holy | Spirit;
As in the be|ginning · so | now: and for | ever | A|men.

- 13 One or more passages of scripture may be read (see Note 4) and a sermon declaring the duties of husband and wife may be preached here or later in the service. If no sermon is preached, Ephesians 5.20-33 at least must be read.

Hear now the teaching of Saint Paul on the duties of husband and wife.

Always give thanks for everything to God the Father, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Submit yourselves to one another, because of your reverence for Christ.

Wives, submit yourselves to your husbands, as to the Lord. For a husband has authority over his wife in the same way that Christ has authority over the church; and Christ is himself the Saviour of the church, his body. And so wives must submit themselves completely to their husbands, in the same way that the church submits itself to Christ.

Husbands, love your wives in the same way that Christ loved the church and gave his life for it. He did this to dedicate the church to God, by his word, after making it clean by the washing in water, in order to present the church to himself, in all its beauty, pure and faultless, without spot or wrinkle, or any other imperfection.

Men ought to love their wives just as they love their own bodies. A man who loves his wife loves himself. (No one ever hates his own flesh. Instead, he feeds it and takes care of it, just as Christ does the church; for we are members of his body.) As the scripture says, 'For this reason, a man will leave his father and mother, and unite with his wife, and the two will become one.' There is a great truth revealed in this scripture, and I understand it applies to Christ and the church. But it also applies to you: every husband must love his wife as himself, and every wife must respect her husband.

Ephesians 5.20-33 (TEV)

14 Then, the people kneeling, and the man and the woman kneeling
before the Lord's Table, the priest stands at the Table and, turning
towards them says

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

**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 for ever. Amen.**

Lord, save your servants,
who put their trust in you.

Lord, send them help from your holy place,
and evermore defend them.

Be to them a tower of strength,
against every enemy.

Father, hear our prayer,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

A prayer for the blessing of eternal life

God of Abraham,
God of Isaac,
God of Jacob,
bless these your servants.
and sow the seed of eternal life in their hearts,
that whatever they learn in your holy word
they may indeed fulfil.
Look in love upon them, Father,
and bless them with the blessing you sent on Abraham and
Sarah
that, obeying your will and secure in your protection,
they may abide in your love to their lives' end;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

A prayer for the blessing of children

We praise you, Father,
for creating us in your own image
and for your gracious gift whereby mankind is increased;
give to N and N the blessing of children,
and grant them the wisdom and grace to bring them up
in the discipline and instruction of the Lord,
to your praise and honour;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

A prayer for the blessing of mutual love and faithfulness

Almighty God,
who by joining man and woman together
taught us from the beginning
that we should not separate what you have joined as one;
we praise you that you have consecrated the state of
matrimony to such an excellent purpose
that in it is signified the spiritual marriage and unity
between Christ and his Church.

Look mercifully on these your servants,
that this man may love his wife, according to your word,
as Christ loved his bride the Church,
and gave himself for it,
cherishing it as himself;
and also that this woman may be loving and generous,
responsive and faithful to her husband.
O Lord, bless them both,
and grant them to inherit your everlasting kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

or

Lord God,
you have 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, patience, wisdom, and true godliness;
may their home be a place of love and peace;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

15 *Then the priest says*

Almighty God,
who created our first parents
and sanctified and joined them together in marriage,
pour upon you the riches of his love,
sanctify and bless you,
that you may please him both in body and soul,
and live together in holy love to your lives' end.

Amen.

or

God the Father enrich you with his grace,
God the Son make you holy in his love,
God the Holy Spirit strengthen you with his joy.
The Lord bless you and keep you in eternal life.

Amen.

16 *If there is no Communion. the minister concludes*

And the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all ever-
more. **Amen.**

A Service for Marriage

SECOND FORM

THE PREFACE

- 1 When all are assembled in the church, with the bridegroom and the bride standing before the priest, the priest greets them all, and then says

We have come together in the sight of God for the joining in marriage of this man N and this woman N.

Our Lord Jesus Christ said of marriage that ‘From the beginning of creation God made them male and female. “For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one.” So they are no longer two but one. What therefore God has joined together, let not man put asunder’.

