



The Marriage Rite

**Scripture Readings
Prayers of the Faithful
Musical Program
Wedding Ceremony Program**

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LITURGY OF THE WORD

OLD TESTAMENT READINGS

A-1. Genesis 1: 26-28, 31a

A reading from the book of Genesis

Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth."

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

And God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth."

And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good.

The word of the Lord.

People's response: Thanks be to God.

A-2. Genesis 2: 18-24

A reading from the Book of Genesis.

Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him."

So out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name.

The man gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for the man there was not found a helper fit for him.

So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh; and the rib which the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man.

Then the man said, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man."

Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and cleaves to his wife, and they become one flesh

The word of the Lord.

People's response: Thanks be to God.

A-3. Genesis 24: 48-51, 58-67

A reading from the book of Genesis.

Then I bowed my head and worshiped the LORD, and blessed the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me by the right way to take the daughter of my master's kinsman for his son.

Now then, if you will deal loyally and truly with my master, tell me; and if not, tell me; that I may turn to the right hand or to the left."

Then Laban and Bethu'el answered, "The thing comes from the LORD; we cannot speak to you bad or good.

Behold, Rebekah is before you, take her and go, and let her be the wife of your master's son, as the LORD has spoken."

And they called Rebekah, and said to her, "Will you go with this man?" She said, "I will go."

So they sent away Rebekah their sister and her nurse, and Abraham's servant and his men.

And they blessed Rebekah, and said to her, "Our sister, be the mother of thousands of ten thousands; and may your descendants possess the gate of those who hate them!"

Then Rebekah and her maids arose, and rode upon the camels and followed the man; thus the servant took Rebekah, and went his way.

Now Isaac had come from Beer-la'hai-roi, and was dwelling in the Negeb. And Isaac went out to meditate in the field in the evening; and he lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, there were camels coming. And Rebekah lifted up her eyes, and when she saw Isaac, she alighted from the camel and said to the servant, "Who is the man yonder, walking in the field to meet us?" The servant said, "It is my master." So she took her veil and covered herself.

And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done. Then Isaac brought her into the tent, and took Rebekah, and she became his wife; and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother's death.

The word of the Lord.

People's response: Thanks be to God.

A-4. Tobit 7: 9c-10, 11c-17

A reading from the book of Tobit

When they had bathed and washed themselves and had reclined to dine, Tobias said to Raphael, "Brother Azariah, ask Raguel to give me my kinswoman Sarah."

But Raguel overheard it and said to the lad, "Eat and drink, and be merry tonight. For no one except you, brother, has the right to marry my daughter Sarah. Likewise I am not at liberty to give her to any other man than yourself, because you are my nearest relative. But let me explain to you the true situation more fully, my child.

But Tobias said, "I will neither eat nor drink anything until you settle the things that pertain to me."

So Raguel said, "I will do so. She is given to you in accordance with the decree in the book of Moses, and it has been decreed from heaven that she be given to you. Take your kinswoman; from now on you are her brother and she is your sister. She is given to you from today and forever. May the Lord of heaven, my child, guide and prosper you both this night and grant you mercy and peace.

Then Raguel summoned his daughter Sarah. When she came to him he took her by the hand and gave her to Tobias, saying, "Take her to be your wife in accordance with the law and decree written in the book of Moses. Take her and bring her safely to your father. And may the God of heaven prosper your journey with his peace."

Then he called her mother and told her to bring writing material; and he wrote out a copy of a marriage contract, to the effect that he gave her to him as wife according to the decree of the law of Moses. Then they began to eat and drink.

Raguel called his wife Edna and said to her, "Sister, get the other room ready, and take her there." So she went and made the bed in the room as he had told her, and brought Sara there. She wept for her daughter. Then, wiping away the tears, she said to her, "Take courage, my daughter; the Lord of heaven grant you joy in place of your sorrow. Take courage, my daughter." Then she went out.

The word of the Lord.

People's response: Thanks be to God.

A-5. Tobit 8: 4-9

A reading from the book of Tobit.

Tobias got out of bed and said to Sarah, "Sister, get up, and let us pray and implore our Lord that he grant us mercy and safety."

