

# THE MARRIAGE SERVICE

## THE PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

## THE PROCESSIONAL

*When the wedding party has come to the foot of the chancel, the pastor says:*

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

C: AMEN

P: We are gathered here in the sight of God and His Church to witness and bless the joining together of this man and this woman in holy marriage. This is an honorable estate, which God Himself has instituted and blessed, and by which He gives us a picture of the very communion of Christ and His bride, the Church. God has both established and sanctified marriage and has promised to bless therein all who love and trust in Him and who seek to give Him their faithful worship and service, for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The union of husband and wife in heart, body, and mind is intended by God for their mutual joy, for the help and comfort given one another in prosperity and adversity, and when it is God's will, for the procreation of children and their nurture in the knowledge and love of the Lord. Therefore marriage is not to be entered into inadvisably or lightly, but reverently, deliberately, and in accordance with the purposes for which it was instituted by God.

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*In the case of the marriage of young persons, it may be desired that the respective parents of the bride and bridegroom be involved in giving their formal consent and pledge of support. In this circumstance, immediately before the reading of Holy Scripture, the pastor may ask the parents each in turn:*

P: Do you give your consent and approval to this marriage?

R: WE DO.

*The pastor may continue by asking both sets of parents:*

P: Will you as parents support, encourage, and strengthen \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ in their marriage, remembering at all times that God wants them to live in obedience to His holy ordinance until death parts them?

R: WE WILL.

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(MUSIC?)

## THE READING OF HOLY SCRIPTURE

(MUSIC?)

## THE HOMILY

(MUSIC?)

## THE MARRIAGE VOWS

*The pastor asks the bridegroom:*

P: \_\_\_\_\_, will you have this woman to be your wife, to live with her in holy marriage according to the Word of God? Will you love her, comfort her, honor her, and keep her in sickness and in health and forsaking all others, be husband to her as long as you both shall live?

R: I WILL.

*The pastor asks the bride:*

P: \_\_\_\_\_, will you have this man to be your husband, to live with him in holy marriage according to the Word of God? Will you love him, comfort him, honor him, and keep him in sickness and in health and, forsaking all others, be wife to him as long as you both shall live?

R: I WILL.

The bridegroom, taking the right hand of the bride and facing her, says, after the pastor:

I, \_\_\_\_\_, in the presence of God and these witnesses, take you, \_\_\_\_\_, to be my wife, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, until death parts us, and I pledge you my faithfulness.

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

I, \_\_\_\_\_, in the presence of God and these witnesses, take you, \_\_\_\_\_, to be my husband, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, until death parts us, and I pledge you my faithfulness.

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*If an alternate pledge on the part of the bridegroom and bride is desired, the following may be said:*

I take you, \_\_\_\_\_, to be my wife (husband). I pledge before God and the witnesses here to be your faithful husband (wife), to share with you in plenty and in want, in joy and sorrow, in sickness and health, to forgive and strengthen you, and to join with you that together we may serve God and others as long as we both shall live.

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*The bride and bridegroom exchange rings, saying:*

Receive this ring as a pledge and token of wedded love and faithfulness.

P: Grant Your blessing, O Lord, to your servants \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ that they may be ever mindful of their solemn pledge and trusting in Your mercy, abound evermore in love all their days; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. May the Lord make you strong in faith and love, defend you on every side, and guide you in truth and peace.

*The bride and bridegroom kneel, and the pastor says:*

P: Now that \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ have consented together in holy marriage, 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. What God has joined together let no one put asunder. Amen.

P: The almighty and gracious God abundantly grant you His favor and sanctify and bless you with the blessing given our first parents in paradise that you may please Him in both body and soul and live together in holy love until your life's end. Amen.

*The unity candle may be lit at this time.*

(MUSIC?)

*Stand.*

P: Let us pray.

Almighty, everlasting God, our heavenly Father, grant that by Your blessing \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ may live together according to your Word and promise. Strengthen them in faithfulness and love toward each other. Sustain and defend them in all trial and temptation. Help them to live in faith toward You in the communion of Your holy Church and in loving service to each other that they may ever enjoy Your heavenly blessing; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

*Other prayers may be offered.*

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER

The pastor pronounces the Blessing.

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you always. Amen.

#### THE RECESSIONAL