

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

**Date • Time**



**First Middle Last  
and  
First Middle Last**

PRELUDE

PROCESSION

ACCLAMATION

Marriage Rites for the Whole Church, page 20

*Presider* Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

*People* **Blessed be God, now and for ever. Amen.**

*or this*

*Presider* Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

*People* **Glory to God for ever and ever.**

*or, from* ***Easter Day through the Day of Pentecost,***

*Presider* Alleluia. Christ is risen.

*People* **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

*or this*

*Presider* Alleluia. Christ is risen.

*People* **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

*then follows*

*Presider* Beloved, let us love one another,

*People* **For love is of God.**

*Presider* Whoever does not love does not know God,

*People* **For God is love.**

*Presider* Since God so loves us,

*People* **Let us love one another.**

OPENING ADDRESS.....21

*Presider* Dear friends in Christ, [*or Dearly beloved,*] in the name of God and the Church we have come together today with *First Middle* and *First Middle*, to witness the vows they make, committing themselves to one another in marriage. Forsaking all others, they will bind themselves to

one another in a covenant of mutual fidelity and steadfast love, remaining true to one another in heart, body, and mind, as long as they both shall live.

The lifelong commitment of marriage is not to be entered into lightly or thoughtlessly, but responsibly and with reverence. Let us pray, then, that God will give them the strength to remain steadfast in what they vow this day. Let us also pray for the generosity to support them in the commitment they undertake and for the wisdom to see God at work in their life together.

*or this, for those who have previously made a lifelong commitment to one another*

*Presider* Dear friends in Christ, [*or Dearly beloved,*] in the name of God and the Church we have come together today with *First Middle* and *First Middle*, to witness the sacred vows they make this day as they are married, and reaffirm their commitment to one another. Forsaking all others, they will renew their covenant of mutual fidelity and steadfast love, remaining true to one another in heart, body, and mind, as long as they both shall live.

Let us pray, then, that God will give them the strength to remain steadfast in what they vow this day. Let us also pray for the generosity to support them in the commitment they undertake, and for the wisdom to see God at work in their life together.

## Hymn

THE COLLECT.....22

*Presider* The Lord be with you.

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

*Presider* Let us pray.

*A moment of silence is observed.*

*Presider* God of abundance: assist by your grace *First* and *First*, whose covenant of love and fidelity we witness this day. Grant them your protection, that with firm resolve they may honor and keep the 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.**

*or this*

*Presider* Almighty and everliving God: look tenderly upon *First* and *First*, who stand before you in the company of your Church. Let their life together bring them great joy. Grant them so to love selflessly and live humbly, that they may be to one another and to the world a witness and a sign of your never-failing love and care; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, to the ages of ages.

*People* **Amen.**

*or this*

*Presider* O God, faithful and true, whose steadfast love endures for ever: we give you thanks for sustaining *First* and *First* in the life they share and for bringing them to this day. Nurture them and fill them with joy in their life together, continuing the good work you have begun in them; and grant us, with them, a dwelling place eternal in the heavens where all your people will share the joy of perfect love, and where you, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, live and reign, one God, now and for ever.

*People* **Amen.**

*or, for those who bring children*

*Presider* Holy Trinity, one God, three Persons perfect in unity and equal in majesty: Draw together with bonds of love and affection *First* and *First*, who with *their families* seek to live in harmony and forbearance all their days, that their joining together will be to us a reflection of that

perfect communion which is your very essence and life, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, who live and reign in glory everlasting.

*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 DECLARATION OF THE COVENANT .....25

[*Presider*    Who presents *First* and *First* as they seek the blessing of God and the Church on their love and life together?

*Answer*    We do.

*Presider* Will you love, respect, and pray for **First** and **First**, and do all in your power to stand with them in the life they will share?

*Answer* We will.]

*Presider* **First** and **First** you have come before God and the Church to exchange [**and renew**] solemn vows with one another and to ask God's blessing.

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

*Presider* **First**, do you freely and unreservedly offer yourself to **First**?

*Answer* I do.

*Presider* Will you [**continue to**] live together in faithfulness and holiness of life as long as you both shall live?

*Answer* I will, with God's help.

*Presider* Will all of you gathered to witness these vows do all in your power to uphold and honor this couple in the covenant they make?

*People* **We will.**

*Presider* Will you pray for them, especially in times of trouble, and celebrate with them in times of joy?

*People* **We will.**

THE PRAYERS .....26

*Presider* Then let us pray for **First** and **First** in their life together and for the concerns of this community.

*A moment of silence is observed.*

*Leader* For **First** and **First**, seeking your blessing and the blessing of your holy people; Loving God,

*People* **Hear our prayer.**

*Leader* For a spirit of loving-kindness to shelter them all their days;  
Loving God,

*People* **Hear our prayer.**

*Leader* For friends to support them and communities to enfold them;  
Loving God,

*People* **Hear our prayer.**

*Leader* For peace in their home and love in their family; Loving God,

*People* **Hear our prayer.**

[*Leader* For the grace and wisdom to care for the children you entrust to  
them *[or may entrust to them]*; Loving God,

*People* **Hear our prayer.]**

*Leader* For the honesty to acknowledge when they hurt each other, and  
the humility to seek each other's forgiveness and yours; Loving  
God,

*People* **Hear our prayer.**

*Leader* For the outpouring of your love through their work and witness;  
Loving God,

*People* **Hear our prayer.**

*Leader* For the strength to keep the vows each of us has made; Loving  
God,

*People* **Hear our prayer.**

[*Leader* For all who have been reborn and made new in the waters of  
Baptism; Loving God,

*People* **Hear our prayer.]**

[*Leader* For those who lead and serve in communities of faith; Loving  
God,

*People* **Hear our prayer.]**

[*Leader* For those who seek justice, peace, and concord among nations;  
Loving God,

*People* **Hear our prayer.]**

[*Leader* For those who are sick or suffering, homeless or poor; Loving  
God,

*People* **Hear our prayer.]**

[*Leader* For victims of violence and those who inflict it; Loving God,

*People* **Hear our prayer.]**

[*Leader* For communion with all who have died; Loving God,

*People* **Hear our prayer.]**

*Presider* Giver of every gift, source of all goodness, hear the prayers we  
bring before you for *First* and *First*, who seek your blessing this  
day. Strengthen them as they share in the saving work of Jesus,  
and bring about for them and for all you have created the  
fullness of life he promised, who now lives and reigns for ever  
and ever.