Marriage is the symbol of God’s unending love for his people, and of the union between Christ and his Church. So Saint Paul teaches that the husband must love his wife as Christ loved the Church, and that the wife must give due honour to her husband.

Marriage should be honoured by all, and is not to be entered into lightly or carelessly, but with reverent and serious respect for those purposes for which it was instituted by God.

Marriage is a gift from God for the well-being of mankind, and for the proper expression of natural instincts and affections with which he has endowed us.

It is a life-long union in which a man and a woman are called so to give themselves in body, mind, and spirit, and so to respond, that from their union will grow a deepening knowledge and love of each other. In the joys and sorrows of life, in prosperity and adversity, they share their companionship, faithfulness, and strength.

In marriage a new family is established in accordance with God's purpose, so that children may be born and nurtured in secure and loving care, for their well-being and instruction, and for the good order of society, to the glory of God.

N and N have now come here to be joined in this holy union to which God has led them. They seek his blessing on their life together, that they may fulfil his purpose for them; and they ask us to support them in this prayer. If any person here can show why they may not lawfully be joined in marriage he should speak now, or hereafter remain in silence.

Speaking to the persons to be married, the priest says

I charge you both, as you will answer before God, that if either of you know any reason why you may not lawfully be joined together in matrimony, you now confess it. For be assured that those who marry otherwise than God's word allows are not joined together by God, neither is their matrimony lawful in his sight.

THE CONSENT

2 *There being no objection lodged, the priest then says to the man*

N, will you take N to be your wife,
to live together according to God's law?
Will you give her the honour
due to her as your wife
and, forsaking all others,
love and protect her,
as long as you both shall live?

The man answers

I will.

3 The priest says to the woman

N, will you take N to be your husband,
to live together according to God's law?
Will you give him the honour
due to him as your husband
and, forsaking all others,
love and protect him,
as long as you both shall live?

The woman answers

I will.

[†4 The priest may ask

Who brings this woman to be married to this man?

Answer

I do.

The priest receives the woman's right hand from her
father or her friend.]

5 The priest causes the man to take the woman's right hand.
The priest, together with all the people, says

**God our Father, in your great love for mankind
you have given us the gift of marriage;
so bless these two persons as they pledge their lives to each
other,
that their love may evermore grow
to be the true reflection of your love for us all;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

THE WEDDING

6 The man, holding the woman's right hand in his, says

I N, in the presence of God,
take you N 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,
as long as we both shall live.
This is my solemn vow and promise.

7 The woman, taking the man's right hand in hers, says

I N, in the presence of God,
take you N 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,
as long as we both shall live.
This is my solemn vow and promise.

‡8 The priest receives the wedding ring[s], and may then say

Grant, Lord, that *this ring* may be a token and constant sign
of the pledge of love and faithfulness which these two persons
make to each other; through Christ our Lord.

All say

Amen.

- 9 The man places the ring on the ring-finger of the woman, and holding it there, says

N, with this ring I wed you;
with all that I am and all that I have
I honour you;
in the name of God. Amen.

- ‡10 Before they loose hands, the woman may respond

N, I receive this ring
in token of our marriage.
May God enable us to grow in love together.

- ‡11 If the woman gives a ring to the man, this procedure is to be repeated appropriately.

- 12 The man and the woman then kneel. The priest joins their right hands and says

Those whom God has joined together
let not man put asunder.

- 13 The priest addresses the people

Before God and in the presence of us all,
by solemn consent and promise,
by the giving and receiving of a ring,
and by the joining of hands,
N and N have now accepted each other in marriage.
In the name of God,
I declare them to be husband and wife.

- 14 The priest then addresses the husband and wife, saying

God the Father enrich you with his grace,
God the Son make you holy in his love,
God the Holy Spirit strengthen you with his joy.
The Lord bless you and keep you in eternal life.
**Amen. Blessed be the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit;
one God, to be praised for ever.**

THE PRAYERS

15 One or more passages from Scripture (See Note 4 on page 567) may be read; and an address may follow.

16 This or another psalm is said or sung. :

Psalm 67

- 1 Let God be gracious to | us and | bless us:
and make his | face | shine up|on us,
- 2 That your ways may be | known on | earth:
your liberating | power · a|mong all | nations.
- 3 Let the peoples | praise you · O God:
let | all the | peoples | praise you.
- 4 Let the nations be | glad and | sing:
for you judge the peoples with integrity
and govern the | nations · up|on | earth.
- 5 Let the peoples | praise you · O God:
let | all the | peoples | praise you.
- 6 Then the earth will | yield its | fruitfulness:
and | God our | God will | bless us.
- †7 God | shall | bless us:
and all the | ends · of the | earth will | fear him.