So she got up, and they began to pray and implore that they might be kept safe. Tobias began by saying:

"Blessed are you, O God of our ancestors,
and blessed is your name in all generations forever.
Let the heavens and the whole creation bless you forever.
You made Adam, and for him you made his wife Eve as a helper and
support.
From the two of them the human race has sprung.
You said, "it is not good that the man should be alone;
Let us make a helper for him like himself"
I now am taking this kinswoman of mine,
Not because of lust, but this sincerity.
Grant that she and I may find mercy and that we may grow old together."

The word of the Lord.

People's response: Thanks be to God.

A-6. Song of Solomon 2: 8-10, 14, 15, 8: 6-7

A reading from the Song of Solomon

The voice of my beloved! Behold, he comes, leaping upon the mountains, bounding over the hills.

My beloved is like a gazelle, or a young stag. Behold, there he stands behind our wall, gazing in at the windows, looking through the lattice.

My beloved speaks and says to me: "Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away;

O my dove, in the clefts of the rock, in the covert of the cliff, let me see your face, let me hear your voice, for your voice is sweet, and your face is comely.

Catch us the foxes, the little foxes, that spoil the vineyards, for our vineyards are in blossom."

Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm; for love is strong as death, jealousy is cruel as the grave. Its flashes are flashes of fire, a most vehement flame.

Many waters cannot quench love, neither can floods drown it. If a man offered for love all the wealth of his house, it would be utterly scorned.

The word of the Lord.

People's response: Thanks be to God.

A-7 Sirach 26: 1-4, 13-16

A reading from the book of Sirach

Happy is the husband of a good wife; the number of his days will be doubled.

A loyal wife brings joy to her husband, and he will complete his years in peace.

A good wife is a great blessing; she will be granted among the blessings of the man who fears the Lord.

Whether rich or poor, his heart is content.

A wife's charm delights her husband, and her skill puts flesh on his bones.

A silent wife is a gift from the Lord, and nothing is so precious as her self-discipline.

A modest wife adds charm to charm, and no scales can weigh the value of her chastity.

Like the sun rising in the heights of the Lord, so is the beauty of a good wife in her well-ordered home.

The word of the Lord.

People's response: Thanks be to God.

A-8 Jeremiah 31: 31-34

A reading from the book of Jeremiah

"Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, not like the covenant which I made with their fathers when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant which they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD.

But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it upon their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

And no longer shall each man teach his neighbour and each his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more."

The word of the Lord.

People's response: Thanks be to God.

LITURGY OF THE WORD
RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Please pause for about 5 seconds before beginning the Psalm.

B-1 Psalm 33, 12 & 18, 20-21, 22

Reader: The earth is full of the goodness of the Lord.

All: The earth is full of the goodness of the Lord.

Reader Happy is the nation whose God is the Lord,
the people whom he has chosen as his heritage.
Truly the eye of the Lord is on those who fear
him, on those who hope in his steadfast love.

All: The earth is full of the goodness of the Lord.

Reader Our soul waits for the Lord;
He is our help and shield.
Our heart is glad in him,
Because we trust in his holy name.

All: The earth is full of the goodness of the Lord.

Reader Let your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us,
Even as we hope in you.

All: The earth is full of the goodness of the Lord.

B-2 Psalm 34: 2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9

Reader: I will bless the Lord at all times

All: I will bless the Lord at all times

Reader My soul makes its boast in the Lord;
Let the humble hear and be glad.
O magnify the Lord with me,
And let us exalt his name together.

All: I will bless the Lord at all times

Reader I sought the Lord, and he answered me,
And delivered me from all my fears.
Look to him, and be radiant;
So your faces shall never be ashamed.

All: I will bless the Lord at all times

Reader This poor soul cried, and was heard by the Lord,
And was saved from every trouble.
The angel of the Lord encamps around those
who fear him, and delivers them.

All: I will bless the Lord at all times

Reader: O taste and see that the Lord is good;
Happy are those who take refuge in him.
O fear the Lord, you his holy ones,
For those who fear him have no want.

All I will bless the Lord at all times

B-3 Psalm 103: 1-2, 8 & 13, 17-18a

Reader: The Lord is kind and merciful

All: The Lord is kind and merciful

Reader Bless the Lord, O my soul,
And all that is within me, bless his holy name.
Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and do not forget all his benefits.

All: The Lord is kind and merciful

Reader The Lord is merciful and gracious,
Slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
As a father has compassion for his children,
So the Lord has compassion for those who fear him.

