

Marriage Liturgy of [Name of Groom] and [Name of Bride]

Texts of the Marriage Rite

Outline

- INTRODUCTORY RITES
 - Greeting
 - Opening Prayer
- LITURGY OF THE WORD
- LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT
 - Introduction
 - Questions
 - Consent
 - Blessing and exchange of rings
 - General Intercessions
 - Nuptial Blessing
- CONCLUDING RITES
 - The Lord's Prayer
 - Sign of Peace
 - *Signing of the Register*
 - Solemn Blessing

Introductory Rites

Entrance Procession *{with appropriate music}*

Greeting

- [Lighting of the family candles]

Opening Prayer

- Choose one from the following six options

Option A

Let us pray.

And all pray in silence with the Priest for a while.

Be attentive to our prayers, O Lord,
and in your kindness uphold
what you have established
for the increase of the human race,
so that the union you have created
may be kept safe by your assistance.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy
Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Option B

Let us pray.

And all pray in silence with the Priest for a while.

O God, who in creating the human race
willed that man and wife should be one,
join, we pray, in a bond of inseparable love
these your servants (or [Name of Groom] and [Name of
Bride])
who are to be united in the covenant of Marriage,
so that as you make their love fruitful,
they may become, by your grace,
witnesses to charity itself.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy
Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Option C

Let us pray.

And all pray in silence with the Priest for a while.

Be attentive to our prayers, O Lord,
and in your kindness
pour out your grace on these your servants ([Name of
Groom] and [Name of Bride]),
that, coming together before your altar,
they may be confirmed in love for one another.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy
Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Option D

Let us pray.

And all pray in silence with the Priest for a while.

O God, who consecrated the bond of Marriage
by so great a mystery
that in the wedding covenant
you foreshadow the Sacrament of Christ and his Church,
grant, we pray, to these your servants,
that what they receive in faith
they may live out in deeds.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy
Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Option E

Let us pray.

And all pray in silence with the Priest for a while.

Grant, we pray, almighty God,
that these your servants,
now to be joined by the Sacrament of Matrimony,
may grow in the faith they profess
and enrich your Church with faithful offspring.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy
Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Option F

Let us pray.

And all pray in silence with the Priest for a while.

O God, who since the beginning of the world
have blessed the increase of offspring,
show favour to our supplications
and pour forth the help of your blessing
on these your servants ([Name of Groom] and [Name of
Bride]),
so that in the union of Marriage
they may be bound together
in mutual affection, in likeness of mind,
and in shared holiness.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy
Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Liturgy of the Word

Note:

For the wedding liturgy or the nuptial Mass, you may
choose to have either:

- One reading from *either* the Old Testament *or* New Testament followed by a Psalm *or*
- Two readings: the first reading from the Old Testament followed by a Psalm *and* a second reading from the New Testament

The Gospel Acclamation and the Gospel (proclaimed by the Priest or deacon) are always included.

The order for each would be:

- a. *(One reading plus Gospel)*
Old Testament (part 1) *or* New Testament Reading (part 2)
Psalm – either sung or spoken (part 3)
Gospel Acclamation (part 4)
Gospel (part 5)
- b. *(Two readings plus Gospel)*
Old Testament Reading (part 1)
Psalm – either sung or spoken (part 3)
New Testament Reading (part 2)
Gospel Acclamation (part 4)
Gospel (part 5)

Part 1. Old Testament reading

- Choose one from the following readings

1A. Male and female he created them.

Gen 1:26–28. 31

A reading from the book of Genesis

God said, ‘Let us make man in our own image, in the likeness of ourselves, and let them be masters of the fish of the sea, the birds of heaven, the cattle, all the wild beasts and all the reptiles that crawl upon the earth.’

God created man in the image of himself, in the image of God he created him, male and female he created them.

God blessed them, saying to them, ‘Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth and conquer it. Be masters of the fish of the sea, the birds of heaven and all living animals on the earth.’ God saw all he had made, and indeed it was very good.

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

□ 1B. And they will be two in one flesh.

Gen 2:18–24

A reading from the book of Genesis

The Lord God said, ‘It is not good that the man should be alone. I will make him a helpmate.’ So from the soil the Lord God fashioned all the wild beasts and all the birds of heaven. These he brought to the man to see what he would call them; each one was to bear the name the man would give it. The man gave names to all the cattle, all the birds of heaven and all the wild beasts. But no helpmate suitable for man was found for him. So the Lord God made the man fall into a deep sleep. And while he slept, he took one of his ribs and enclosed it in flesh. The Lord God built the rib he had taken from the man into a woman, and brought her to the man. The man exclaimed:

‘This at last is bone from my bones,
and flesh from my flesh!
This is to be called woman,
for this was taken from man.’

This is why a man leaves his father and mother and joins himself to his wife, and they become one body.

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

□ 1C. Isaac loved Rebekah, and so he was consoled for the loss of his mother.

Gen 24:48–51. 58–67

A reading from the book of Genesis

Abraham’s servant said to Laban, ‘I blessed the Lord, God of my master Abraham, who had so graciously led me to choose the daughter of my master’s brother for his son. Now tell me whether you are prepared to show kindness and goodness to my master; if not, say so, and I shall know what to do.’

Laban and Bethuel replied, ‘This is from the Lord; it is not in our power to say yes or no to you. Rebekah is there before you. Take her and go; and let her become the wife of your master’s son, as the Lord has decreed.’ They called Rebekah and asked her, ‘Do you want to leave with this man?’ ‘I do,’ she replied. Accordingly they let their sister Rebekah go, with her nurse, and Abraham’s servant and his men. They blessed Rebekah in these words:

‘Sister of ours, increase to thousands and tens of thousands!

May your descendants gain possession of the gates of their enemies!’ Rebekah and her servants stood up, mounted the camels, and followed the man. The servant took Rebekah and departed.

Isaac, who lived in the Negeb, had meanwhile come into the wilderness of the well of Lahai Roi. Now Isaac went walking in the fields as evening fell, and looking up saw camels approaching. And Rebekah looked up and saw Isaac. She jumped down from her camel, and asked the servant, ‘Who is that man walking through the fields to meet us?’ The servant replied, ‘That is my master’; then she took her veil and hid her face. The servant told Isaac the whole story, and Isaac led Rebekah into his tent and made her his wife; and he loved her. And Isaac was consoled for the loss of his mother.

