

Service of Marriage [HTLC Template]

ENTRANCE

The assembly stands as the ministers and the wedding group enter. Music—hymn, song, psalm, instrumental music—may accompany the entrance.

GREETING

The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other.

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

And also with you.

Sisters and brothers, we are gathered here to celebrate the marriage of [name and name]; to witness the vows they make to one another; to pledge our support and encouragement, to seek God's blessing upon their life together.

Beloved, love is from God. Everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. At the beginning of time, God said that it was not good to be alone and created us to be in relationship with others.

Made in the image of the Triune God, One in Three, and Three in One, Perfect unity in Divine love, we are given the capacity to love and be loved.

Promises made to express mutual love, faithfully throughout our lives are a sign of God's faithfulness and intention for the whole creation.

God blesses those who love one another and promises to be an ever-present source of strength for those who build a life together.

As [name and name] commit their lives to one another, families are joined, friendships are forged and strengthened and a new community of love is formed.

DECLARATION OF INTENTION

The minister addresses the couple in these or similar words, asking each person in turn:

Name, living in the promise of God,
[joined to Christ in baptism,]
will you give yourself to *name* in love and faithfulness?
Will you share your life with *her/him*,
in joy and in sorrow, in health and in sickness,
for richer, for poorer, for better, for worse,
and will you be faithful to *her/him* as long as you both shall live?

Response:

I will.

DECLARATION ADDRESS

Families, friends, and all those gathered here with *name* and *name*, will you support and care for them, sustain and pray for them in times of trouble, give thanks with them in times of joy, honor the bonds of their covenant, and affirm the love of God reflected in their life together?
We will.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept.

Gracious God, you sent your Son Jesus Christ into the world to reveal your love to all people. Enrich *name* and *name* with every good gift, that their life together may show forth your love; and grant that at the last we may all celebrate with Christ the marriage feast that has no end; in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

A solo or hymn may be placed here.

READINGS

The assembly is seated. Two or three scripture readings are proclaimed. When the service includes communion, the last is a reading from the gospels. Responses may include a psalm in response to a reading from the Old Testament, a sung acclamation preceding the reading of the gospel, or other appropriate hymns, songs, and psalms. Suggestions for readings follow:

SERMON

A solo or hymn may be placed here

VOWS

Name and *name* I invite you to declare your vows to one another.

In the presence of God and this community,

I, *name*, take you, *name*, to be my *wife/husband*;

to have and to hold from this day forward,

in joy and in sorrow, in plenty and in want, in sickness and in health,

to love and to cherish, as long as we both shall live.

This is my solemn vow.

GIVING OF RINGS

When rings are to be exchanged, the presiding minister may say this prayer.

Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God of grace, for your love and faithfulness to your people.

May these rings be symbols of the promise *name* and *name* have made with each other; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

The couple may exchange rings with these words

Name, I give you this ring as a symbol of my vow. With all that I am, and all that I have, I honor you, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

ACCLAMATION

The presiding minister addresses the assembly.

Name and *name*, by their promises before God and in the presence of this assembly, have joined themselves to one another as husband and wife. Those whom God has joined together let no one separate.

I present to you [*name and name*], joined together in marriage [*as husband/wife and wife/husband.*]

(The couple may share a kiss of peace)

Amen. Thanks be to God.

The assembly may offer acclamation with applause. A sung acclamation, hymn, or other music may follow.

Other symbols of marriage may be given or used at this time such as a unity candle.

MARRIAGE BLESSING

The couple may kneel. The presiding minister may extend a hand over the couple while praying for God's blessing in the following or similar words.

Most gracious God, we give you thanks for your tender love in sending Jesus Christ to come among us, to be born of a human mother, and to endure the cross for our sake, that we may have abundance of life.

By the power of your Holy Spirit pour out the abundance of your blessing on *name* and *name*. Defend them from every enemy. Lead them into all peace. Let your love be a seal upon their hearts, a mantle about their shoulders, and a crown upon their foreheads.

Bless them so that their lives together may bear witness to your love. 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, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Seeing how greatly God has loved us, let us pray for the whole world.

For the Christian community everywhere that people may see may be the risen body of Christ in the world through the love shown by God's people. Gracious and faithful God hear our prayer.

For all who are joined by bonds of marriage, kinship, and friendship; for the nations, for all those who govern, and for justice and peace throughout the world. Gracious and faithful God hear our prayer.

For those we love easily, and for those with whom we struggle; for those different from us and for those familiar to us, that we will be instruments of God's peace. Gracious and faithful God hear our prayer.

For this couple as they begin a new life together; (include any particularities). Gracious and faithful God hear our prayer.

For those who are lonely, sick, grieving, and those for whom death draws near; for the poor, hungry, homeless, or unemployed, for the victims of violence, hatred, and intolerance. Gracious and faithful God hear our prayer.

For all those who are joined to us in love; for our families, friends, and neighbors, for those separated from us by distance or discord, and giving thanks also for those who have gone before us. Gracious and faithful God hear our prayer.

Creator of all, you make us in your image and likeness and fill us with everlasting life. Hear the prayers of your people and grant to *name* and *name* grace to live in unity and joy all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and praise forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

A service without communion continues as follows.

**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.**

BLESSING

The presiding minister proclaims God's blessing in these words.

God Almighty send you light and truth to keep you all the days of your life. The hand of God protect you; the holy angels accompany you; and the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with you now and forever.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

An assisting minister may send the assembly forth in these or similar words.

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

A hymn may be sung or instrumental music played as the wedding group and the ministers depart.

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