All: The Lord is kind and merciful

Reader But the steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting
to everlasting
On those who fear him, and his righteousness to
children's children.
To those who keep his covenant and remember to
do his commandments.

All: The Lord is kind and merciful

B-4 Psalm 112: 1-2, 3-4, 5-7a, 7bc-8, 9

Reader: Happy are those who do what the Lord commands.

All: Happy are those who do what the Lord commands.

Reader Praise the Lord!
Happy are those who fear the Lord,
Who greatly delight in his commandments.
Their descendants will be mighty in the land;
The generation of the upright will be blessed.

All: Happy are those who do what the Lord commands.

Reader Wealth and riches are in their houses,
And their righteousness endures forever.
They rise in the darkness as a light for the upright;
They are gracious, merciful, and righteous.

All: Happy are those who do what the Lord commands.

Reader It is well with those who deal generously and lend,
Who conduct their affairs with justice.
For the righteous will never be moved;
They will be remembered forever.

All: Happy are those who do what the Lord commands.

Reader: They are not afraid of evil tidings;
Their hearts are firm, secure in the Lord.
Their hearts are steady, they will not be afraid;
In the end they will look in triumph on their foes.

All Happy are those who do what the Lord commands.

Reader: They have distributed freely, they have given to the
poor,
Their righteousness endures forever;
Their horn is exalted in honour.

All Happy are those who do what the Lord commands.

B-5 Psalm 128: 1-2, 3, 4-5

Reader: Happy are those who fear the Lord.

All: Happy are those who fear the Lord.

Reader Happy is everyone who fears the Lord,
Who walks in his ways.
You shall eat the fruit of the labour of your hands;
You shall be happy, and it shall go well with you.

All: Happy are those who fear the Lord.

Reader I sought the Lord, and he answered me,
And delivered me from all my fears.
Look to him, and be radiant;
So your faces shall never be ashamed.

All: Happy are those who fear the Lord.

Reader Your wife will be like a fruitful vine within your house;
Your children will be like olive shoots around your
table.

All: Happy are those who fear the Lord.

Reader Thus shall the man be blessed who fears the Lord.
The Lord bless you from Zion.
May you see the prosperity of Jerusalem
All the days of your life.

All: Happy are those who fear the Lord.

B-6 Psalm 145: 8-9, 10 & 15, 17-18

Reader: The Lord is compassionate to all his creatures.

All: The Lord is compassionate to all his creatures.

Reader The Lord is gracious and merciful,
Slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
The Lord is good to all,
And his compassion is over all that he has made.

All: The Lord is compassionate to all his creatures.

Reader All your works shall give thanks to you, O Lord,
And all your faithful shall bless you.
The eyes of all look to you,
And you give them their food in due season

All: The Lord is compassionate to all his creatures.

Reader The Lord is just in all his ways,
And kind in all his doings.
The Lord is near to all who call on him,
To all who call on him in truth.

All: The Lord is compassionate to all his creatures.

B-7 Psalm 148: 1-2, 34-, 9-10, 11-12ab, ac2-14a

Reader: Let all praise the name of the Lord.

All: Let all praise the name of the Lord.

Reader Praise the Lord!
Praise the Lord from the heavens;
Praise him in the heights!
Praise him, all his angels;
Praise him, all his host!

All: Let all praise the name of the Lord.

Reader Praise him, sun and moon,
Praise him, all you shining stars!
Praise him, you highest heavens,
And you waters above the heavens.

All: Let all praise the name of the Lord.

Reader Mountains and all hills,
Fruit trees and all cedars!
Wild animals and all cattle,
Creeping things and flying birds.

All: Let all praise the name of the Lord.

Reader: Kings of the earth and all peoples,
Princes and all rulers of the earth!
Young men and women alike, old and young
together

All: Let all praise the name of the Lord.

Reader: Let them praise the name of the Lord,
For his name alone is exalted;
His glory is above earth and heaven.
He has raised up a horn for his people,
Praise for all his faithful.

All: Let all praise the name of the Lord.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

NEW TESTAMENT

C-1 Romans 8: 31b-35, 37-39

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

If God is for us, who is against us?

He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, will he not also give us all things with him?

Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies; who is to condemn? Is it Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised from the dead, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us?

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

For I am sure that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The word of the Lord.

People's response: Thanks be to God.

