

Wedding Service I

In the name of God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit __ Amen.

We pray . . .

Eternal God, Father of all people, as You made happy the wedding at the city of Cana by Jesus' visit, so also now come to be with us here and make this wedding a joyful time. In mercy look upon (NAME) and (NAME) wanting to be joined in marriage, and we pray that in the future they may also rejoice with Christ at the great wedding feast in heaven. Amen!

Listen to the words of God about marriage:

GENESIS 2:18-24. "Then the Lord God said, 'It is not good for man to live alone. I will make a helper for him.' Then from the ground the Lord God made every animal in the field and every bird in the sky. God brought the animals and birds to the man to see the names he will give to them, and the name Adam gave, that became their names. Adam gave names to all the animals and the birds. But for the man God not-yet had-found a helper for him. Then the Lord God made the man sleep hard. And while he slept, God took-out one rib and closed-up his body. With that rib God took-out of the man God made a woman and brought her to Adam. He said, 'Now this is bond from my bone, and a body from my body. She will be named woman, because she was-taken from man.' That is the reason a man departs from his father and mother and lives with his wife, and they become one body."

EPHESIANS 5:21-33

"Put yourselves under the reign of one-another, because of your respect for Christ. Wives, put yourselves under the reign of your husbands, as under the reign of the Lord. The husband reigns over the wife, just as Christ reigns over the Church, and Jesus is the Savior of the Church. Now, as the Church attends to Christ, also wives must attend to their husbands in every way. Husbands, love your wives just as Christ also loved the

Church and gave Himself for the Church, that He could make the Church holy and clean through the washing of water through the Word of God. Now Christ can show the Church to Himself as a perfect Church, without sin or trouble or any bad things, but He can show the Church as holy and without any wrongs. Now husbands should love their wives as they love their own bodies. The man that loves his wife, loves himself. No person ever hates his own body, the Church, and we are part of His Church. Remember the Holy Writings say, 'For this reason, a man will leave his father and mother, to join with his wife, and the two will become one together.' this is a wonderful secret; and I speak about Christ and His Church. Now let all of you love your wives as you love yourself. And the wife must also respect her husband."

MATTHEW 19:4-6

"Jesus answered and said, 'You read in the Holy Writings that God in the beginning made male and female. And God said, Therefore, a man shall leave his father and mother and shall join with his wife, and the two persons shall become one body.' Now, they are no more two, but one body. Because God joins together the two, let no one separate them."

**Optional: If the father gives away the bride, then ask her father the following.*

Who gives this woman to become married to this man?

I do!

Bride's father now sits down.

**Optional: If the bride enters alone or with the groom use the following.*

To bride's family:

Do you accept (GROOM'S NAME) (and children) into your family?

We accept.

To groom's family:

Do you accept (BRIDE'S NAME) (and children) into your family?

We accept.

**Sermon is now given. The following is a sample sermon.*

(NAME) and (NAME), you are beginning a new part of your life. It will not be very easy. We have discussed together before coming here to this wedding day about some of the problems to help you be aware of them. And God has promised His great blessing on the marriages of those people trusting Him for help and guidance. St. Paul gives us some good advice to help us with those doubts that we have about the future. 1 Corinthians 13:13, *"And now remains faith, hope, and love. These three, but the greatest is love."* For a happy married life begins first with **faith** in God. Remember He is the one giving you life and bringing you two together here. Have faith in your heavenly Father because He loves you and wants only good things to happen to you. Have faith in Jesus Christ, your Savior. He gave His life and died for you so that every sin can be cleansed from your heart. And have faith that the Holy Spirit will daily guide you and give you the love, kindness, wisdom, and understanding that you will need for all the difficult times of life. Worship your God regularly and He will bless your marriage. But also have faith in each other. It would be terrible for a man and woman to be joined in marriage and filled with doubts; questions in their minds. Can I really trust you? For a happily married life you must have complete faith in each other. You must never do anything to break that faith, but each day you need to give your attention,

you love and your understanding to each other.

The second word that Paul uses is **hope**. The hope that we Christians have for our life depends on the precious promises of our God. As sure as God made His promises to us, and we know He always keeps His promises, so we have hope for our future life with Him in heaven. God told us that He will give us the strength to endure the burdens of each day. And He does. Therefore, we hope in His promises to us. You two must also have hope in each other. You make some big promises to each other here today. You will also make some plans and dreams for the future. Without the sure promise that someone will remain with you during all the difficult times, it would be hard to keep going on in life. We need to know that someone is there to be with us. And all your hopes for the future depend on the promises you make here today.

