

**THE CELEBRATION AND  
BLESSING OF A MARRIAGE  
& THE HOLY EUCHARIST**

**Date • Time**



**First Middle Last  
and  
First Middle Last**

PRELUDE

PROCESSION

OPENING ADDRESS

The Book of Common Prayer, page 423

*Presider* Dearly beloved: We have come together in the presence of God to witness and bless the joining together of this man and this woman in Holy Matrimony. The bond and covenant of marriage was established by God in creation, and our Lord Jesus Christ adorned this manner of life by his presence and first miracle at a wedding in Cana of Galilee. It signifies to us the mystery of the union between Christ and his Church, and Holy Scripture commends it to be honored among all people.

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 unadvisedly or lightly, but reverently, deliberately, and in accordance with the purposes for which it was instituted by God.

Into this holy union *First Middle* and *First Middle* now come to be joined. If any of you can show just cause why they may not lawfully be married, speak now; or else for ever hold your peace.

I require and charge you both, here in the presence of God, that if either of you know any reason why you may not be united in marriage lawfully, and in accordance with God’s Word, you do now confess it.

THE DECLARATION OF CONSENT.....424

*The Presider address one member of the Couple then the other.*

*Presider* **First**, will you have this *woman/man* to be your *wife/husband*; to live together in the covenant of marriage? Will you love

*her/him*, comfort *her/him*, honor and keep *her/him*, in sickness and in health; and, forsaking all others, be faithful to *her/him* as long as you both shall live?

*Answer* I will.

*Presider* Will all of you witnessing these promises do all in your power to uphold these two persons in their marriage?

*People* **We will.**

[*Presider* Who presents this woman to be married to this man?

*Answer* **Her \_\_\_\_\_ and I/I/We** do.

**or this**

*Presider* Who presents this woman and this man to be married to each other?

*Answer* **I/We** do.]

## Hymn

COLLECT .....425

*Presider* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Presider* Let us pray.

*A moment of silence is observed.*

*Presider* O gracious and everliving God, you have created us male and female in your image: Look mercifully upon this man and this woman who come to you seeking your blessing, and assist them with your grace, that with true fidelity and steadfast love they may honor and keep the promises and vows they make; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

*People* **Amen.**

FIRST READING

*Reader* A Reading from \_\_\_\_\_.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

*A moment of silence follows the reading.*

PSALM

*Presider and People*

GOSPEL READING

*Presider* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to \_\_\_\_\_.

*People* **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

*Presider* The Gospel of the Lord.

*People* **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

*A moment of silence follows the reading.*

HOMILY

The Very Rev. Matthew Johnson

**Hymn**

THE MARRIAGE.....427

*Each member of the Couple, in turn, takes the hand of the other and says*

In the Name of God, I, *First*, take you, *First*, to be my *wife/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. This is my solemn vow.

*Presider* Bless, O Lord, these rings to be signs of the vows by which this man and this woman have bound themselves to each other; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*People* **Amen.**

*Each member of the Couple, in turn, places the ring on the hand of the other and says*

**First**, I give you this ring as a symbol of my vow, and with all that I am, and all that I have, I honor you, in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

*Presider* Now that **First** and **First** have given themselves to each other by solemn vows, with the joining of hands and the giving and receiving of rings, I pronounce that they are husband and wife, in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Those whom God has joined together let no one put asunder.

*People* **Amen.**

THE PRAYERS .....429

*Presider* Let us pray.

*A moment of silence is observed.*

*Leader* Eternal God, creator and preserver of all life, author of salvation, and giver of all grace: Look with favor upon the world you have made, and for which your Son gave his life, and especially upon this man and this woman whom you make one flesh in Holy Matrimony.

*People* **Amen.**

*Leader* Give them wisdom and devotion in the ordering of their common life, that each may be to the other a strength in need, a counselor in perplexity, a comfort in sorrow, and a companion in joy.

*People* **Amen.**

*Leader* Grant that their wills may be so knit together in your will, and their spirits in your Spirit, that they may grow in love and peace with you and one another all the days of their life.

*People* **Amen.**

*Leader* Give them grace, when they hurt each other, to recognize and acknowledge their fault, and to seek each other's forgiveness and yours.

*People* **Amen.**

*Leader* Make their life together a sign of Christ's love to this sinful and broken world, that unity may overcome estrangement, forgiveness heal guilt, and joy conquer despair.

*People* **Amen.**

[*Leader* Bestow on them, if it is your will, the gift and heritage of children, and the grace to bring them up to know you, to love you, and to serve you.