C-2 **Short Version - Romans 12: 1-2, 9-13**
Long Version - Romans 12: 1-2, 9-18

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

I appeal to you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may prove what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with brotherly affection; outdo one another in showing honour. Never flag in zeal, be aglow with the Spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in your hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints, practice hospitality

Shorter version ends here

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; never be conceited. Repay no one evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If possible, so far as it depends upon you, live peaceably with all.

The word of the Lord.

People's response: Thanks be to God.

C-3 Romans 1b-3a, 5-7, 13

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves; let each of us please his neighbour for his good, to edify him. For Christ did not please himself; but, as it is written, "The reproaches of those who reproached thee fell on me."

May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, therefore, as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

The word of the Lord.

People's response: Thanks be to God.

C-4 1 Corinthians 6: 13-15, 17-20

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians

"Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food" -- and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is not meant for immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by his power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ?

But he who is united to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. Shun immorality. Every other sin which a man commits is outside the body; but the immoral man sins against his own body. Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God? You are not your own; you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

The word of the Lord.

People's response: Thanks be to God.

C-5 1 Corinthians 12: 31—13:8

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians

But earnestly desire the higher gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way.

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.

And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.

If I give away all I have, and if I deliver my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient and kind; love is not jealous or boastful; it is not arrogant or rude.

Love does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrong, but rejoices in the right.

Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, and endures all things.

Love never ends; as for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away.

The word of the Lord.

People's response: Thanks be to God.

C-6 Ephesians 4: 1-6

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians

I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all lowliness and meekness, with patience, forbearing one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of us all, who is above all and through all and in all.

The word of the Lord.

People's response: Thanks be to God.

C-7	Short version	Ephesians 5: 2, 25-32
	Long version	Ephesians 5: 2, 21-33

Shorter version

And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, that he might present the church to himself in splendour, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.

Even so husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no man ever hates his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, as Christ does the church, because we are members of his body.

"For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh."

This mystery is a profound one, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church, because we are members of his body.

The word of the Lord.

People's response: Thanks be to God.

Longer version

And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Be subject to one another out of reverence for Christ. Wives, be subject to your husbands, as to the Lord.

For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Saviour. As the church is subject to Christ, so let wives also be subject in everything to their husbands.

Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, that he might present the church to himself in splendour, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.

Even so husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no man ever hates his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, as Christ does the church, because we are members of his body.

"For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh."

This mystery is a profound one, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church; however, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband

The word of the Lord.

People's response: Thanks be to God.

C-8 Philippians 4: 4-9

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let all men know your forbearance. The Lord is at hand.

Have no anxiety about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will keep your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, do; and the God of peace will be with you.

The word of the Lord.

People's response: Thanks be to God.

C-9 Colossians 3: 12-17

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Colossians

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, lowliness, meekness, and patience, forbearing one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.

And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful.

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teach and admonish one another in all wisdom, and sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

The word of the Lord.

People's response: Thanks be to God.

C-10 Hebrews 13: 1-4a, 5-6a

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

Let brotherly love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.

Remember those who are in prison, as though in prison with them; and those who are ill-treated, since you also are in the body.

Let marriage be held in honour among all.

Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have; for he has said, "I will never fail you nor forsake you."

Hence we can confidently say, "The Lord is my helper, I will not be afraid; what can man do to me?"

The word of the Lord.

People's response: Thanks be to God.

C-11 1 Peter 3: 1-9

A reading from the first letter of Peter

Likewise you wives, be submissive to your husbands, so that some, though they do not obey the word, may be won without a word by the behaviour of their wives, when they see your reverent and chaste behaviour.

Let not yours be the outward adorning with braiding of hair, decoration of gold, and wearing of fine clothing, but let it be the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable jewel of a gentle and quiet spirit, which in God's sight is very precious.

So once the holy women who hoped in God used to adorn themselves and were submissive to their husbands, as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord. And you are now her children if you do right and let nothing terrify you.

Likewise you husbands, live considerately with your wives, bestowing honour on the woman as the weaker sex, since you are joint heirs of the grace of life, in order that your prayers may not be hindered.

Finally, all of you, have unity of spirit, sympathy, love of the brethren, a tender heart and a humble mind. Do not return evil for evil or reviling for reviling; but on the contrary bless, for to this you have been called, that you may obtain a blessing.