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

□ 1D. May God join you together and fill you with his blessings.

Tob 7:9–10. 11–17

A reading from the book of Tobit

Raquel and his guests sat down to table. Then Tobias said to Raphael, ‘Brother Azarias, will you ask Raguel to give me my sister Sarah. Raguel overheard the words, and said to the young man, ‘Eat and drink, and make the most of your evening; no one else has the right to take my daughter Sarah - no one but you, my brother. In any case I, for my own part, am not at liberty to give her to anyone else, since you are her next of kin. However, my boy, I must be frank with you: I have tried to find a husband for her seven times among our kinsmen, and all of them have died the first evening, on going to her room. But for the present, my boy, eat and drink; the Lord will grant you his grace and peace.’ Tobias spoke out, ‘I will not hear of eating and drinking till you have come to a decision about me’. Raguel answered, ‘Very well. Since, as prescribed by the Book of Moses, she is given to you, heaven itself decrees she shall be yours. I shall therefore entrust your sister to you. From now you are her brother and she is your sister. She is given to you from today for ever. The Lord of heaven favour you tonight, my child, and grant you his grace and peace.’ Raguel called for his daughter Sarah, took her by the hand and gave her to Tobias with these words, ‘I entrust her to you; the law and the ruling recorded in the Book of Moses assign her to you as your wife. Take her; take her home to your father’s house with a good conscience. The God of heaven grant you a good journey in peace.’ Then he turned to her mother and asked her to fetch him writing paper. He drew up the marriage contract, how he gave his daughter as bride to Tobias according to the ordinance in the Law of Moses.

After this they began to eat and drink.

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

□ 1E. May God bring us to old age together.

Tob 8:5–10

A reading from the book of Tobit

Tobias said to Sarah, ‘You and I must pray and petition our Lord to win his grace and protection.’ They began praying for protection, and this was how he began: ‘You are blessed, O God of our fathers; blessed, too, is your name for ever and ever. Let the heavens bless you and all things you have made for evermore. It was you who created Adam, you who created Eve his wife to be his help and support; and from these two the human race was born. It was you who said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; let us make him a helpmate like himself.” And so I do not take my sister for any lustful motive; I do it in singleness of heart. Be kind enough to have pity on her and on me and bring us to old age together.’ And together they said, ‘Amen, Amen’.

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

□ 1F. For love is as strong as death.

Sg 2:8–10. 14. 16; 8:6–7

A reading from the Song of Songs

I hear my Beloved.
See how he comes leaping on the mountains,
bounding over the hills.
My Beloved is like a gazelle, like a young stag.
See where he stands behind our wall.
He looks in at the window, he peers through the lattice.
My Beloved lifts up his voice, he says to me,
‘Come then, my love, my lovely one, come.
My dove, hiding in the clefts of the rock.
In the coverts of the cliff, show me your face,
let me hear your voice; for your voice is sweet
and your face is beautiful.’
My beloved is mine and I am his.
Set me like a seal on your heart,
like a seal on your arm.
For love is strong as Death, jealousy relentless as Sheol.
The flash of it is a flash of fire, a flame of the Lord himself.
Love no flood can quench, no torrents drown.

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

□ 1G. Like the sun rising is the beauty of a good wife in a well-kept house.

Sir 26:1–4. 16–21

A reading from the book of Sirach

Happy the husband of a really good wife;
the number of his days will be doubled.
A perfect wife, is the joy of her husband,
he will live out the years of his life in peace.
A good wife is the best of portions,
reserved for those who fear the Lord;
rich or poor, they will be glad of heart;
cheerful of face, whatever the season.
The grace of a wife will charm her husband,
her accomplishments will make him stronger.
A silent wife is a gift from the Lord,
no price can be put on a well-trained character.
A modest wife is a boon twice over,
a chaste character cannot be weighed on scales.
Like the sun rising over the mountains of the Lord is the beauty of a good wife in a well-kept house.

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

□ 1H. I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and Judah.

Jer 31:31–34

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

See, the days are coming - it is the Lord who speaks - when I will make a new covenant with the House of Israel and the House of Judah, but not a covenant like the one I made with their ancestors on the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt. No, this is the covenant I will make with the House of Israel when those days arrive - it is the Lord who speaks. Deep within them I will plant my Law, writing it on their hearts. Then I will be their God and they shall be my people. There will be no further need for neighbour to try to teach neighbour, or brother to say to brother, ‘Learn to know the Lord!’ No, they will all know me, the least no less than the greatest - it is the Lord who speaks.

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Part 2. New Testament Reading

Choose one from the following readings

2A. Who will separate us from the love of Christ?

Rom 8:31–35. 37–39

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

With God on our side who can be against us? Since God did not spare his own Son, but gave him up to benefit us all, we may be certain, after such a gift, that he will not refuse anything he can give. Could anyone accuse those that God has chosen? When God acquits, could anyone condemn? Could Christ Jesus? No! He not only died for us - he rose from the dead, and there at God's right hand he stands and pleads for us.

Nothing therefore can come between us and the love of Christ, even if we are troubled or worried or being persecuted, or lacking food or clothes, or being threatened or even attacked. These are the trials through which we triumph, by the power of him who loved us.

For I am certain of this: neither death nor life, no angel, no prince, nothing that exists, nothing still to come, not any power, or height or depth, nor any created thing, can ever come between us and the love of God made visible in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

2B. Offer to God your bodies as a living and holy sacrifice, truly pleasing to him. [long form]

Rom 12:1–2. 9–18

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Think of God's mercy, my brothers, and worship him, I beg you, in a way that is worthy of thinking beings, by offering your living bodies as a holy sacrifice, truly pleasing to God. Do not model yourselves on the behaviour of the world around you, but let your behaviour change, modelled by your new mind. This is the only way to discover the will of God and know what is good, what it is that God wants, what is the perfect thing to do.

Do not let your love be a pretence, but sincerely prefer good to evil. Love each other as much as brothers should, and have a profound respect for each other. Work for the Lord with untiring effort and with great earnestness of spirit. If you have hope, this will make you cheerful. Do not give up if trials come; and keep on praying. If any of the saints are in need you must share with them; and you should make hospitality your special care.

