

THE WEDDING CEREMONY

Prelude

Processional

Call to Worship

Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised.
This is the day the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Prayer

Let us pray:
Gracious God, giver of all good gifts, look with favor, we pray, on these your servants _____ and _____ who lift up their hearts to you. Enable them to make their vows to one another in all sincerity, as in your sight, and to be faithful in keeping them, to the glory of your name. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Declaration of Intent

Friends, we are gathered before God and are here in the presence of one another, to unite _____ and _____ in Marriage. Marriage represents many things. It is a holy union of two people who are making a commitment to one another to love and honor and cherish each other all of their days. It is, as someone has said, the “incomparable adventure of not averting one’s eyes.” It is the joyful experience of grace, of being transformed when you see yourself as desired by another human being. It is knowing that somewhere there is always another’s heart which beats for you.

There may not be such a thing as an exclusively Christian marriage, the qualities of which are different from all others, but there is no denying that there are certain qualities of the Christian life which you are invited to express in your life together, _____ and _____. The scriptures challenge those who enter into a union blessed by God to cherish a mutual esteem and love; to bear with one another’s limitations and weaknesses; to comfort and stand by one another in sickness, trouble, and sorrow; in honesty and industry, to provide for each other; to pray for and encourage each other in the things which pertain to God; and to live together as the heirs of the grace of life.

Into this holy union these two persons present come now to be joined.

The Questions of Assent to Marry

_____, will you have _____ to be your wife, to live together in the covenant of marriage? Will you love her, comfort her, honor her, and cherish her in sickness and in health; and forsaking all others, be faithful to her, so long as you both shall live?

I will.

_____, will you have _____ to be your husband, to live together in the covenant of marriage? Will you love him, comfort him, honor him, and cherish him in sickness and in health; and forsaking all others, be faithful to him, so long as you both shall live?

I will.

Leavetaking

Who brings this woman to be married to this man?

Her mother and I do.

Scripture Readings

The Exchange of Vows

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, as long as we both shall live.

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, as long as we both shall live.

The Prayers of Blessings for the Rings

The wedding ring is the outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace, signifying to all the commitment of _____ and _____ in a solemn promise to each other. Let us pray.

Eternal God, who in the time of Noah, gave us the rainbow as a sign of promise, bless these rings that they may be visible signs of the inward promises fulfilled in lives of faithful loving; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

The Exchange of Rings

This ring I give you, in token and pledge of our constant faith, and abiding love.

The Prayers

Eternal God, without your grace no promise is sure. Strengthen _____ and _____ with the gift of your Spirit so that they may fulfill the vows that they have taken. Keep them faithful to each other and to you. Fill them with such love and joy that they may build a home where no one is a stranger. And guide them by your Word to serve you all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

O God, our Creator who is the given of life: we ask, that if it be your will, you would give _____ and _____ the gift and heritage of children; and grant them the joy of raising their children in your faith, to the honor and glory of your name. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

The Joining of Hands

Those whom God has joined together, let no one put asunder.

The Pronouncement

Forasmuch as _____ and _____ have consented together in holy wedlock, and have witnessed the same before God and this company, and have given and pledged their faithfulness, each to the other, and have declared the same by giving and receiving a ring and by joining hands; I pronounce that they are husband and wife, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Closing Blessing

May Almighty God unite your hearts in the never ending bond of love.

May the peace of Christ live always in your hearts and in your home.

May your children bring you happiness, and may your generous love for them be returned to you many times over.

May you have true friends to stand by you, both in sorrow and in joy.

May you be ready and willing to help and comfort all who come to you in need.

May the blessings promised to the compassionate be yours in abundance.

May you find happiness and satisfaction in your work.

May daily problems never cause you undue anxiety, nor the desire for earthly possessions dominate your lives.

But may your heart's first desire be always the good things for you in the life of heaven.

Benediction

And may the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

May the Lord lift up the light of his countenance upon you and grant you peace, and joy, and happiness, now and in the life everlasting.

Postlude and Recessional