Glo|ry to | God: Father | Son and | Holy | Spirit;
As in the be|ginning · so | now: and for | ever | A|men.

17 The priest (standing at the Lord's Table) says

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

All kneel

**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 for ever. Amen.

18 *The priest continues*

Almighty Father, giver of life and love, look in favour on all who are made one in marriage, and especially on these your servants as they enter into their new life together. In your love deepen their love; strengthen their wills to keep the promises they have made; that they may live to your glory and to the good of mankind; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

19 *The priest says*

Almighty Father, you have created us in your own image, and by your gracious gift mankind is increased. To N and N grant the blessing of children; and such wisdom and loving care in the nurture of their family, that they and their children may come to know you in their lives and give you praise and honour; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

20 *The priest and congregation say*

**Almighty God, Lord of the universe,
all love, strength, and understanding come from you;
so direct and govern us in body and soul
that we may strive to live according to your word
and to do everything that is agreeable to your will:
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all ever-
more. Amen.**

Marriage

A Service for Marriage

FIRST ORDER

THE PREFACE

- 1 *When all are assembled in the church, with the bridegroom and the bride standing before the priest, the priest greets them all, and then says*

We have come together in the sight of God for the joining in marriage of this man N and this woman N.

Our Lord Jesus Christ said of marriage that 'From the beginning of creation God made them male and female. "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one." So they are no longer two but one. What therefore God has joined together, let no one put asunder.'

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Marriage is a life-long union in which a man and a woman are called so to give themselves in body, mind, and spirit, and so to respond, that from their union will grow a deepening knowledge and love of each other.

In the joys and sorrows of life, in prosperity and adversity, they share their companionship, faithfulness, and strength.

In marriage a new family is established in accordance with God's purpose, so that children may be born and nurtured in secure and loving care, for their well-being and instruction, and for the good order of society, to the glory of God.

N and N have now come here to be joined in this holy union to which God has led them. They seek God's blessing on their life together, that they may fulfil his purpose for them; and they ask us to support them in this prayer. If anyone can show why they may not lawfully be joined in marriage, speak now, or hereafter remain in silence.

THE CONSENT

2 *There being no objection lodged, the priest says to the man*

N, will you have N to be your wife,
to live together according to God's word?
Will you give her the honour
due to her as your wife
and, forsaking all others,
love and protect her,
as long as you both shall live?

The man answers

I will.

3 *The priest says to the woman*

N, will you have N to be your husband,
to live together according to God's word?
Will you give him the honour
due to him as your husband
and, forsaking all others,
love and protect him,
as long as you both shall live?

The woman answers

I will.

[4 *The priest may ask*

Who brings this woman to be married to this man?

Answer

I do.

The priest receives the woman's right hand from her father or her friend.]

5 *The priest causes the man to take the woman's right hand. The priest, together with the people, says*

**God our Father, in your great love
you have given us the gift of marriage;
so bless these two persons
as they pledge their lives to each other,
that their love may evermore grow
to be the true reflection of your love for us all;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

THE WEDDING

6 *The man, holding the woman's right hand in his, says*

I, N, in the presence of God,
take you N 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,
as long as we both shall live.
This is my solemn vow and promise.

7 *The woman, taking the man's right hand in hers, says*

I, N, in the presence of God,
take you N 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, honour and cherish,
as long as we both shall live.
This is my solemn vow and promise.

8 *The priest receives the wedding ring(s) and may say*

Grant, Lord that *these rings* may be a token and constant sign of the pledge of love and faithfulness which these two persons make to each other; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

9 *The man places the ring on the ring-finger of the woman, and holding it there, says*

N, with this ring I wed you;
with all that I am and all that I have
I honour you;
in the name of God. **Amen.**

10 *Before they loose hands, the woman may respond*

N, I receive this ring
in token of our marriage.
May God enable us to grow in love together.

