

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

Date • Time



**First Middle Last
and
First Middle Last**

PRELUDE

PROCESSION

OPENING ADDRESS Marriage Rites for the Whole Church, page 10

Presider Dearly beloved: We have come together in the presence of God to witness and bless the joining together of *First Middle* and *First Middle* in Holy Matrimony. The joining of two people in a life of mutual fidelity signifies to us the mystery of the union between Christ and his Church, and so it is worthy of being honored among all people.

The union of two people 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 gift 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* and *First* 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..... 11

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

COLLECT11

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 humankind in your image: Look mercifully upon *First* and *First* 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.....13

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 **First** and **First** 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 wed to one another, 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 14

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 ***First*** and ***First***, 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.....15

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 two people in his Name. By the power of your Holy Spirit, pour out the abundance of your blessing upon *First* and *First*. 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.....16

Presider The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

WELCOME

THE HOLY EUCHARIST

OFFERTORY

Anthem/Hymn

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 our thanks and praise.**

Presider We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing. You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love.

And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we say:

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 the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Presider Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God. Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners,

healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love. Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice.

Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.

In the fullness of time bring us, with all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and 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 BREAD69

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 COMMUNION365

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 Marriage Rites for the Whole Church, page 17

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

The Book of Common Prayer, page 366

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

People **Thanks be to God.**

PROCESSION

POSTLUDE

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

**CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD
AND DAY SCHOOL**

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www.goodshepherdrmt.org (252) 442-1134

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

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