

Lutheran Book of Worship

Marriage

GREETING

Stand

The bride, groom, and wedding party stand in front of the minister. The parents may stand behind the couple.

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

C And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Eternal God, our creator and redeemer, as you gladdened the wedding at Cana in Galilee by the presence of your Son, so by his presence now bring your joy to this wedding. Look in favor upon [name] and [name] and grant that they, rejoicing in all your gifts, may at length celebrate with Christ the marriage feast which has no end. (162)

C Amen

FIRST LESSON

One or more lessons from the Bible may be read. An address may follow. A hymn may be sung.

Sit

OPTION A: Woman and man created in the image of God (Genesis 1:26-31)

OPTION B: Companionship rather than loneliness (Genesis 2:18-24)

OPTION C: The voice of the beloved (Song of Solomon 2:10-13)

OPTION D: Many waters cannot quench love (Song of Solomon 8:7)

OPTION E: God's steadfast love lifts up the people (Isaiah 63:7-9)

PSALM

OPTION A: Our soul waits for the Lord; he is our help and shield (Psalm 33)

OPTION B: We are God's people and the sheep of God's pasture (Psalm 100)

OPTION C: The steadfast love of the Lord (Psalm 117)

OPTION D: Unless the Lord builds the house (Psalm 127)

OPTION E: Blessed are those who walk in the Lord's ways (Psalm 128)

OPTION F: O give thanks to the God of gods, for his steadfast love endures forever (Psalm 136)

OPTION F: Let everything that breathes praise the Lord (Psalm 150)

SECOND LESSON

OPTION A: A living sacrifice and genuine love (Romans 12:1-2)

OPTION B: The greatest gift is love (1 Corinthians 12:31--13:13)

OPTION C: Walk in love, as Christ loved us (Ephesians 5:21-33)

OPTION D: Rejoice in the Lord always (Philippians 4:4-7)

OPTION E: Let us love one another for love is of God (1 John 4:7-12)

GOSPEL

OPTION A: What God has united must not be divided (Matthew 19:4-6)

OPTION B: The wedding at Cana (John 2:1-10)

OPTION C: Love one another as I have loved you (John 15:9-12)

INTRODUCTION

A The Lord God in his goodness created us male and female, and by the gift of marriage founded human community in a joy that begins now and is brought to perfection in the life to

come.

Because of sin, our age-old rebellion, the gladness of marriage can be overcast and the gift of the family can become a burden.

But because God, who established marriage, continues still to bless it with his abundant and ever-present support, we can be sustained in our weariness and have our joy restored.

P [Name] and [name], if it is your intention to share with each other your joys and sorrows and all that the years will bring, with your promises bind yourselves to each other as husband and wife.

VOWS

Stand

The bride and groom face each other and join hands. Each, in turn, promises faithfulness to the other in these or similar words:

**I take you, [name],
to be my wife/husband from this day forward,
to join with you and share all that is to come,
and I promise to be faithful to you
until death parts us.**

GIVING OF RINGS

The bride and groom exchange rings with these words:

I give you this ring as a sign of my love and faithfulness.

ACCLAMATION

The bride and groom join hands, and the minister announces their marriage by saying:

P [Name] and [name], by their promises before God and in the presence of this congregation, have bound themselves to one another as husband and wife.

C **Blessed be the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit now and forever.**

P Those whom God has joined together let no one put asunder.

C Amen

NUPTIAL BLESSING

Sit

The bride and groom kneel.

P The Lord God, who created our first parents and established them in marriage, establish and sustain you, that you may find delight in each other and grow in holy love until your life's end.

C Amen

The parents may add their blessing with these or similar words; the wedding party may join them.

May you dwell in God's presence forever; may true and constant love preserve you.

The bride and groom stand.

PRAYERS

Stand

A Let us bless God for all the gifts in which we rejoice today.

P Lord God, constant in mercy, great in faithfulness: With high praise we recall your acts of unending love for the human family, for the house of Israel, and for your people the Church.

We bless you for the joy which your servants, [name] and [name], have found in each other, and pray that you give to us such a sense of your constant love that we may employ all our strength in a life of praise of you, whose work alone holds true and endures forever. (276)

C Amen

A Let us pray for [name] and [name] in their life together.

P Faithful Lord, source of love, pour down your grace upon [name] and [name], that they may fulfill the vows they have made this day and reflect your steadfast love in their life-long faithfulness to each other. As members with them of the body of Christ, use us to support their life together; and from your great store of strength give them power and patience, affection and understanding, courage, and love toward you, toward each other, and toward the world, that they may continue together in mutual growth according to your will in Jesus Christ our Lord. (277)

C Amen

Other intercessions may be offered.

A Let us pray for all families throughout the world.

P Gracious Father, you bless the family and renew your people. Enrich husbands and wives, parents and children more and more with your grace, that, strengthening and supporting each other, they may serve those in need and be a sign of the fulfillment of your perfect kingdom, where, with your Son Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit, you live and reign, one God through all ages of ages. (278)

C Amen

When Holy Communion is celebrated, the service continues with the Peace.

LORD'S PRAYER

When there is no Communion, the service continues with the Lord's Prayer.

OPTION A: Our Father in heaven

C 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 forever. Amen

OPTION B: Our Father, who art in heaven

C 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,
forever and ever. Amen**

BLESSING

P Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, keep you in his light and truth and love now and forever.

C Amen

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