11 *If the woman gives a ring to the man, this procedure is to be repeated appropriately.*

12 *The man and the woman may kneel. The priest joins their right hands and says*

What God has joined together
let no one put asunder.

13 *The priest addresses the people.*

Before God and in the presence of us all,
by solemn consent and promise,
by the giving and receiving of *a ring/rings*,
and by the joining of hands,
N and N have now accepted each other in marriage.
In the name of God,
I declare them to be husband and wife.

14 *The priest addresses the husband and wife, saying*

God the Father enrich you with his grace,
God the Son make you holy in his love,
God the Holy Spirit strengthen you with his joy.
The Lord bless you and keep you in eternal life.

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

15 *One or more passages from Scripture may be read and a sermon declaring the duties of husband and wife may be preached here or later in the service. If no sermon is preached, Ephesians 5.20–33 at least must be read.*



THE PRAYERS

16 *This or another psalm is said or sung.*

Psalm 67

God be gracious to us and bless us:
and make your face to shine upon us,
That your way may be known upon earth:
your salvation among all nations.

*Let the peoples praise you, O God:
let all the peoples praise you.*

Let the nations be glad and sing for joy:
for you judge the peoples with equity
and govern the nations upon earth.

*Let the peoples praise you, O God:
let all the peoples praise you.*

Then the earth will bring forth its increase:
and God, our own God, will bless us.

You, O God, will bless us:
and all the ends of the earth will fear you.

Glory to God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit;
As in the beginning, so now, and for ever. Amen.

17 *The priest says*

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

**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 for ever. Amen.**

FIRST ORDER 651



A prayer for the blessing of eternal life

God of Abraham and Sarah,
bless these your servants
and sow the seed of eternal life in their hearts,
that whatever they learn in your holy word
they may indeed fulfil.
Look in love upon them, and bless them,
that, obeying your will and secure in your protection,
they may abide in your love to their lives' end;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A prayer for the blessing of children

Merciful Lord and heavenly Father,
by whose gracious gift the human race is maintained
give to N and N the blessing of children,
and grant them the wisdom and grace to bring them up
in the discipline and instruction of the Lord,
to your praise and honour;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



A prayer for the blessing of mutual love and faithfulness



O God,
who by joining man and woman together
taught us from the beginning
that we should not separate what you have joined as one;
we praise you that you have consecrated the state of
matrimony to such an excellent purpose
that in it is signified the spiritual marriage and unity
between Christ and his Church.
Look mercifully on these your servants,
that this man may love his wife, according to your word,
as Christ loved his bride the Church,
and gave himself for it,
cherishing it as himself;
and that this woman may love her husband,
according to your word,
being loyal and faithful.



O Lord, bless them both,
and grant them to inherit your everlasting kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

18 *The priest and congregation say*

Lord of the universe,
all love, strength, and understanding
come from you;
so direct and govern us in body and soul
that we may strive to live according to your word
and to do everything that is agreeable to your will:
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

19 *The priest continues*

Almighty God,
who created our first parents
and sanctified and joined them together in marriage,
pour upon you the riches of his love,
sanctify and bless you,
that you may please him both in body and soul,
and live together in holy love to your lives' end. **Amen.**



A Service for Marriage

SECOND ORDER



GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

- 1 *The people stand as the wedding party takes its place.
The couple, with the wedding party, stand before the minister in the presence of witnesses.
The man may receive the woman's hand from a member of the family or a friend and similarly, the woman may receive the man's hand.*
- 2 *The minister may welcome the congregation as is appropriate to the occasion.*

The following greeting may be used.

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

And also with you.

- 3 *This, or another appropriate Sentence of Scripture, may be read.*
God is love, and those who live in love live in God, and God lives in them.

1 John 4:16.

- 4 *A hymn or song may be sung.*
- 5 *The minister says*

We have come together in the presence of God
to witness the marriage of N and N,
and to ask God's blessing on them
as we share their joy.
Marriage is a gift of God our creator.
It is a symbol of God's unending love for his people,
and of the union between Christ and his Church.
Christ loved his bride the Church,
and gave himself for her.
As he has called N and N to marriage,
so he draws their differing gifts and hopes
into a unity of love and service.