*People* **Amen.]**

*Leader* Give them such fulfillment of their mutual affection that they may reach out in love and concern for others.

*People* **Amen.**

*Leader* Grant that all married persons who have witnessed these vows may find their lives strengthened and their loyalties confirmed.

*People* **Amen.**

*Leader* Grant that the bonds of our common humanity, by which all your children are united one to another, and the living to the dead, may be so transformed by your grace, that your will may be done on earth as it is in heaven; where, O Father, with your

Son, and the Holy Spirit, you live and reign in perfect unity, now and for ever.

*People*    **Amen.**

THE BLESSING OF THE MARRIAGE.....430

*Presider*    Most gracious God, we give you thanks for your tender love in sending Jesus Christ to come among us, to be born of a human mother, and to make the way of the cross to be the way of life. We thank you, also, for consecrating the union of man and woman in his Name. By the power of your Holy Spirit, pour out the abundance of your blessing upon *Name* and *Name*. Defend them from every enemy. Lead them into all peace. Let their love for each other be a seal upon their hearts, a mantle about their shoulders, and a crown upon their foreheads. Bless them in their work and in their companionship; in their sleeping and in their waking; in their joys and in their sorrows; in their life and in their death. Finally, in your mercy, bring them to that table where your saints feast for ever in your heavenly home; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever.

*People*    **Amen.**

*Presider*    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 fill you with all spiritual benediction and grace; that you may faithfully live together in this life, and in the age to come have life everlasting.

*People*    **Amen.**

THE PEACE.....431

*Presider*    The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People*    **And also with you.**

WELCOME

## THE HOLY EUCHARIST

### OFFERTORY

#### **Anthem/Hymn**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (Eucharistic Prayer B) .....367

*Presider* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Presider* Lift up your hearts.

*People* **We lift them to the Lord.**

*Presider* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People* **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

*Presider* It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth; because in the love of wife and husband, you have given us an image of the heavenly Jerusalem, adorned as a bride for her bridegroom, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who loves her and gave himself for her, that he might make the whole creation new.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

*Presider and People*

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

*Presider* We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your



people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

*Presider and People*

**We remember his death,**

**We proclaim his resurrection,**

**We await his coming in glory;**

*Presider* And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the

everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.

*People* AMEN.

*Presider* And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

*Presider and People*

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy Name,  
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread.**

**And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD .....364

*After the Presider breaks the consecrated Bread, a moment of silence is observed.*

*Presider* Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

*People* **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

*Presider* The Gifts of God for the People of God.

THE COMMUNION .....365

*This sacred meal has been central to the Christian experience for over 2,000 years, and it's our privilege to share it with you today. In the words of an invitation*

*from the Celtic tradition, "Come, you who have much faith and you who have little, you who have been here often and you who have not been here long, you who have tried to follow and you who have failed. Come because it is the Lord who invites you."*

*To receive communion, come forward to the altar when guided by an usher, and kneel or stand at the rail (to have communion brought to you in the pew, just let an usher know). Then it is customary to hold out your hands, one on top of the other, for a wafer (if you'd like gluten-free, please tell the minister who is distributing the bread). Next a chalice of wine will be offered to you. The usual practice is to drink from the cup, but you may also dip your bread in the wine or skip it altogether. There are no age or membership requirements to receive communion – all are welcome – but if you'd rather receive a blessing, simply fold your hands and a priest will be happy to offer that instead.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION .....432

*Presider* Let us pray.

*A moment of silence is observed.*

*Presider and People*

**O God, the giver of all that is true and lovely and gracious: We give you thanks for binding us together in these holy mysteries of the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Grant that by your Holy Spirit, First and First, now joined in Holy Matrimony, may become one in heart and soul, live in fidelity and peace, and obtain those eternal joys prepared for all who love you; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

DISMISSAL .....366

*Presider* Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

PROCESSION

POSTLUDE

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**SERVERS AND ATTENDANTS**

**Best Man** Name

**Bridesmaids/matrons** Names

**Chalice Bearer(s)** Name(s)

**Crucifer** Name

**Flower Boy/Girl** Name

**Groomsmen** Names

**Intercessor** Name

**Maid/Matron of Honor** Name

**Musicians** Name

**Presider** Matthew Johnson

**Reader(s)** Name(s)

**Ring Bearer** Name

**Ushers** Names

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**CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD**

**AND DAY SCHOOL**

231 N. Church St., Rocky Mount, NC 27804

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**Sunday Services** 8:00 and 10:30 a.m.

**Wednesday Services** 7:30 a.m. and 12:10 p.m.