Bless those - who persecute you: never curse them, bless them. Rejoice with those who rejoice and be sad with those in sorrow. Treat everyone with equal kindness; never be condescending but make real friends with the poor. Do not allow yourself to become self-satisfied. Never repay evil with evil but let everyone see that you are interested only in the highest ideals. Do all you can to live at peace with everyone.

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

2C. Offer to God your bodies as a living and holy sacrifice, truly pleasing him. [short form]

Rom 12:1–2. 9–13

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Think of God's mercy, my brothers, and worship him, I beg you, in a way that is worthy of thinking beings, by offering your living bodies as a holy sacrifice, truly pleasing to God. Do not model yourselves on the behaviour of the world around you, but let your behaviour change, modelled by your new mind. This is the only way to discover the will of God and know what is good, what it is that God wants, what is the perfect thing to do.

Do not let your love be a pretence, but sincerely prefer good to evil. Love each other as much as brothers should, and have profound respect for each other. Work for the Lord with untiring effort and with great earnestness of spirit. If you have hope, this will make you cheerful. Do not give up if trials come; and keep on praying. If any of the saints are in need you must share with them; and you should make hospitality your special care.

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

2D. Your body is a temple of the Spirit.

I Cor 6:13–15. 17–20

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

The body is not meant for fornication; it is for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. God, who raised the Lord from the dead, will by his power raise us up too.

You know, surely, that your bodies are members making up the body of Christ. But anyone who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with him.

Keep away from fornication. All the other sins are committed outside the body; but to fornicate is to sin against your own body. Your body, you know, is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you since you received him from God. You are not your own property; you have

been bought and paid for. That is why you should use your body for the glory of God.

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

2E. If I am without love, it will do me no good whatever.

I Cor 12:31–13:8

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

Be ambitious for the higher gifts. And I am going to show you a way that is better than any of them.

If I have all the eloquence of men or of angels, but speak without love, I am simply a gong booming or a cymbal clashing. If I have the gift of prophecy, understanding all the mysteries there are, and knowing everything, and if I have faith in all its fullness, to move mountains, but without love, then I am nothing at all. If I give away all that I possess, piece by piece, and if I even let them take my body to burn it, but am without love, it will do me no good whatever.

Love is always patient and kind; it is never jealous; love is never boastful or conceited; it is never rude or selfish; it does not take offence, and is not resentful. Love takes no pleasure in other people's sins but delights in the truth; it is always ready to excuse, to trust, to hope, and to endure whatever comes.

Love does not come to an end.

2F. This mystery has many implications and I am saying it applies to Christ and the Church. [longer form]

Eph 5:2. 21–33

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

Follow Christ by loving as he loved you, giving himself up in our place. Give way to one another in obedience to Christ. Wives should regard their husbands as they regard the Lord, since as Christ is head of the Church and saves the whole body, so is a husband the head of his wife; and as the Church submits to Christ, so should wives to their husbands, in everything. Husbands should love their wives just as Christ loved the Church and sacrificed himself for her to make her holy. He made her clean by washing her in water with a form of words, so that when he took her to himself she would be glorious, with no speck or wrinkle or anything like that, but holy and faultless. In the same way, husbands must love their wives as they love their own bodies; for a man to love his wife is for him to love himself. A man never hates his own body, but he feeds it

and looks after it; and that is the way Christ treats the Church, because it is his body - and we are its living parts. For this reason, a man must leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one body. This mystery has many implications; but I am saying it applies to Christ and the Church. To sum up; you too, each one of you, must love his wife as he loves himself; and let every wife respect her husband.

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

2G. This mystery has many implications, and I am saying it applies to Christ and the Church. [shorter form]

Eph 5:2. 25–32

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

Follow Christ by loving as he loved you, giving himself up in our place. Husbands should love their wives just as Christ loved the Church and sacrificed himself for her to make her holy. He made her clean by washing her in water with a form of words, so that when he took her to himself she would be glorious with no speck or wrinkle or anything like that, but holy and faultless. In the same way, husbands must love their wives as they love their own bodies; for a man to love his wife is for him to love himself. A man never hates his own body, but he feeds it and looks after it; and that is the way Christ treats the Church, because it is his body - and we are its living parts. For this reason, a man must leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one body. This mystery has many implications; but I am saying it applies to Christ and the Church.

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

2H. Above all have love, which is the bond of perfection.

Col 3:12–17

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians

You are God's chosen race, his saints; he loves you, and you should be clothed in sincere compassion, in kindness and humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with one another; forgive each other as soon as a quarrel begins. The Lord has forgiven you; now you must do the same. Over all these clothes, to keep them together and complete them, put on love. And may the peace of Christ reign in your hearts, because it is for this that you were called together as parts of one body. Always be thankful.

Let the message of Christ, in all its richness, find a home with you. Teach each other, and advise each other, in all wisdom. With gratitude in your hearts sing psalms and hymns and inspired songs to God and never say or do anything except in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

2J. You should agree with one another, be sympathetic and have love for each other.

I Pet 3:1-9

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

Wives should be obedient to their husbands. Then, if there are some husbands who have not yet obeyed the word, they may find themselves won over, without a word spoken, by the way their wives behave, when they see how faithful and conscientious they are. Do not dress up for show: doing up your hair, wearing gold bracelets and fine clothes; all this should be inside, in a person's heart, imperishable: the ornament of a sweet and gentle, disposition - this is what is precious in the sight of God. That was how the holy women of the past dressed themselves attractively - they hoped in God and were tender and obedient to their husbands; like Sarah, who was obedient to Abraham, and called him her lord. You are now her children, as long as you live good lives and do not give way to fear or worry.

In the same way, husbands must always treat their wives with consideration in their life together, respecting a woman as one who, though she may be the weaker partner, is equally an heir to the life of grace. This will stop anything from coming in the way of your prayers.

Finally: you should all agree among yourselves and be sympathetic; love the brothers, have compassion and be self-effacing. Never pay back one wrong with another one; instead, pay back with a blessing. That is what you are called to do, so that you inherit a blessing yourself.

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

2K. Our love is to be something real and active.

I Jn 3:18-24

A reading from the first letter of St John

My children, our love is not to be just words or mere talk, but something real and active; only by this can we be certain that we are children of the truth and be able to quieten our conscience in his presence, whatever accusations it may raise against us,

because God is greater than our conscience and he knows everything.