SECOND ORDER 657

Scripture teaches that marriage is a lifelong partnership
uniting a woman and a man in heart, mind and body.
In the joy of their union, husband and wife
enrich and respond to each other,
growing in tenderness and understanding.
Through marriage a new family is formed,
where children may be born
and grow in secure and loving care.
Marriage is therefore to be honoured by all.
No one should enter it lightly or selfishly,
but responsibly and joyfully,
with mutual respect and the promise to be faithful.

So let us pray with N and N
as they prepare to exchange their solemn vows:

Blessed are you, loving God,
your Spirit binds us together.

**Crown our lives with your goodness;
sustain us all our days with your love.**

Bless N and N with wisdom and pleasure.
Be their friend and companion in joy,
their comfort in need and in sorrow.
And when this life is ended
welcome them into your presence,
there with all your people
to praise your holy name:

**Blessed be God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
as in the beginning, so now, and for ever. Amen.**



THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

- 6 *One or more Readings from the Scriptures. When the Holy Communion is to follow, there are at least two readings of which the final one is the Gospel.*

After each reading the reader may say

Hear the word of the Lord,
thanks be to God.

A psalm, canticle, hymn, anthem or period of silence may follow the readings.

When the Gospel is read, the congregation stands and the reading is preceded by these words

The gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to ...

and there may be said

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

After the Gospel the reader may say

This is the Gospel of the Lord,

- or* [For] the Gospel of the Lord,
praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

- 7 *An address appropriate to the occasion is delivered.*

- 8 *A hymn or song and other readings consistent with Christian teaching and the theme of the service may also be used.*



THE WEDDING

9 *The couple stand before the minister.*

The minister says to the man

N, will you give yourself to N, to be her husband,
to live with her according to God's word?
Will you love her, comfort her,
honour and protect her,
and, forsaking all others, be faithful to her
so long as you both shall live?

The man answers

I will.

The minister says to the woman

N, will you give yourself to N, to be his wife,
to live with him according to God's word?
Will you love him, comfort him,
honour and protect him,
and, forsaking all others, be faithful to him
so long as you both shall live?

The woman answers

I will.

10 *The minister says to the congregation*

Families and friends,
you are witnesses to these vows.
Will you do everything in your power
to uphold N and N in their marriage?
We will.

11 *The man, facing the woman and taking her hand in his, says*

I, N, in the presence of God,
take you, N, 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,
so long as we both shall live.
All this I vow and promise.

They loose their hands.

The woman, still facing the man and taking his hand in hers, says

I, N, in the presence of God,
take you, N, 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,
so long as we both shall live.
All this I vow and promise.

12 *When rings are to be given, the minister may receive them and may say*

God of steadfast love,
by your blessing,
let *these rings* be for N and N
a symbol of their love and faithfulness
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

13 *The giver places the ring on the ring-finger of the other's hand and says*

I give you this ring
as a symbol of our marriage.
With all that I am and all that I have
I honour you; in the name of God. **Amen.**

After rings have been exchanged, the man and woman may say together

I receive this ring
as a symbol of your love and faithfulness
to the end of our days.

and/or

May God enable us to grow in love together.

14 The minister joins their hands and declares to the people

Before God and in the presence of us all,
N and N have joined hands
and made their solemn vows,
promising life-long faithfulness to each other.
In the name of God,
I declare them to be husband and wife.
What God has joined together,
let no one separate.

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, and through change.
Bless our home, our partings and our meetings.
Make us worthy of one another's best,
and tender with one another's dreams. **Amen.**

15 The minister adds a blessing for the couple.

God the Father lovingly enfold you,
God the Son grace your home and table,
God the Holy Spirit crown you with joy and peace.
The Lord bless you and keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

16 The marriage certificates are signed here or at the conclusion of the service.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

17 *A selection of the following or other prayers is said. When the Holy Communion follows, A Prayer for all People (page 666) should be used here.*

The prayers may be led by a friend or member of the families of the couple.