The word of the Lord.

People's response: Thanks be to God.

C-11 1 John 3: 18-24

A reading from the first letter of John

Little children, let us not love in word or speech but in deed and in truth.

By this we shall know that we are of the truth, and reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything.

Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him.

And this is his commandment that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us.

All who keep his commandments abide in him, and he in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit which he has given us.

The word of the Lord.

People's response: Thanks be to God.

C-12 1 John 4: 7 – 12

Beloved, let us love one another; for love is of God, and he who loves is born of God and knows God.

He who does not love does not know God; for God is love.

In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him.

In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the expiation for our sins.

Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

No man has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

The word of the Lord.

People's response: Thanks be to God.

C- 13 Revelation 19: 1, 5-9

A reading from the book of Revelation

After this I heard what seemed to be the loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, crying, "Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God.

And from the throne came a voice crying, "Praise our God, all you his servants, you who fear him, small and great."

Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the sound of many waters and like the sound of mighty thunder peals, crying, "Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns.

Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready; it was granted her to be clothed with fine linen, bright and pure" -- for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.

And the angel said to me, "Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb." And he said to me, "These are true words of God."

The word of the Lord.

People's response: Thanks be to God.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

GOSPEL

D-1 **Matthew 5: 1-12**

A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew

Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down his disciples came to him. And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

"Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

"Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

"Blessed are you when men revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.

Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so men persecuted the prophets who were before you.

The gospel of the Lord.

People's response: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

D-2 Matthew 5: 13-16

A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew

"You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trodden under foot by men.

"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hid. Nor do men light a lamp and put it under a bushel, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

The Gospel of the Lord.

People's response: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

D-3 Matthew 7: 21, 24-29

A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew

"Not every one who says to me, `Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.

Every one then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house upon the rock; and the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat upon that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock.

Short version ends here

And every one who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house upon the sand; and the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell; and great was the fall of it."

And when Jesus finished these sayings, the crowds were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one who had authority, and not as their scribes.

The gospel of the Lord.

People's response: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

D-4 Matthew 19: 3-6

A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew

And Pharisees came up to him and tested him by asking, "Is it lawful to divorce one's wife for any cause?"

He answered, "Have you not read that he who made them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, `For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'?

So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man put asunder."

The gospel of the Lord.

People's response: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

D-5 Matthew 22: 35-40

A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew

And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question, to test him.
"Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?"

And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.
This is the great and first commandment.

And a second is like it, You shall love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the law and the prophets."

The gospel of the Lord.

People's response: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

D-6 Mark 10: 6-9

A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark

But 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 flesh.' So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man put asunder."

The gospel of the Lord.

People's response: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

D-7 John 2: 1-11

A reading from the holy gospel according to John

On the third day there was a marriage at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there; Jesus also was invited to the marriage, with his disciples. When the wine failed, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine."

And Jesus said to her, "O woman, what have you to do with me? My hour has not yet come."

His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."

Now six stone jars were standing there, for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the steward of the feast."

So they took it. When the steward of the feast tasted the water now become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward of the feast called the bridegroom and said to him, "Every man serves the good wine first; and when men have drunk freely, then the poor wine; but you have kept the good wine until now."

This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

The gospel of the Lord.

People's response: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

D-8 John 15: 9-12

A reading from the holy gospel according to John

As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

The gospel of the Lord.

People's response: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

D-9 John 15: 12-16

A reading from the holy gospel according to John

"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide; so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you.

The gospel of the Lord.

People's response: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

D-10 John 17: 20-26

A reading from the holy gospel according to John

"I do not pray for these only, but also for those who believe in me through their word, that they may all be one; even as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.

The glory which thou hast given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, I in them and thou in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that thou hast sent me and hast loved them even as thou hast loved me.

Father, I desire that they also, whom thou hast given me, may be with me where I am, to behold my glory which thou hast given me in thy love for me before the foundation of the world.

O righteous Father, the world has not known thee, but I have known thee; and these know that thou hast sent me. I made known to them thy name, and I will make it known, that the love with which thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them."

The gospel of the Lord.

People's response: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

The marriage ceremony centers around you as bride and groom. But even at this time you cannot become self-centered and forget the needs of others in the world. You may compose your own Prayers of the Faithful (this is the ideal) or use one of the these provided here.