My dear people, if we cannot be condemned by our own conscience, we need not be afraid in God's presence, and whatever we ask him,

we shall receive, because we keep his commandments and live the kind of life that he wants.

His commandments are these:

that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and that we love one another as he told us to.

Whoever keeps his commandments lives in God and God lives in him.

We know that he lives in us by the Spirit that he has given us.

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

2L. God is love.

I Jn 4:7-12

A reading from the first letter of St John

My dear people,

let us love one another since love comes from God and everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God.

Anyone who fails to love can never have known God, because God is love.

God's love for us was revealed

when God sent into the world his only Son so that we could have life through him;

this is the love I mean:

not our love for God,

but God's love for us when he sent his Son to be the sacrifice that takes our sins away.

My dear people, since God has loved us so much, we too should love one another.

No one has ever seen God;

but as long as we love one another

God will live in us and his love will be complete in us.

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

2M. Happy are those who are invited to the wedding feast of the Lamb.

Rev 19:1. 5-9

A reading from the book of Revelation

I, John, seemed to hear the great sound of a huge crowd in heaven, singing, 'Alleluia! Victory and glory and power to our God!'

Then a voice came from the throne; it said, 'Praise our God, you servants of his and all who, great or small, revere him'. And I seemed to hear the voices of a huge crowd, like

the sound of the ocean or the great roar of thunder, answering, 'Alleluia! The reign of the Lord our God Almighty has begun; let us be glad and joyful and give praise to God, because this is the time for the marriage of the Lamb. His bride is ready, and she has been able to dress herself in dazzling white linen, because her linen is made of the good deeds of the saints.' The angel said, 'Write this: Happy are those who are invited to the wedding feast of the Lamb.'

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Part 3. Responsorial Psalm

Choose one from the following psalms

3A

Ps 32:12. 18. 20–22

Reader: The earth is full of the goodness of the Lord.

All: The earth is full of the goodness of the Lord.

They are happy, whose God is the Lord,
the people he has chosen as his own.
The Lord looks on those who revere him,
on those who hope in his love.

All: The earth is full of the goodness of the Lord.

Our soul is waiting for the Lord.
The Lord is our help and our shield.
In him do our hearts find joy.
We trust in his holy name.

All: The earth is full of the goodness of the Lord.

May your love be upon us, O Lord,
as we place all our hope in you.

All: The earth is full of the goodness of the Lord.

3B 1

Ps 33:2–9

Reader: I will bless the Lord at all times

All: I will bless the Lord at all times

I will bless the Lord at all times,
his praise always on my lips;
in the Lord my soul shall make its boast.
The humble shall hear and be glad.

All: I will bless the Lord at all times

Glorify the Lord with me.
Together let us praise his name.

I sought the Lord and he answered me;
from all my terrors he set me free.

All: I will bless the Lord at all times

Look towards him and be radiant;
let your faces not be abashed.
This poor man called; the Lord heard him
and rescued him from all his distress.

All: I will bless the Lord at all times

The angel of the Lord is encamped
around those who revere him, to rescue them.
Taste and see that the Lord is good.
He is happy who seeks refuge in him.

All: I will bless the Lord at all times

3B 2

Ps 33:2–9

Reader: Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

All: Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

I will bless the Lord at all times,
his praise always on my lips;
in the Lord my soul shall make its boast.
The humble shall hear and be glad.

All: Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

Glorify the Lord with me.
Together let us praise his name.
I sought the Lord and he answered me;
from all my terrors he set me free.

All: Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

Look towards him and be radiant;
let your faces not be abashed.
This poor man called; the Lord heard him
and rescued him from all his distress.

All: Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

The angel of the Lord is encamped
around those who revere him, to rescue them.
Taste and see that the Lord is good.
He is happy who seeks refuge in him.

All: Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

3C 1

Ps 102:1–2. 8. 13. 17–18

Reader: The Lord is kind and merciful.

All: The Lord is kind and merciful.

My soul, give thanks to the Lord,
all my being, bless his holy name.
My soul, give thanks to the Lord
and never forget all his blessings.

All: The Lord is kind and merciful.

The Lord is compassion and love,
slow to anger and rich in mercy.
As a father has compassion on his sons,
the Lord has pity on those who fear him.

All: The Lord is kind and merciful.

The love of the Lord is everlasting
upon those who hold him in fear;
his justice reaches out to children's children
when they keep his covenant in truth.

All: The Lord is kind and merciful.

□ 3C 2

Reader: The Lord's kindness is everlasting to those
who fear him.

**All: The Lord's kindness is everlasting to those
who fear him.**

My soul, give thanks to the Lord,
all my being, bless his holy name.
My soul, give thanks to the Lord
and never forget all his blessings.

**All: The Lord's kindness is everlasting to those who
fear him.**

The Lord is compassion and love,
slow to anger and rich in mercy.
As a father has compassion on his sons,
the Lord has pity on those who fear him.

**All: The Lord's kindness is everlasting to those who
fear him.**

The love of the Lord is everlasting
upon those who hold him in fear;
his justice reaches out to children's children
when they keep his covenant in truth.

**All: The Lord's kindness is everlasting to those who
fear him.**

□ 3D

Ps 111:1-9

Happy are those who do what the Lord commands.

**All: Happy are those who do what the Lord
commands.**

Happy the man who fears the Lord,
who takes delight in his commands.
His sons will be powerful on earth;
the children of the upright are blessed.

**All: Happy are those who do what the Lord
commands.**

Riches and wealth are in his house;
his justice stands firm for ever.
He is a light in the darkness for the upright:
he is generous, merciful and just.

**All: Happy are those who do what the Lord
commands.**

The good man takes pity and lends,
he conducts his affairs with honour.
The just man will never waver:
he will be remembered for ever.

**All: Happy are those who do what the Lord
commands.**

He has no fear of evil news;
with a firm heart he trusts in the Lord.
With a steadfast heart he will not fear;
he will see the downfall of his foes.

**All: Happy are those who do what the Lord
commands.**

Open-handed, he gives to the poor;
his justice stands firm for ever.
His head will be raised in glory.

**All: Happy are those who do what the Lord
commands.**

□ 3E 1

Ps 127:1-5

Reader: Happy are those who fear the Lord.

All: Happy are those who fear the Lord.

O blessed are those who fear the Lord
and walk in his ways!
By the labour of your hands you shall eat.
You will be happy and prosper.