The last word of advice from Paul is to **love**. You love God because He first loved you. He demonstrated His love for you by sending His Son to die on the cross for you. No greater love has anyone ever shown in this world. If God loved us so much, then we ought to demonstrate our love for Him. It can be a very lonely life without love, especially without His love. There can be no future for us without His love. The same must happen between you two. Your love for each other must be a totally self-giving love, as God's love. Always giving and expecting nothing in return. Your love for each other can help you to conquer the many difficulties that are in the future. Your love will remove all the lonely days from your life and get you through. Paul writes about love and says, *"Love is patient, kind, not jealous, not boastful, not cross, not rude. Love is not egotistical or hateful. Love doesn't enjoy seeing sin, but enjoys seeing happiness. Love accepts, believes, hopes, and endures all things."* May your **faith, hope, and love** in God and in each other make your married life together a blessing to both of you.

**If sample sermon is not used, then resume here.*

The Lord God in His goodness made male and female and with the gift of marriage established the earthly family with joy. God our Father from the beginning blessed marriage and continues to bless married people with His help and support.

(NAME) and (NAME), if you intend to share with one another your laughter and tears and all things that will happen in the future years, make now your promises before God and these people and join yourselves together as husband and wife.

**The Bride hands her flowers to the Maid-of-Honor and the couple faces each other.*

Groom:

I accept you, (NAME) to become my wife.

I promise before God and these people:

I will stay faithful to you and honest to you,

I will respect, trust, help, and take-care of you,

I will share my life with you when rich or poor,

I will share my joys and sadness with you,

I will daily forgive you and give my strength to you,

I will join with you so together we can serve God

and others as long as we both shall live.

Bride:

I accept you, (NAME), to become my husband.

I promise before God and these people:

I will stay faithful to you and honest to you,

I will respect, trust, help, and take-care of you,

I will share my life with you when rich or poor,

I will share my joys and sadness with you,

I will daily forgive you and give my strength to you,

I will join with you so together we can serve God

and others as long as we both shall live.

**The pastor receives the rings and gives them to the couple.*

Groom to Bride:

(NAME), this ring is a sign of my love and faithfulness.

Bride to Groom:

(NAME), this ring is a sign of my love and faithfulness.

**The pastor places his stole over the couple's joined right hands.*

(NAME) and (NAME) are now joined by God's love. No person must separate them. Praise to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit now and forever. __

**Optional: the Wedding Candle may now be lighted.*

**The Bridal Party kneels for prayer and the pastor lays hands on the couple.*

The Lord God made our first parents and established the first marriage. May God also establish your marriage and support you so that you will find pleasure with one another and grow together in holy love until your life ends. May God live with you forever, and may God's true and continuing love always remain with you.

We pray for (NAME) and (NAME) in their life together:

Faithful Lord, Father of love, give your mercy to (NAME) And (NAME) So that they can keep their promises made here this day and show Your continuing love in their life-long faithfulness to each other. Give to them the power and patience, love and understanding, courage and kindness to show to You, to each other, and to the world that they can grow together according to Your will in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

We pray for all families in the world:

Merciful Father, You give every family a way to make new their life each day; make Your reasons for marriage known to all families in the world, and especially to us celebrating at this wedding. Give Your love to husbands and wives, parents and children, so that they will give strength and support to each other, and that they will serve those people in need and make our world to become more close to Your perfect kingdom in heaven. We pray in the name of Your Son, Jesus Christ, because He taught us boldly to

pray . . .

Our Father in heaven, holy is Your name. Your kingdom come. Your wish happen on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily blessing. And forgive our sins as we forgive people sinning against us. And lead us not into temptation, but save us from Satan's power. Because the kingdom and the power and the glory as Yours forever. Amen!

All mighty God, Father, son, and Holy Spirit, lead and keep you in His Light, Truth, and Love all the days of your life. Amen! Amen! Amen! __

**The bridal party now stands.*

I now present Mr. and Mrs. (NAME) to you!

**The Bride gets her flowers from the Maid-of-Honor. Flowers may be given to the parents and then the recessional begins.*

Wedding Service II

In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. __ Amen.