The intentions could be recited by the couple, a parent, relative or friend.

Reader: The response is "Lord, hear our Prayer."

- E-1**
1. For our Holy Father on earth, the Pope, all the bishops and the clergy everywhere that they may lead us to deeper faith in God and a stronger love for others, we pray to you, Lord.
 2. For married persons that they may continue to give, be able to forgive, and find happiness deepen with the passing of each day, we pray to you, Lord.
 3. For _____ and _____, now beginning their life together, that they may have divine assistance at every moment, the constant support of friends, the rich blessing of children, a warm love reaching out to others and good health until a ripe old age, we pray to you, Lord.
 4. For those who are sick, lonely, discouraged or oppressed that they may be strengthened by God's help and aided by their friends, we pray to you, Lord.
 5. For those who have died, especially the relatives and friends of _____ and _____ and of all present for this wedding, that they may enjoy perfect happiness and total fulfilment in eternal life, we pray to you, Lord.
 6. For these personal needs that we mention now in silence...(PAUSE)... we pray to you, Lord.

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- E-2**
1. For leaders of Church and Government, for heads of institutions, for heads of homes and households...that they will lead us and guide us in the search for God and the good life, in the search for peace and joy, in the search for love among us, we pray to the Lord.

2. For all married people: for those who married yesterday, for the new couple _____ and _____, married today, for those who will marry tomorrow...that they may savour the joy of being together, warm love, and children, a long life, wine and friends, and a new day, every day, let us pray to the Lord.
3. For all young single people who look forward to a vocation full of life and full of love, let us pray to the Lord.
4. For the lonely old and the lonely young, for the hungry rich and the hungry poor, for the sick in body, mind and spirit, for the weakness in all of us, let us pray to the Lord.
5. For our relatives and friends who walk with us on life's journey and for those who have gone before us to the other side of life. For the fulfillment of all their unfulfilled desires, let us pray to the Lord.

- E-3**
1. For our Church, to keep the promise of salvation, we pray to the Lord.
 2. For our world, to keep the promise of peace, we pray to the Lord.
 3. For our country, to keep the promise of freedom, we pray to the Lord.
 4. For our parish, to keep the promise of discipleship, we pray to the Lord.
 5. For our hearts, to keep the promise of loving, we pray to the Lord.
 6. For our hands, to keep the promise of giving, we pray to the Lord.
 7. For our lives, to keep the promise of growing, we pray to the Lord.
 8. For this couple, to keep the promise of marriage, we pray to the Lord.

- E-4**
1. For _____ and _____ now united in marriage, and for their salvation, we pray to you, Lord.
 2. That God will make _____ and _____ rejoice in mutual love that is faithful to the end, we pray to you, Lord.
 3. That every day of their lives _____ and _____ may renew their desire to grow in love for each other and the gift they make today of their very selves, we pray to you, Lord.
 4. That _____ and _____ may persevere in love, maintain their resolve to support each other and come together to an ever greater knowledge of God, we pray to you, Lord.

- E-5**
1. That every day of their lives _____ and _____ may renew their desire to grow in love for each other and the gift they make today of their very selves, we pray to you, Lord.
 2. For all who are married in the Lord, that God will help them grow in love and sustain them in their efforts to give of themselves to others, we pray to you, Lord.
 3. For God's holy people, that through this celebration we may grow in our desire to serve and love the world, we pray to you, Lord.
 4. That the world we live in and are called to serve may be enlivened by the presence of God shown forth in the love of men and women, we pray to you, Lord.

For our community, for ourselves, and for each other, that we may accept the challenge placed before us today, and make love our way of life, we pray to you, Lord.

MARRIAGE VOWS

_____, have you come here freely to enter into marriage?

Will you love _____ as your husband for the rest of your life?

_____, have you come here freely to enter into marriage?

Will you love _____ as your wife for the rest of your life?

Children are a gift given by God. If the Father chooses to bless you with children, will you accept them as His gift and bring them up in the practice of the faith?

Now that you have heard their intentions...it is time for all of you to witness their commitment. If you are willing to support this couple in their decision to be married, please stand.

I, _____ take you, _____, to be my wife. I promise to be true to you in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health. I will love you and honour you all the days of my life.

I, _____ take you, _____, to be my husband. I promise to be true to you in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health. I will love you and honour you all the days of my life.