

Marriage Ceremony

At the day and time appointed, the persons to be married, having been qualified according to the law of the state and the standards of the Church, standing together facing the minister, the man at the minister's left hand and the woman at the right, the minister shall say:

Dearly beloved, we have come together here in the sight of God and in the presence of these witnesses to unite this man and this woman in holy matrimony, which is a worthy institution, proclaimed by God from the beginning of time. This ceremony signifies the great union which is between Christ and His Church. Christ beautified this ceremony with His presence during the wedding celebration at Cana of Galilee where He performed the first miracle; and Saint Paul commended marriage as a sacred institution which all persons should embrace, and therefore is not to be entered into lightly, but to be taken seriously, realizing that this ceremony is ordained of God.

Into this holy estate these two persons come now to be joined as one. Therefore, if anyone can show a just reason why they should not be united as husband and wife, let them now speak, or forever remain silent.

THE SOLEMN CHARGE

The minister, speaking to those who are to be married, shall say:

I require and charge you both (as you must give an account at the time of God's judgement) that if either of you know any reason why you should not legally be united in holy matrimony, you do now confess it. For be assured, that if you are joined together in a manner not approved by God, your marriage is not lawful in His eyesight.

ADDRESS TO THE MAN

Minister: N., will you take *N* to be your wedded wife, to live together according to God's laws in the holy estate of matrimony? Will you love her, respect and keep her, in sickness and in health, and forsaking all others keep yourself faithful to her as long as you both shall live?

The man shall answer: I will.

ADDRESS TO THE WOMAN

Minister: N., will you take *N*. -----to be your wedded husband, to live according to God's laws in the holy estate of matrimony? Will you love him, respect and keep him, in sickness and in health, and forsaking all others keep yourself faithful to him as long as you both shall live?

The woman shall answer: I will.

Then shall be said the Lord's Prayer, all kneeling.

Our Father in heaven, holy is 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 forever. Amen.

Then let the minister conclude with an extemporaneous prayer.

THE MAN'S PLEDGE

The minister shall instruct the man with his right hand to take the woman by her right hand, and repeat the following after him:

I, N, _____ take you, N., _____ 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, until we are parted by death, according to God's holy law; and thus I pledge you my faithfulness.

THE WOMAN'S PLEDGE

Then they shall loose their hands and the woman shall take the man by his right hand and repeat the following:

I, N, _____ take you, N, _____ 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, until we are parted by death, according to God's holy law; and thus I pledge you my faithfulness.

THE COVENANT PRAYER

Then shall the minister say:

Let us pray. O Eternal God, Creator, Preserver of all humankind, giver of all spiritual grace, the author of everlasting life, send Your blessings upon these Your servants, this man and this woman whom we bless in Your name; that, as Isaac and Rebecca lived faithfully together, so this couple may surely perform and keep the vows and covenant which they have made together, and may they ever remain in perfect love and peace together, and live according to Your laws, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SERVICE WITH THE RING

The minister shall receive the ring or rings and repeat the following prayer:

Bless, O Lord, this (these) ring(s). Bless him who gives and bless her who wears (and bless her who gives and bless him who wears), that they may live together in love and harmony, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Then the minister shall return the ring to the man and direct him to place it on the third finger of the woman's left hand. And the man shall say to the woman, repeating after the minister:

With this ring I wed you, and I endow you with my worldly possessions, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

(These words shall also be repeated by the woman if this is a double ring ceremony.)

THE MINISTER'S DECLARATION

Then shall the minister join their right hands together and say:

Those whom God has joined together, let no person set asunder. For as much as (names of man and woman) have consented to live together in holy matrimony, and have borne witness to this before God and you who are present, and have pledged their faith to one another by joining hands and the giving and receiving of a ring (or rings), I pronounce that they are husband and wife together, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Then the minister and the people shall pray (with the husband and wife kneeling): **Our Father in heaven, holy is 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 if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father also will forgive you; but if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.) **Amen.**

THE CLOSING INVOCATION

O Eternal God, Creator and Preserver of all mankind, giver of all spiritual grace, the author of everlasting life, send Your blessings upon these Your servants, this man and this woman whom we bless in Your name; that they living faithfully together, may keep the pledges they have made in Your sacred presence, and may they ever remain in perfect love and peace together, and live according to Your precepts; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE BENEDICTION

And the minister shall add this blessing:

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

ALTERNATE BENEDICTION

Then shall the minister say:

Almighty God, who at the beginning of time did create our first parents, Adam and Eve, and did sanctify and join them together in marriage; pour upon this couple the riches of Your grace, sanctify and bless them, and may they please You in body and soul, and live together in love until the end of their lives. Amen

THE DECALOGUE

Minister: And God spake all these words, saying: I am the Lord thy God, who brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

People: **Lord have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.**

II

Minister: Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; and showing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.

People: **Lord have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.**

III

Minister: Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.

People: **Lord have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.**

IV

Minister: Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labor and do all thy work: but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates. For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.

People: **Lord have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.**

Hymn: **My soul be on thy guard,
Ten thousand foes arise:
And hosts of sin are pressing hard,
To draw thee from the skies.**

V

Minister: Honor thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.

People: **Lord have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.**

VI

Minister: Thou shalt not kill.

People: **Lord have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.**

VII

Minister: Thou shalt not commit adultery.

People: **Lord have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.**

VIII

Minister: Thou shalt not steal.

People: **Lord have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.**

IX

Minister: Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.

People: **Lord have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.**

X

Minister: Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house; thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor anything that is thy neighbor's.

People: **Lord have mercy upon us, and write these laws upon our hearts.**

Hymn: **Nearer my God, to thee!
Nearer to thee, E'en though it be a cross
That raiseth me;
Still all my song shall be,
Nearer, my God, to thee.
Nearer, my God, to thee, Nearer to thee.**

Minister: Hear what Christ our Saviour saith, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

Gloria Patri,

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Ghost,
As it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.**