Let us hear the word of God from John 2:1-11. *"On the third day in the city name Cana in the country named Galilee there was a wedding. Jesus' mother was at the wedding, and Jesus was also invited with his friends. During the meal the wine began to run-out, and Jesus' mother said, 'They have no more wine.' And Jesus answered, 'Woman, why do you ask me? It is not yet time for me to work.' The mother said to the servants, 'Do anything Jesus tells you.' Now at the wedding were six stone jars each about 20-30 gallons for the Jewish rite of washing. Jesus told the servants, 'Fill the jars with water.' The servants obeyed and filled them to the top. Now Jesus said, 'Take a cup, fill it and bring it to the man supervising the meal.' The servants obeyed.*

Happened the supervisor tasted the water now changed to wine and he didn't know how that happened, only the servants knew, then the supervisor told the new husband, 'All people serve good wine first, then after the people drink a lot, they serve the lousy wine. But you saved the best wine until now.' This wonderful work Jesus did in the city named Cana in the country named Galilee was the first work to show his glory, and his friends believed in him."

Dear friends, because you want to enter the holy life of marriage that everyone should honor, it is good for you to hear God's Word about married life. Know that God Himself established marriage happened He said, *"It is not good for man to live alone. I will make a helper for him. And the Lord God made Adam sleep; and God one rib took out and closed that place; and from that rib God made the woman and brought her to the man. And Adam said, 'This woman is bone from my bone and her body came from my body. I will name her woman, because God took her from the man.' Now, a man shall leave his father and mother and shall become joined to his wife and the two shall become one."*

Hear also the words God commands about the actions of husband and wife to each other:

"Husbands, love your wives, the same as Christ also loved the Church and gave himself for the Church, so that he could make the Church holy and clean through the washing of water and the word of God. Now Christ can show the Church to God, a perfect Church without any sin or trouble or any evil thing, but same as a holy Church. So men must love their wives the same as they love their own body. The man loving his wife also loves himself. No person hates his own body, but feeds and takes care of his body, the same as Christ takes care of his Church.

Wives, put yourselves under the rule of your husband, the same as under the rule of Christ. The husband rules the wife, the same as Christ rules the Church; and he is the Savior of the Church. Now, the same as the Church attends to Christ, you wives must attend to your husbands in every way."

God made marriage holy and will bless all married people trusting in Him and living under His rule. Christ has taken away our sins, and He will bless the troubles of those married people believing in Him.

**The sermon is now given. The following is an optional sermon.*

(NAME) and (NAME) , you are about to begin a new part of your life. To be able to resolve the problems and frustrations that will confront you in the future years, there are two things you both need to make your marriage happy and successful. One is **acceptance** and the other is **love**.

When two people begin to live together, one of the first things that happens is trying to make the other person change to become the way you want them to be. I remember the movie named, "The Odd Couple," with Felix, the man needing everything in its correct place, and Oscar, the man who doesn't care where he leaves his clothes. The movie is funny because of the ways they try to work on changing each other. A very important part of every relationship is **acceptance**. All of us need acceptance, and we need to know and hear that we are accepted, especially by those people we love. And a very important part of acceptance is communication, because without it the other person can't know our wants, needs or feelings. Some of the problems that arise in marriage come from the attitude that says, "*I know what my wife/husband wants,*" without discussing it with them. It will be very important to the happiness of your marriage to have daily communication with each other to learn to know and accept each other. In our busy world today it is very easy to allow other things to interfere with this communication. Don't let that happen to you, because your communication with each other will give you the strength you need to confront the problems of life as a family unit.

The second thing you need for a happy marriage life seems too obvious to speak . . . **love**. Why do you think a little baby needs love? Why do we adults need it? Because are the children of the most high God, and the Holy Scriptures tell us that "God is love." and the same as God demonstrated His love for us by sending His only Son, Jesus, to suffer and die for us, so also we need to demonstrate our love for each other. And one important part of love that God shows to us through Jesus is His forgiveness to us daily.

And to keep the happiness in your marriage that you feel today, it will become vitally important that you both work very hard on demonstrating your love for each other by forgiving one another. Each time you whisper to each other and say, "I love you," you are saying, "I forgive you."

Paul really helped us a lot to understand the fullness of that word "love" in

his explanation in 1 Corinthians 13:4-7. *"Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous, doesn't boast, and is not proud. Love is not rude, is not selfish, and doesn't become angry easily. Love does not remember wrongs against me. Love is not happy with evil, but love is happy with the truth. Love patiently accepts all things. Love always trusts, always hopes for the best, and always continues strong."* Find the opportunity each day you are together to verbalize and demonstrate the love of God inside you for each other. There are no guarantees in marriage because we are all sinful people, but God's prescription of love and acceptance will help you to guard against Satan trying to destroy the love that God has given to you.