a For faithfulness

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

b For the joy of loving

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 N and N remain lovers,
rejoicing in your goodness all their days. **Amen.**

c For children

Lord of life,
you shape us in your image,
and by your gracious gift
the human family is increased.
To N and N grant the blessing of children.
Fill them with wisdom and love
as they care for their family,
so that they and their children
may know and love you,
through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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d For an existing family

God of all grace and goodness,
we thank you for this new family,
and for everything parents and children have to share;
by your Spirit of peace draw them together
and help them to be true friends to one another.
Let your love surround them
and your care protect them,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

e For grace to live well

Faithful God,
giver of all good things,
give N and N wisdom and devotion
in the ordering of their life together.
May they dwell together in love and peace
all the days of their life,
seeking one another's welfare,
bearing one another's burdens,
and sharing one another's joys;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

f For discipleship

Eternal God,
without your grace nothing is strong, nothing is sure.
Strengthen N and N with patience, kindness, gentleness,
and all other gifts of the Holy Spirit,
so that they may fulfil the vows they have made.
Keep them faithful to each other and to you.
Fill them with such love and joy
that they may build a home of peace and welcome.
Make their life together a sign of Christ's love
in this broken world,
that unity may overcome estrangement,
forgiveness heal guilt,
and joy conquer despair;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



g For the families of the couple

Gracious Lord,
bless the parents and families of N and N
that they may grow in love and friendship.
Grant that, as they have witnessed these vows today,
they may find their lives enriched and strengthened
and their loyalties confirmed. **Amen.**

h For the healing of memory

Loving God,
you are merciful and forgiving.
Grant that those who are suffering the hurts of the past
may experience your generous love.
Heal their memories, comfort them,
and send them all from here
renewed and hopeful. **Amen.**

i For the joy of companionship

All praise and blessing to you, God of love,
creator of the universe,
maker of man and woman in your likeness,
source of blessing for married life.
All praise to you, for you have created
courtship and marriage,
joy and gladness,
feasting and laughter,
pleasure and delight.
May your blessing come in full upon N and N.
May they know your presence
in their joys and in their sorrows.
May they reach old age in the company of friends
and come at last to your eternal kingdom. **Amen.**

or



j **A prayer for all people**

Almighty God, look graciously on the world which you have made and for which your Son gave his life. Bless all whom you make one flesh in marriage. May their life together be a sign of your love to this broken world, so that unity may overcome estrangement, forgiveness heal guilt, and joy overcome despair.

Lord, in your mercy

hear our prayer.

May N and N so live together that the strength of their love may reflect your love and enrich our common life.

Lord, in your mercy

hear our prayer.

May they be gentle and patient, ready to trust each other, and, when they fail, willing to recognise and acknowledge their fault and to ask each other's forgiveness.

Lord, in your mercy

hear our prayer.

[May N and N be blessed with the gift of children. Fill them with wisdom and love as they care for their family.

Lord, in your mercy

hear our prayer.]

May the lonely, the bereaved, and all who suffer want or anxiety, be defended by you, O Lord.

Lord, in your mercy

hear our prayer.

May those whose lives are today brought together be given wisdom, patience and courage to serve one another in Christ's name.

Lord, in your mercy

hear our prayer.

May friends and family gathered here, and those separated by distance, be strengthened and blessed this day.

Lord, in your mercy

hear our prayer.

We praise you, merciful God, for those who have died in the faith of Christ. May we be strengthened by their example.

The prayers conclude with either

Almighty God, you have promised to hear our prayers.
**Grant that what we have asked in faith
we may by your grace receive,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

or, unless the Lord's Prayer is said at ¶ 24

Accept our prayers, loving God, through Jesus Christ our
Lord, who taught us to pray,
**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 for ever. Amen.**

18 *Unless the Holy Communion follows, the service concludes here with the blessing and dismissal. If the marriage certificates have not been signed, they are signed here.*

May the God of steadfastness and encouragement
grant you to live in such harmony with one another,
in accord with Christ Jesus,
that together you may with one voice
glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ:

concluding with either

and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

or

and the blessing of God,
creator and redeemer,
giver of life and love,
be with you all, now and for ever. **Amen.**

or

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face to shine on you
and be gracious to you.
The Lord lift up his countenance on you,
and give you peace. **Amen.**

19 *The minister may say*

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.