*People* **Amen.**

## Hymn

THE MARRIAGE.....29

*Presider* *First* and *First*, I invite you now, illumined by the Word of God  
and strengthened by the prayer of this community, to make your  
covenant before God and the Church.

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

In the name of God, I, *First*, give myself to you, *First*, and take you to  
myself. I will support and care for you by the grace of God: in times of  
sickness, in times of health. I will hold and cherish you in the love of  
Christ: in times of plenty, in times of want. I will honor and love you with

the Spirit's help: in times of anguish, in times of joy, forsaking all others, as long as we both shall live. This is my solemn vow.

*or this*

In the name of God, I, **First**, give myself to you, **First**, and take you to myself. I will support and care for you: in times of sickness, in times of health. I will hold and cherish you: in times of plenty, in times of want. I will honor and love you: in times of anguish, in times of joy, forsaking all others, as long as we both shall live. This is my solemn vow.

*Presider* Let us pray.

*A moment of silence is observed.*

*Presider* Bless, O God, these rings as signs of the enduring covenant **First** and **First** have made with 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 in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

*If the two have previously given and worn rings as a symbol of their commitment, the rings may be blessed on the hands of the couple.*

*Presider* Let us pray.

*A moment of silence is observed.*

*Presider* By the rings which they have worn, faithful God, **First** and **First** have shown to one another and the world their love and faithfulness. Bless now these rings, that from this day forward they may be signs of the vows **First** and **First** have exchanged in your presence and in the communion of your Church, through Christ our Lord.

*People*    **Amen.**

PRONOUNCEMENT.....30

*Presider*    Now that *First* and *First* have exchanged vows of love and fidelity in the presence of God and the Church, I pronounce that they are married and bound to one another as long as they both shall live.

*People*    **Amen.**

THE BLESSING OF THE COUPLE .....31

*Presider*    Let us pray.

*A moment of silence is observed.*

*Presider*    Most gracious God, we praise you for the tender mercy and unfailing care revealed to us in Jesus the Christ for the great joy and comfort bestowed upon us in the gift of human love. We give you thanks for *First* and *First*, and the covenant of faithfulness they have made. Pour out the abundance of your Holy Spirit upon them. Keep them in your steadfast love; protect them from all danger; fill them with your wisdom and peace; lead them in holy service to each other and the world.

*The Presider continues with one of the following*

God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit, [*or God, the holy and undivided Trinity,*] bless, preserve, and keep you, and mercifully grant you rich and boundless grace, that you may please God in body and soul.

*People*    **Amen.**

*or this*

God make you a sign of the loving-kindness and steadfast fidelity manifest in the life, death, and resurrection of our Savior, and bring you at last to the delight of the heavenly banquet, where he lives and reigns for ever and ever.

*People*    **Amen.**

THE PEACE.....32

*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 (Prayer 3)      Enriching our Worship 1, page 62

*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* All thanks and praise are yours at all times and in all places, our true and loving God; through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word, the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things. You laid the foundations of the world and enclosed the sea when it burst out from the womb; You brought forth all creatures of the earth and gave breath to humankind.

Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing, all you create is a sign of hope for our journey; And so as the morning stars sing your praises we join the heavenly beings and all creation as we shout with joy:

*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 are yours, Creator of all, your Word has never been silent; you called a people to yourself, as a light to the nations, you delivered them from bondage and led them to a land of promise. Of your grace, you gave Jesus to be human, to share our life, to proclaim the coming of your holy reign and give himself for us, a fragrant offering.

Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, you have freed us from sin, brought us into your life, reconciled us to you, and restored us to the glory you intend for us.

We thank you that on the night before he died for us Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, gave it to his friends and said: "Take, eat, this is my Body, broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends and said: "Drink this, all of you: this cup is the new Covenant in my Blood, poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

And so, remembering all that was done for us: the cross, the tomb, the resurrection and ascension, longing for Christ's coming in glory, and presenting to you these gifts your earth has formed and human hands have made, we acclaim you, O Christ:

*Presider and People*

**Dying, you destroyed our death.**

**Rising, you restored our life.**

**Christ Jesus, come in glory!**

*Presider* Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ. Grant that we, burning with your Spirit's power, may be a people of hope, justice and love.

Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of Christ, and in the fullness of time gather us with all your people into the joy of our true eternal home.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, we worship you our God and Creator in voices of unending praise.

*Presider and People*

**Blessed are you now and for ever. 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 .....69

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

*Presider* We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.

**People** We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.

*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 Marriage Rites for the Whole Church, page 32

*Presider* Let us pray.

*A moment of silence is observed.*

***Presider and People***

**God our strength and joy, we thank you for the communion of our life together, for the example of holy love that you give us in *First and First*, and for the Sacrament of the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Grant that it may renew our hope and nourish us for the work you set**

**before us to witness to the presence of Christ in the world, through the power of your Spirit, and to the glory of your Name. 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

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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  
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**Sunday Services** 8:00 and 10:30 a.m.  
**Wednesday Services** 7:30 a.m. and 12:10 p.m.