

Service For Marriage (Second Order)



PART 1:

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

The following greeting may be used.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with you all.

And also with you.

This, or another appropriate Sentence of Scripture, may be read.

God is love, and those who live in love live in God,
and God lives in them. (1 John 4.16.)

The minister says

We have come together in the presence of God
to witness the marriage of {Groom} and {Bride},
and to ask God's blessing on them
as we share their joy.

Marriage is a gift of God our creator.

It is a symbol of God's unending love for his people,
and of the union between Christ and his Church.

Christ loved his bride the Church,
and gave himself for her.

As he has called {Groom} and {Bride} to marriage,
so he draws their differing gifts and hopes
into a unity of love and service.

[The minister may say

Who brings this woman to be married?

I do / We do.]

Scripture teaches that marriage is a lifelong partnership
uniting a woman and a man in heart, mind and body.

In the joy of their union, husband and wife
enrich and respond to each other,
growing in tenderness and understanding.

Through marriage a new family is formed,
where children may be born
and grow in secure and loving care.

Marriage is therefore to be honoured by all.

No one should enter it lightly or selfishly,
but responsibly and joyfully,
with mutual respect and the promise to be faithful.

So let us pray with {Groom} and {Bride}
as they prepare to exchange their solemn vows:
Blessed are you, loving God,
your Spirit binds us together.
Crown our lives with your goodness;
sustain us all our days with your love.
Bless {Groom} and {Bride} with wisdom and pleasure.
Be their friend and companion in joy,
their comfort in need and in sorrow.
And when this life is ended
welcome them into your presence,
there with all your people
to praise your holy name:
Blessed be God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
as in the beginning, so now, and for ever. Amen.

PART 2

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

One or more Readings from the Scriptures. A poem or a piece of literature can be chosen as long as it accompanies at least one reading from the Scriptures.

ADDRESS

PART 3

THE WEDDING

The couple stand before the minister.

The minister says to the man

{Groom}, will you give yourself to {Bride}, to be her husband,
to live with her according to God's word?
Will you love her, comfort her,
honour and protect her,
and, forsaking all others, be faithful to her
so long as you both shall live?

The man answers I will.

The minister says to the woman

{Bride}, will you give yourself to {Groom}, to be his wife,
to live with him according to God's word?
Will you love him, comfort him,
honour and protect him,
and, forsaking all others, be faithful to him
so long as you both shall live?

The woman answers I will.

The minister says to the congregation

Families and friends,
you are witnesses to these vows.
Will you do everything in your power
to uphold {Groom} and {Bride} in their marriage?

We will.

The man, facing the woman and taking her hand in his, says

I, {Groom}, in the presence of God,
take you, {Bride}, 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,
so long as we both shall live.
All this I vow and promise.

The woman, still facing the man and taking his hand in hers, says

I, {Bride}, in the presence of God,
take you, {Groom}, 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,
so long as we both shall live.
All this I vow and promise.

When rings are to be given, the minister may receive them and may say

God of steadfast love,
by your blessing,
let these rings be for {Groom} and {Bride}
a symbol of their love and faithfulness
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The giver places the ring on the ring-finger of the other's hand and says

I give you this ring
as a symbol of our marriage.
With all that I am and all that I have
I honour you; in the name of God.
Amen.

I receive this ring
as a symbol of your love and faithfulness
to the end of our days.
Amen.

The minister joins their hands and declares to the people

Before God and in the presence of us all,
{Groom} and {Bride} have joined hands
and made their solemn vows,
promising life-long faithfulness to each other.
In the name of God,
I declare them to be husband and wife.
What God has joined together,
let no one separate.

The minister adds a blessing for the couple.

God the Father lovingly enfold you,
God the Son grace your home and table,
God the Holy Spirit crown you with joy and peace.
The Lord bless you and keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

PART 4

THE SIGNING OF THE REGISTER

The groom is invited to kiss the bride.

PART 5

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Prayers similar to the below section are said.

The prayers may be led by a friend or member of the families of the couple.

May {Groom} and {Bride} so live together that the strength of their love may reflect your love and enrich our common life.

Lord, in your mercy

hear our prayer.

May they be gentle and patient, ready to trust each other, and, when they fail, willing to recognise and acknowledge their fault and to ask each other's forgiveness.

Lord, in your mercy

hear our prayer.

[May {Groom} and {Bride} be blessed with the gift of children. Fill them with wisdom and love as they care for their family.

Lord, in your mercy

hear our prayer.]

May the lonely, the bereaved, and all who suffer want or anxiety, be defended by you, O Lord.

Lord, in your mercy

hear our prayer.

May those whose lives are today brought together be given wisdom, patience and courage to serve one another in Christ's name.

Lord, in your mercy

hear our prayer.

May friends and family gathered here, and those separated by distance, be strengthened and blessed this day.

Lord, in your mercy

hear our prayer.

We praise you, merciful God, for those who have died in the faith of Christ. May we be strengthened by their example.

The Lord's Prayer

Accept our prayers, loving God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray,

Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be 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 for ever. Amen.

PART 6

The Blessing

A blessing similar to the below is said.

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face to shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord lift up his countenance on you, and give you peace.

Amen.

The minister may say

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord:

In the name of Christ. Amen.

PART 7

PRESENTATION OF THE MARRIED COUPLE

The newly married couple is presented to the congregation.

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