

First Order Wedding Service



The people stand at the invitation of the minister

music for the entry of the Bride

We have come together in the sight of God for the joining in marriage of this man (**Groom**) and this woman (**Bride**).

Our Lord Jesus Christ said of marriage that 'From the beginning of creation God made them male and female. "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one." So they are no longer two but one. What therefore God has joined together, let no one separate.'

Marriage is the symbol of God's unending love for his people, and of the union between Christ and his Church. So Saint Paul teaches that the husband must love his wife as Christ loved the Church, and that the wife must give due honour to her husband.

Marriage should be honoured by all, and is not to be entered into lightly or carelessly, but with reverent and serious respect for those purposes for which it was instituted by God.

Marriage is a life-long union in which a man and a woman are called so to give themselves in body, mind, and spirit, and so to respond, that from their union will grow a deepening knowledge and love of each other.

In the joys and sorrows of life, in prosperity and adversity, they share their companionship, faithfulness, and strength.

In marriage a new family is established in accordance with God's purpose, so that children may be born and nurtured in secure and loving care, for their well-being and instruction, and for the good order of society, to the glory of God.

(Groom) and **(Bride)** have now come here to be joined in this holy union to which God has led them. They seek his blessing on their life together, that they may fulfil his purpose for them; and they ask us to support them in this prayer. If anyone can show why they may not lawfully be joined in marriage, speak now, or hereafter remain in silence.

The congregation is seated for the reading of God's word

the first reading

Eg Ephesians 3:14-19

the second reading

Eg I Corinthians 13:4-13

After each reading, the reader/s says

Hear the word of the Lord,
thanks be to God

the address

the pledge

(Groom), will you have **(Bride)** to be your wife,
to live together according to God's word?

Will you give her the honour
due to her as your wife
and, forsaking all others,
love and protect her,
as long as you both shall live?

The man answers

I will.

The priest says to the woman

(Bride), will you have **(Groom)** to be your husband,
to live together according to God's word?

Will you give him the honour
due to him as your husband
and, forsaking all others,
love and protect him,
as long as you both shall live?

The woman answers

I will.

The priest may ask

Who brings this woman to be married to this man?

Answer

I do.

The man takes the woman's right hand. The priest, together with the people, says

**God our Father, in your great love
you have given us the gift of marriage;
so bless these two persons
as they pledge their lives to each other,
that their love may evermore grow
to be the true reflection of your love for us all;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The man, holding the woman's right 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,
as long as we both shall live.
This is my solemn vow and promise.

The woman, taking the man's right 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, honour and to cherish,
as long as we both shall live.
This is my solemn vow and promise.

The priest receives the wedding ring(s) and says

Grant, Lord, that these rings may be a token and constant sign of the pledge
of love and faithfulness which these two persons make to each other
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The man places the ring on the ring-finger of the woman, and holding it there, says

(**Bride**), with this ring I wed you;
with all that I am and all that I have
I honour you;
in the name of God. Amen.

Before they loose hands, the woman may respond

(Groom), I receive this ring
in token of our marriage.
May God enable us to grow in love together.

The woman places the ring on the ring-finger of the man, and holding it there, says

(Groom), with this ring I wed you;
with all that I am and all that I have
I honour you;
in the name of God. Amen.

Before they loose hands, the man may respond

(Bride), I receive this ring
in token of our marriage.
May God enable us to grow in love together.

The priest addresses the people.

Before God and in the presence of us all,
by solemn consent and promise,
by the giving and receiving of a ring/rings,
and by the joining of hands,
(Groom) and **(Bride)** have now accepted each other in marriage.
In the name of God,
I declare them to be husband and wife.
What God has joined together
let no one put asunder.

The priest addresses the husband and wife, saying

God the Father enrich you with his grace,
God the Son make you holy in his love,
God the Holy Spirit strengthen you with his joy.
The Lord bless you and keep you in eternal life.
Blessed be the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit;
one God, to be praised for ever.

the signing of the register

music for the signing of the register

the prayers

**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.**

A prayer for the blessing of eternal life

God of Abraham and Sarah,
bless these your servants
and sow the seed of eternal life in their hearts,
that whatever they learn in your holy word
they may indeed fulfil.
Look in love upon them, and bless them,
that, obeying your will and secure in your protection,
they may abide in your love to their lives' end;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A prayer for the blessing of children

Merciful Lord and heavenly Father,
by whose gracious gift the human race is maintained
give to (**Groom**) and (**Bride**) the blessing of children,
and grant them the wisdom and grace to bring them up
in the discipline and instruction of the Lord,
to your praise and honour;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A prayer for the blessing of mutual love and faithfulness

O God,
who by joining man and woman together
taught us from the beginning
that we should not separate what you have joined as one;
we praise you that you have consecrated the state of
matrimony to such an excellent purpose
that in it is signified the spiritual marriage and unity
 between Christ and his Church.
Look mercifully on these your servants,
that this man may love his wife, according to your word,
as Christ loved his bride the Church,
 and gave himself for it,
 cherishing it as himself;
and that this woman may love her husband,
 according to your word,
 being loyal and faithful.
O Lord, bless them both,
and grant them to inherit your everlasting kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The priest and congregation may say

**Lord of the universe,
all love, strength, and understanding come from you;
so direct and govern us in body and soul
that we may strive to live according to your word
and to do everything that is agreeable to your will:
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The priest continues

Almighty God,
who created our first parents
and sanctified and joined them together in marriage,
pour upon you the riches of his love,
sanctify and bless you,
that you may please him in body and soul,
and live together in holy love to your lives' end. **Amen.**

the recessional

music for the exit of the bride and groom