

† THE MARRIAGE SERVICE †

THE PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

THE PROCESSIONAL

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

P: Dearly beloved, we are gathered here in the sight of God and before His Church to witness the union of this man and this woman in holy marriage. This is an honorable estate instituted and blessed by God in Paradise, before humanity's fall into sin.

In marriage we see a picture of the communion between Christ and His bride, the Church. Our Lord blessed and honored marriage with His presence and first miracle in Galilee. This estate is also commended to us by apostle Paul as good and honorable. Therefore, marriage is not to be entered into unadvisedly or lightly, but reverently, deliberately, and in accordance with the purposes for which it was instituted by God.

The union of husband and wife in heart, body, and mind is intended by God for the mutual companionship, help, and support that each person ought to receive from the other, both in prosperity and adversity. Marriage was also ordained so that man and woman may find delight in one another. Therefore, all persons who marry shall take a spouse in holiness and honor, not in passion of lust, for God has not called us to impurity but in holiness. God also established marriage for the procreation of children who are brought up in fear and instruction of the Lord so that they may offer Him their praise.

For these reasons God has established the holy estate that \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ wish to enter. They desire our prayers as they begin their marriage in the Lord's name and with His blessing.

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(MUSIC?)

THE READING OF HOLY SCRIPTURE

THE MESSAGE

(MUSIC?)

THE MARRIAGE VOWS

*The pastor asks the bridegroom:*

P: \_\_\_\_\_, will you have this woman to be your wedded wife, to live together in the holy estate of matrimony as God ordained it? Will you nourish and cherish her as Christ loved His body, the Church, giving Himself up for her? Will you love, honor, and keep her in sickness and in health and forsaking all others, remain united to her alone, so long as you both shall live? Then say: I will.

R: I WILL.

*The pastor asks the bride:*

P: \_\_\_\_\_, will you have this man to be your wedded husband, to live together in the holy estate of matrimony as God ordained it? Will you submit to him as the Church submits to Christ? Will you love, honor, and keep him in sickness and in health and forsaking all others, remain united to him alone, so long as you both shall live? Then say: I will.

R: I WILL.

*The pastor leads the couple to the altar for them to speak their vows.*

*The bridegroom says:*

I, \_\_\_\_\_, take you, \_\_\_\_\_, to be my wedded wife, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death us do part, according to God's holy will; and I pledge to you my faithfulness.

*The bride, in the same way, says after the pastor:*

I, \_\_\_\_\_, take you, \_\_\_\_\_, to be my wedded husband, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death us do part, according to God's holy will; and I pledge to you my faithfulness.

*The rings are presented to the Pastor.*

Almighty Father, you have generously created all things to serve us for our good. Send your blessing upon this couple who shall wear these rings as a constant reminder of their marital fidelity. Grant that by Your mercy they may live gladly and faithfully in this holy estate; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*The bridegroom and bride exchange rings and each say...*

I \_\_\_\_\_ give you this ring as a pledge of my love and faithfulness.

*The couple kneels. The Pastor continues.*

P: Now that \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ have committed themselves to each other in holy matrimony, have given themselves to each other by their solemn pledges, and have declared the same before God and these witnesses, I pronounce them to be husband and wife, in the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C. Amen.**

P. What God has joined together let no one put asunder.

**C. Amen.**

*The pastor blesses the couple.*

P: The almighty and gracious God abundantly grant you His favor and sanctify and bless you with the blessing given to Adam and Eve in Paradise, that you may please Him in both body and soul and live together in holy love until your life's end.

**C. Amen.**

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER

P: The Lord bless and keep you. The Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto to you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

**C. Amen.**

#### THE RECESSIONAL