All: Happy are those who fear the Lord.

Your wife will be like a fruitful vine
in the heart of your house;
your children like shoots of the olive,
around your table.

All: Happy are those who fear the Lord.

Indeed thus shall be blessed
the man who fears the Lord.
May the Lord bless you from Zion
all the days of your life!

All: Happy are those who fear the Lord.

□ 3E 2

Reader: See how the Lord blesses those who fear
him.

All: See how the Lord blesses those who fear him.

O blessed are those who fear the Lord
and walk in his ways!
By the labour of your hands you shall eat.
You will be happy and prosper.

All: See how the Lord blesses those who fear him.

Your wife will be like a fruitful vine
in the heart of your house;
your children like shoots of the olive,
around your table.

All: See how the Lord blesses those who fear him.

Indeed thus shall be blessed
the man who fears the Lord.
May the Lord bless you from Zion
all the days of your life!

All: See how the Lord blesses those who fear him.

□ 3F

Ps 144:8–10. 15. 17–18

Reader: The Lord is compassionate to all his
creatures.

**All: The Lord is compassionate to all his
creatures.**

The Lord is kind and full of compassion,
Slow to anger, abounding in love.
How good is the Lord to all,
compassionate to all his creatures.

**All: The Lord is compassionate to all his
creatures.**

All your creatures shall thank you, O Lord,
and your friends shall repeat their blessing.
The eyes of all creatures look to you
and give them their food in due time.

**All: The Lord is compassionate to all his
creatures.**

The Lord is just in all his ways
and loving in all his deeds.
He is close to all who call him,
who call on him from their hearts.

**All: The Lord is compassionate to all his
creatures.**

□ 3G 1

Ps 148:1–4. 9–14

Reader: Let all praise the name of the Lord

All: Let all praise the name of the Lord

Praise the Lord from the heavens,
praise him in the heights.
Praise him, all his angels,
praise him, all his host.

All: Let all praise the name of the Lord

Praise him, sun and moon,
praise him, shining stars.
Praise him, highest heavens
and the waters above the heavens.

All: Let all praise the name of the Lord

All mountains and hills,
all fruit trees and cedars,
beasts, wild and tame,
reptiles and birds on the wing.

All: Let all praise the name of the Lord

All earth's kings and peoples,
earth's princes and rulers:
young men and maidens,
old men together with children.

All: Let all praise the name of the Lord

Let them praise the name of the Lord
for he alone is exalted.
The splendour of his name
reaches beyond heaven and earth.

All: Let all praise the name of the Lord

□ 3G 2

Ps 148:1–4. 9–14

Reader: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

All: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise the Lord from the heavens,
praise him in the heights.

Praise him, all his angels,
praise him, all his host.

All: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise him, sun and moon,
praise him, shining stars.
Praise him, highest heavens
and the waters above the heavens.

All: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

All mountains and hills,
all fruit trees and cedars,
beasts, wild and tame,
reptiles and birds on the wing.

All: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

All earth's kings and peoples,
earth's princes and rulers:
young men and maidens,
old men together with children.

All: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Let them praise the name of the Lord
for he alone is exalted.
The splendour of his name
reaches beyond heaven and earth.

All: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Part 4. Gospel Acclamation (Sung before the Gospel)

Choose one from the following options

During Lent the "Alleluia" is not used, but one of the four alternative Gospel Acclamation verses are used instead, such as "Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ." or "Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ." or "Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!"

4A.

1 John 4:8.11

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! God is love; let us love one another as he has loved us. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

4B.

1 John 4:12

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! If we love one another, God will live in us in perfect love. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

4C.

1 John 4:16

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! All who live in love, live in God, and God in them. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

4D.

1 John 4:7

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! Everyone who loves is born of God and knows him. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Part 5. Gospel (Proclaimed by the Priest or Deacon)

Choose one from the following readings

5A. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.

Mt 5:1–12

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up the hill. There he sat down and was joined by his disciples. Then he began to speak. This is what he taught them:

'How blessed are the poor in spirit;
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed the gentle: they shall have the earth for their heritage.

Blessed those who mourn: they shall be comforted.

Blessed those who hunger and thirst for what is right:
they shall be satisfied.

Blessed the merciful: they shall have mercy shown them.

Blessed the pure in heart: they shall see God.

Blessed the peacemakers: they shall be called sons of God.

Blessed those who are persecuted in the cause of right:
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

'Blessed are you when people abuse you and persecute you and speak all kinds of calumny against you on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

5B. You are the light of the world.

Mt 5:13–16

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus said to his disciples: 'You are the salt of the earth. But if salt becomes tasteless, what can make it salty again? It is good for nothing, and can only be thrown out to be trampled underfoot by men.'

'You are the light of the world. A city built on a hilltop cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp to put it under a tub; they put it on the lamp-stand where it shines for everyone in the house. In the same way your light must shine in the sight of men, so that, seeing your good works, they may give the praise to your Father in heaven.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

□ 5C. He built his house on rock. [Longer form]

Mt 7:21. 24–29

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus said to his disciples:

'It is not those who say to me, "Lord, Lord", who will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the person who does the will of my Father in heaven.

'Therefore, everyone who listens to these words of mine and acts on them will be like a sensible man who built his house on rock. Rain came down, floods rose, gales blew and hurled themselves against the house, and it did not fall: it was founded on rock. But everyone who listens to these words of mine and does not act on them will be like a stupid man who built his house on sand. Rain came down, floods rose, gales blew and struck that house, and it fell; and what a fall it had!'

Jesus had now finished what he wanted to say, and his teaching made a deep impression on the people because he taught them with authority, and not like their own scribes.

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

□ 5D. He built his house on rock. [Shorter form]

Mt 7:21. 24–25

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus said to his disciples:

'It is not those who say to me, "Lord, Lord", who will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the person who does the will of my Father in heaven.

'Therefore, everyone who listens to these words of mine and acts on them will be like a sensible man who built his house on rock. Rain came down, floods rose, gales blew and hurled themselves against that house, and it did not fall: it was founded on rock.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

□ 5E. So then, what God has united, no one must divide.

Mt 19:3–6

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Some Pharisees approached Jesus, and to test him they said, 'Is it against the Law for a man to divorce his wife on any pretext whatever?' He answered, 'Have you not read that the creator from the beginning made them male and female and that he said: This is why a man must leave father and mother, and cling to his wife, and the two become one body? They are no longer two, therefore, but one body. So then, what God has united, man must not divide.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

□ 5F. This is the greatest and first commandment. The second is similar to it.