**If optional sermon is not used then resume worship here.*

You came here to become joined together in holy marriage. To let all people know that you both agree to this marriage it is good for you to openly speak your promises before God and these people.

**The Bride hands her flowers to her Maid-of-Honor.*

These two persons come here to become joined in holy marriage. If anyone here today can show good reason that these two should not become married, let that person speak, or remain silent from now on.

Because no one has proof to stop your marriage, I ask you:

(NAME), will you accept (NAME) to become your wife? Will you love, honor, take care of, and keep this life of marriage holy and pure with her until death separates you? If you agree, promise this before God and these people and say, "I will."

(NAME), will you accept (NAME) to become your husband? Will you love, honor, take care of, obey, and keep this life of marriage with him holy and pure until death separates you? If you agree, promise this before God and these people and say, "I will."

Please face one another and repeat after me: (*Get the rings*) "Accept this ring / as a promise and sign / of married love and trust."

May the giving and receiving of these rings always show proof of your faithfulness and unselfish love to one another. As the ring is round and never ends, so let your love remain forever. May God bless you in keeping your promises.

<p><i>*Bride and Groom now recite their vows to each other.</i></p>

"I, (NAME), before God and these people, / accept you, (NAME), to become my wife / and promise you my trust in every duty, / not to leave you / until death separates us."

"I, (NAME), before God and these people, / accept you, (NAME), to become my husband / and promise you my trust in every duty, / not to leave you / until death separates us."

Please join your right hands.

**Pastor places his stole over their joined hands.*

God joins these two together, let no person separate them. Now because (NAME) and (NAME) agreed to holy marriage and spoke their promises before God and these people, I declare them husband and wife, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

We pray . . .

All mighty, eternal God, our heavenly Father, You joined this man and this woman in holy marriage, now show them Your mercy, make their love grow strong, keep them always faithful, protect them through all the difficult times of life, and help them to work together in serving You and Your Church. We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. He taught us to ask for everything we need in the words of His prayer saying:

(All)

Our Father, who is in heaven, holy is Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily blessing, and forgive us our sins as we forgive those sinning against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Because the kingdom, the power and the glory is Yours forever. Amen.

May the all mighty and eternal God the Father look down from His throne upon you and smile with His love and make you both holy and bless your marriage and your home. May our beloved Lord Jesus show mercy to you and forgive all your sins and make you both clean in body and soul, and may the blessings of the Holy Spirit go with you and remain in both your hearts until the day you die. Amen! Amen! Amen!

**Bride retrieves her flowers. Optional: couple may now give flowers to their parents.*

I now present Mr. & Mrs. (NAME) to you!

Wedding Anniversary

**This may be used in the regular worship before the Prayer of the Church or as a separate expanded worship service with a psalm, hymns, Scripture readings, and a sermon.*

Dear friends in Christ, (NAME) and (NAME) are here today before the Lord to promise again as on their wedding day, (DATE) (NUMBER) of years ago, to thank the Lord for His many blessings to them, and to ask for His continual care.

(NAME) , do you before God and these people, promise again as on your wedding day to continue having (NAME) for your wife/husband? If so answer, "I promise."

**If new rings are exchanged:*

"With this ring, I continue to marry you in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit."

We pray . . .

Lord, God, heavenly Father, we thank You for Your love and mercy poured on Your servants (NAME) and (NAME), from their wedding day until now. You support them no-matter rich or poor. You blessed them much. To You we give all honor and praise. Continue with them in future. Shine Your light on them always to show them Your way. Guard them from Satan and all troubles in their life. And finally let them join You at the great wedding feast in heaven. We pray in the name of our Lord Jesus. Amen.

All mighty and most loving God, give to (NAME) and (NAME), and to all married people here today Your support that they will always love, honor, and keep faithful to each other with patience, wisdom, and a holy life. Bless all our homes with Your peace, in the name of Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Jesus lives and reigns with the Father and Holy Spirit, eternally one God. Amen.

**Pastor places his stole on the couple's joined right hands.*

_____ and _____ God joined you together. No person must separate you. Praise to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit now and forever. Amen.