

The Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage

Conducted by *The Rev.*
, MA

at St. John's Church,

Celebrant: Dearly beloved: We have come together in the presence of God to witness and bless the joining together of these men in Holy Matrimony. The union of two who love 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 nurture of children 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.

C: Into this holy union _____ and _____ 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.

C: 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.

C: _____, will you have this man to be your spouse, to live together in the covenant of marriage? Will you love him, comfort him, honor and keep him, in sickness and in health; and forsaking all others, be faithful to him as long as you both shall live?

_____: I will.

C: _____, will you have this man to be your wife; to live together in the covenant of marriage? Will you love him, comfort him, honor and keep him, in sickness and in health; and, forsaking all others, be faithful to him as long as you both shall live?

_____: I will.

C: Will all of you witnessing these promises do all in your power to uphold these two persons in their marriage?

People: We will.

C: Who presents these two people to be married to each other?

_____, _____, and others: We do!

The Readings

Isaiah 43: 1-3, 18-21

Gospel: Matthew 5: 13-17

The Homily

The Marriage

The men, facing each other, takes 's right hand in his and

Paul reads...

Dearest ,

It's been 14 years since we've first said our initial vows to one another. Two cities, two children and many wonderful memories later, I am honored to finally commit legally to you today!

Celebrant reads and Paul repeats...

I, , vow to uphold the trust and commitment of our relationship and vow to stand with you in love and dedication to each other and to our family.

Then they loose their hands, and takes 's right hand in his, and says

Dearest ,

It's been 14 years since we've first said our initial vows to one another. Two cities, two children and many wonderful memories later, I am honored to finally commit legally to you today!

I, , vow to uphold the trust and commitment of our relationship and vow to stand with you in love and dedication to each other and to our family.

They loose their hands.

C: Bless, O God, these rings to be signs of the vows by which these men have bound themselves to each other.

The giver places the ring on the ring-finger of the other's hand and says

, 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 God.

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The Celebrant joints the right hands and says

Now that and 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 married in the Name of God.

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

People: Amen

The Prayers

All standing, the Celebrant says

Let us pray together in the words our Savior taught us.

People and Celebrant:

Our Father, in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today day 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, and the power, and the glory are yours, now and ever. Amen.

C. Let us pray.

Eternal God, creator and preserver of all life: Look with favor upon the world you have made, ad especially upon these men whom you make one flesh in Holy Matrimony. *Amen.*

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. *Amen.*

Grant that their wills may be so knit 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. *Amen.*

Give them grace, when they hurt each other, to recognize and acknowledge their fault, and to seek each other's forgiveness and yours. *Amen.*

Make their life together a sign of God's love to this sometimes difficult world, that unity may overcome estrangement, forgiveness heal guilt, and joy conquer despair. *Amen.*

Continue to bless them with the gift and heritage of their children, and with the grace to bring them up to know you, to love you, and to serve you. *Amen.*

Give them such fulfillment of their mutual affection that they may reach out in love and concern for others. *Amen.*

Grant that all persons who have witnessed these vows may find their lives strengthened and their loyalties confirmed. *Amen.*

Grant that the bonds of our common humanity, by which all people 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. *Amen.*

The Blessing of the Marriage

Most gracious God, we thank you for consecrating the union of those who love. By the power of your Holy Spirit, pour out the abundance of your blessing upon _____ and _____. 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 forever in your heavenly home. *Amen.*

May God bless, preserve, and keep you; may God mercifully with 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. *Amen.*

The Peace

C: May the peace of God be always with you.
People: And also with you.

Hymn 376

The Service continues with the Holy Eucharist on p. . . of the Book of Common Prayer.