Mt 22:35–40

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

A lawyer, to disconcert Jesus, put a question, 'Master, which is the greatest commandment of the Law?' Jesus said, 'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second resembles it: You must love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments hang the whole Law, and the Prophets also.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

□ 5G. They are no longer two, therefore, but one body.

Mk 10:6–9

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

Jesus said, 'From the beginning of creation God made them male and female. This is why a man must leave father and mother, and the two become one body. They are no longer two, therefore, but one body. So then, what God has united, man must not divide.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

□ 5H. This was the first of the signs given by Jesus; it was given at Cana in Galilee.

Jn 2:1–11

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

There was a wedding at Cana in Galilee. The mother of Jesus was there, and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited. When they ran out of wine, since the wine provided for the wedding was all finished, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.' Jesus said, 'Woman why turn to me? My hour has not come yet.' His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.' There were six stone water jars standing there, meant for the ablutions that are customary among the Jews: each could hold twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to the servants, 'Fill the jars with water,' and they filled them to the brim. 'Draw some out now,' he told them, 'and take it to the steward.' They did this; the steward tasted the water, and it had turned into wine. Having no idea where it came from - only the servants who had drawn the water knew - the steward called the bridegroom and said, 'People generally serve the best wine first, and keep the cheaper sort till the guests have had plenty to drink, but you have kept the best wine till now.'

This was the first of the signs given by Jesus: it was given at Cana in Galilee. He let his glory be seen, and his disciples believed in him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

☐ 5J. Remain in my love.

Jn 15:9–12

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said to his disciples:

'As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you.

Remain in my love.

If you keep my commandments you will remain in my love,

just as I have kept my Father's commandments and remain in his love.

I have told you this so that my own joy may be in you and your joy be complete.

This is my commandment:

love one another, as I loved you.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

☐ 5K. This is my commandment: love one another.

Jn 15:12–16

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said to his disciples:

'This is my commandment:

love one another, as I have loved you.

A man can have no greater love

than to lay down his life for his friends.

You are my friends, if you do what I command you.

I shall not call you servants any more,

because a servant does not know

his master's business;

I call you friends, because I have made known to you everything I have learnt from my Father.

You did not choose me, no, I chose you;

and I commissioned you

to go out and to bear fruit,

fruit that will last; and then the Father will give you

anything you ask him in my name.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

☐ 5L. May they be completely one. [Longer form]

Jn 17:20–26

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said:

'Holy Father, I pray not only for these,

but for those also

who through their words will believe in me.

May they all be one. Father, may they be one in us,

as you are in me and I am in you,

so that the world may believe that it was you who sent me.

I have given them the glory that you gave to me,

that they may be one as we are one.

With me in them and you in me,

may they be so completely one

that the world will realise that it was you who sent me

and that I have loved them as much as you loved me.

Father,

I want those you have given me

to be with me where I am,

so that they may always see the glory

you have given me because you loved me

before the foundation of the world.

Father, Righteous One, the world has not known you,

but I have known you, and these have known

that you have sent me.

I have made your name known to them

and will continue to make it known,

so that the love with which you loved me may be in them,

and so that I may be in them.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

☐ 5M. May they be completely one. [Shorter form]

Jn 17:20–23

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said:

'Holy Father, I pray not only for these,

but for those also
who through their words will believe in me.
May they all be one. Father, may they be one in us,
as you are in me and I am in you,
so that the world may believe that it was you who sent me.
I have given them the glory that you gave to me,
that they may be one as we are one.
With me in them and you in me,
may they be so completely one
that the world will realise that it was you who sent me
and that I have loved them as much as you loved me.

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Liturgy of the Sacrament

Introduction to the Giving of Consent

Option A

My dear friends (or [Name of Groom] and [Name of Bride]), you have come together in this church so that the Lord may seal and strengthen your love in the presence of the Church's minister and this community. Christ abundantly blesses this love. He has already consecrated you in baptism and now he enriches and strengthens you by a special sacrament so that you may assume the duties of marriage in mutual and lasting fidelity. And so, in the presence of the Church, I ask you to state your intentions.

Option B

[Name of Groom] and [Name of Bride] the promise you make to each other today is serious, because it will bind you together for life in a relationship so close and so intimate that it will profoundly influence your whole future. That future, with its hopes and disappointments, its successes and its failures, its pleasures and its pains, its joys and its sorrows, is hidden from your eyes. You know that these elements are mingled in every life and are to be expected in your own. And so, not knowing what is before you, but trusting in God's companionship, you take each other through the best and worst of what lies ahead, until death. I now invite you to join hands, and commit yourselves to each other forever.

Questions

[Name of Bride] and [Name of Groom] have you come together freely and without reservation to give yourselves to each other in marriage?

Each: Yes, I have.

Will you love and honour each other as husband and wife for the rest of your lives?

Each: Yes, I will.

Will you accept children lovingly from God and bring them up according to the law of Christ and His Church?

Each: Yes, I will.

Since it is your intention to enter into marriage, join your hands and declare your consent before God, your family and friends.

Giving of Consent

Option A

The bridegroom says:

I, [Name of Groom], take you, [Name of Bride], to be my wife. I promise to be true to you in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health. I will love you and honour you all the days of my life.

The bride says:

I, [Name of Bride], take you, [Name of Groom], to be my husband. I promise to be true to you in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health. I will love you and honour you all the days of my life.

Option B

The bridegroom says:

I, [Name of Groom], take you, [Name of Bride], for my lawful wife, to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, until death do us part.

The bride says:

I, [Name of Bride], take you, [Name of Groom], for my lawful husband, to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, until death do us part.

Reception of the Consent

You have declared your consent before the Church. May the Lord in his goodness strengthen your consent and fill

you both with his blessings. What God has joined, no one must divide.

[or] May the Lord in his kindness strengthen the consent you have declared before the Church, and graciously bring to fulfilment his blessing within you. What God joins together, let no one put asunder.

[or] May the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, the God of Jacob, the God who joined together our first parents in paradise, strengthen and bless in Christ the consent you have declared before the Church, so that what God joins together, no one may put asunder.

65. *The Priest invites those present to praise God:*

Let us bless the Lord.

All reply: Thanks be to God.

Blessing of Rings

Option A

May the Lord bless + these rings
which you give to each other
as the sign of your love and fidelity.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Option B

Lord, bless these rings which we bless + in your name.
Grant that those who wear them
may always have a deep faith in each other,

May they do your will
and always live together
in peace, good will, and love.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Option C

Lord, Bless + and consecrate [Name of Groom] and
[Name of Bride] in their love for each other.

May these rings be a symbol
of true faith in each other,
and always remind them of their love.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Exchange of Rings

The bridegroom places his wife's ring on her ring finger. He may say:

[Name of Bride], take this ring as a sign of my love and fidelity. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

The bride places her husband's ring on his ring finger. She may say:

[Name of Groom], take this ring as a sign of my love and fidelity. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

[Lighting of the Marriage Candle]

If the candle ceremony is taking place, the unity candle is lit at this time.

[Covenant Declaration]

Mr and Mrs [Name of Groom] and [Name of Bride] [Groom Surname] – you have declared your intentions and shared your consent through the exchange of vows, and indicated that through the blessing and exchange of rings; you may now wish to seal the covenant commitment that you have just made, where you have become husband and wife, through sharing a kiss.

Prayer of the Faithful

It may be appropriate to adapt the following prayers to the particular circumstances of the couple and their commitment to the Lord. The following prayers may be seen as models. Prayers may be chosen from more than one collection. Prayers are read by one or more guests.

Option A

God the Father, source of all life and love,
willed that husband
and wife should become one flesh in marriage.
Let us pray to him
in sincerity of heart on this joyous occasion.

1. For [Name of Groom] and [Name of Bride], that their love for each other may be patterned on Christ's love for his bride, the Church, let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

2. For fruitful love, that [Name of Bride] and [Name of Groom] will share in God's creative work and enjoy the gift of children, let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

3. For the parents of [Name of Groom] and [Name of Bride], that they will continue to support them on the journey which begins at this altar, let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

4. For those preparing for their marriage day, that they may understand well the dignity and

responsibilities of the marriage covenant and family life, let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

5. For married people everywhere, that they will live in love and faithfulness, for better, for worse, in joy or in sorrow, all the days of their lives, let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Father of life and love,
in union with Mary our Mother,
who was a wedding guest at Cana,
we make our requests in prayer,
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Option B

My dear friends, let us ask God to bless [Name of Groom] and [Name of Bride] in their marriage and to unite them in love through his Holy Spirit.

1. That their married love may reflect God's saving love for the human family, let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

2. That they may be united in love and fidelity as Christ is united with his church, let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

3. That, through the Holy Spirit, they may grow into a community of love and show that Christ's Church is present in their home, let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

4. That, through loving one another in Christ, they may come to love Christ in their neighbour, let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

5. That the Church will bring salvation to the world by expressing Christ's love for all people, let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

6. That all Christians may radiate the joy of living in Christ, let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Father, you have made Christian marriage the sign of the unity between Christ and his Church. Hear our prayers for [Name of Groom] and [Name of Bride] May they love one another as Christ loves his Church. We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Option C

My dear friends, let us pray to the Lord that he will make known to [Name of Groom] and [Name of Bride] the riches of their vocation in marriage.

1. That, through the gift of the Holy Spirit, their lives may be lived in love, let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

2. That God will help them to make a home together, and grace it with hospitality, friendship and prayer, let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

3. That God will make their love an expression of his creative love, and bless them with children, let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

4. That God will make their love an expression of his saving love for all people, let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

5. That they may minister the grace of marriage to each other in their joys and sorrows, in their hopes and disappointments, let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

6. That the Church may reveal to the world God's love for the human family, let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

7. That the grace of marriage will be renewed in all Christian families, let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Father, you are a God of love, and through your Son you have taught us to love one another. May [Name of Groom] and [Name of Bride] in their marriage take Christ's love into the world. We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Option D

My dear friends, let us pray to our Father in heaven that he will bless [Name of Groom] and [Name of Bride] throughout their married life, and that he will keep them united in undivided love.

1. That they may always love one another as Christ loves his Church, let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

2. That, in their marriage, they will listen to Christ's gospel and pray together, let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

3. That, through the joys and sacrifices of their married life, they will give witness to their love for Christ, let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

4. That the Christian hope for peace on earth may be fulfilled in their family, let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

5. That the grace of marriage may be renewed in all Christian families, and redeem human love from selfishness and indifference, let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

6. That all Christians will witness to the gospel of love and offer hospitality to Christ when he comes to them in the form of a stranger, let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Father, you are love itself, and you have made man and woman in your likeness.

Hear our prayers for [Name of Groom] and [Name of Bride] May they bring your love to others throughout the years of their marriage.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Option E

My dear friends, let us ask God to bless [Name of Groom] and [Name of Bride] in their marriage and to keep them united in their covenant of love.

1. That God will help them to fulfil their human and Christian vocation in marriage, let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

2. That, through their love for each other, they will give witness to his eternal covenant of love with the human family, let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

3. That they may be faithful as God is faithful, and led to holiness through success and failure, let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

4. That, as their faith increases, they may see the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection in their life, let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

5. That he will bless their parents, friends and all who are here, let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

6. That all Christians may be faithful to the command of his covenant and love one another as Christ has loved them, let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

7. That he will grant peace to the world, and help the members of the human family to live for each other, let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Father, in the new covenant of Christ you have given us the pledge of your eternal love and fidelity. Hear our prayers for [Name of Groom] and [Name of Bride] May they mirror your love and reflect your fidelity in their married life. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Option F

My dear friends, let us pray to our Father in heaven that he will keep [Name of Groom] and [Name of Bride] united in undivided love, and that he will bless them throughout their married life.

1. That their love may be patient and gentle, ready to trust, and to endure whatever comes, let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

2. That they may pray together in joy and sorrow, and always give thanks for the gift of each other, let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

3. That God will bless their daily work and perfect through them his work of creation, let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

4. That his peace may dwell in their home and give hope of peace to the world, let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

5. That all married people may be helped to renew and deepen their love, let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

6. That the Church will bring salvation to the world by expressing Christ's love for all people, let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Almighty God, you have come into the lives of [Name of Groom] and [Name of Bride] through the gift of married love. Remain with them always, and show your great love for those who call you their Father.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Nuptial Blessing

Option A

Dear brothers and sisters,
let us humbly pray to the Lord
that on these his servants, now married in Christ,
he may mercifully pour out
the blessing of his grace
and make of one heart in love
those he has joined by a holy covenant.

And all pray in silence for a while.

God, who by your mighty power
created all things out of nothing,
and when you had set in place
the beginnings of the universe,
formed man and woman in your own image,
making the woman
an inseparable helpmate to the man,
that they might no longer be two, but one flesh,
and you taught that what you were pleased to make one

must never be divided;
God, who consecrated the bond of Marriage by so great a
mystery that in the wedding covenant
you foreshadowed the Sacrament of Christ and his
Church; God, by whom woman is joined to man
and the companionship they had in the beginning
is endowed with the one blessing
not forfeited by original sin
nor washed away by the flood.

Look now with favour on these your servants,
joined together in Marriage,
who ask to be strengthened by your blessing.

Send down on them the grace of the Holy Spirit,
and pour your love into their hearts
that they may remain faithful in the Marriage covenant.

May the grace of love and peace
abide in your daughter [Name of Bride],
and let her always follow the example of those holy
women whose praises are sung in the Scriptures.

May her husband [Name of Groom] entrust his heart to
her,

so that, acknowledging her as his equal
and his joint heir to the life of grace,
he may show her due honour
and cherish her always
with the love that Christ has for his Church.

And now, Lord, we implore you:

may these your servants
hold fast to the faith
and keep your commandments;
made one in the flesh,
may they be blameless in all they do;
and with the strength that comes from the Gospel,
may they bear true witness to Christ before all;
(may they be blessed with children,
and prove themselves virtuous parents,
who live to see their children's children).

And grant that, reaching at last the fullness of years
together for which they hope, they may come to the life
of the blessed in the Kingdom of heaven.

Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Option B

Let us pray to the Lord for this bride and groom,
who come to the altar as they begin their married life,
that they may always be bound together by love for one
another.

And all pray in silence for a while.

Holy Father,
who formed man in your own image,
male and female you created them,
so that as husband and wife, united in body and heart,
they might fulfil their calling in the world;
O God, who to reveal the great design you formed in
your love, willed that the love of spouses for each other
should foreshadow the covenant
you graciously made with your people,
so that, by fulfilment of the sacramental sign,
the mystical marriage of Christ with his Church
might become manifest
in the union of husband and wife among your faithful;
graciously stretch out your right hand
over these your servants ([Name of Groom] and [Name
of Bride]), we pray,
and pour into their hearts the power of the Holy Spirit.

Grant, O Lord,
that, as they enter upon this sacramental union,
they may share with one another the gifts of your love
and, by being for each other a sign of your presence,
become one heart and one mind.

May they also sustain, O Lord,
by their deeds the home they are forming
(and prepare their children
to become members of your heavenly household
by raising them in the way of the Gospel).

Graciously crown with your blessings [Name of Bride],
your handmaid, so that, by being a good wife (and
mother), she may bring warmth to her home with a love
that is pure and adorn it with welcoming graciousness.

Bestow a heavenly blessing also, O Lord, on [Name of
Groom], your servant, that he may be a worthy, good
and faithful husband (and a provident father).

Grant, holy Father, that, desiring to approach your table
as a couple joined in Marriage in your presence,
they may one day have the joy
of taking part in your great banquet in heaven.

Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Option C

Let us humbly invoke by our prayers,
dear brothers and sisters,
God's blessing upon this bride and groom,
that in his kindness he may favour with his help

those on whom he has bestowed the Sacrament of
Matrimony.

All pray in silence for a while.

Holy Father, maker of the whole world,
who created man and woman in your own image,
and willed that their union be crowned with your
blessing, we humbly beseech you for these your servants,
who are joined today in this Sacrament.

May your abundant blessing, Lord,
come down upon this bride, [Name of Bride],
and upon [Name of Groom], her companion for life,
and may the power of your Holy Spirit
set their hearts aflame from on high,
so that, living out together the gift of Marriage,
they may (adorn their family with children and)
enrich the Church.

In happiness may they praise you, O Lord,
in sorrow may they seek you out,
may they have the joy of your presence
to assist them in their toil, and know that you are near
to comfort them in their need;
let them pray to you in the holy assembly
and bear witness to you in the world,
and after a happy old age,
together with the circle of friends that surrounds them,
may they come to the Kingdom of Heaven.

Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Concluding Rites

The Lord's Prayer

*At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching,
we dare to pray:*

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.

Sign of Peace

*The couple and the community may wish to share in
the grace and peace of the Lord...*

- **The signing of the government register**

The bridal party [couple, witnesses & priest] moves to the location of the marriage registry to sign the government forms. This is accompanied with appropriate music. It should not take place on the altar (since only a civil form). The signing may also take place after the final blessing.

Solemn Blessing

Option A

May God the eternal Father
keep you of one heart in love for one another,
that the peace of Christ may dwell in you
and abide always in your home.

All: Amen.

May you be blessed in your children,
have solace in your friends
and enjoy true peace with everyone.

All: Amen.

May you be witnesses in the world to God's charity,
so that the afflicted and needy who have known your
kindness may one day receive you thankfully
into the eternal dwelling of God.

All: Amen.

And he blesses all the people, adding:

And may almighty God bless all of you who are gathered
here: the Father, and the Son, + and the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Option B

May God the all-powerful Father grant you his joy
and bless you in your children.

All: Amen.

May the Only Begotten Son of God
stand by you with compassion in good times and in bad.

All: Amen.

May the Holy Spirit of God
always pour forth his love into your hearts.

All: Amen.

And he blesses all the people, adding:

And may almighty God bless all of you who are gathered
here: the Father, and the Son, + and the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Option C

May the Lord Jesus,
who graced the marriage at Cana by his presence,
bless you and your loved ones.

All: Amen.

May he, who loved the Church to the end,
unceasingly pour his love into your hearts.

All: Amen.

May the Lord grant
that bearing witness to faith in his Resurrection,
you may await with joy the blessed hope to come.

All: Amen.

And he blesses all the people, adding:

And may almighty God bless all of you who are gathered
here: the Father, and the Son, + and the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Dismissal

Go in peace, to celebrate in the love of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

- **Recessional**
{with appropriate music}