

**THE CELEBRATION OF  
BLESSING OF MARRIAGE**

**FROM THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER**



According to the use of  
THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Parts selected and modified by  
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**INTRODUCTION**

Dearly beloved: We have come together in the presence of God to witness and bless the joining together of this man \_\_\_\_\_ and this woman \_\_\_\_\_ in Holy Matrimony. The bond and covenant of marriage was established by God in creation, and our Lord Jesus Christ adorned this manner of life by his presence and first miracle at a wedding in Cana of Galilee. It signifies to us the mystery of the union between Christ and his Church, and Holy Scripture commends it to be honored among all people.

The union of husband and wife 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 procreation of children and their nurture in the knowledge and love of the Lord. 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.

### **CHARGE**

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.

### **DECLARATION OF CONSENT**

\_\_\_\_\_, will you have this woman \_\_\_\_\_ to be your wife; to live together in the covenant of marriage? Will you love her, comfort her, honor and keep her, in sickness and in health; and, forsaking all others, be faithful to her as long as you both shall live?

\_\_\_\_\_, will you have this man \_\_\_\_\_ to be your husband; 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?

### **THE VOW OF MARRIAGE**

In the Name of God, I, \_\_\_\_\_, take you, \_\_\_\_\_, 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, so long as we both shall live. This is my solemn vow.

In the Name of God, I, \_\_\_\_\_, take you, \_\_\_\_\_, 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 and to cherish, so long as we both shall live. This is my solemn vow.

### **THE BLESSING AND EXCHANGE OF RINGS**

Bless, O Lord, these rings to be a sign of the vows by which this man and this woman have bound themselves to each other; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

\_\_\_\_\_, 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 the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. (Or in the Name of God).

\_\_\_\_\_, 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 the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. (or in the Name of God).

#### **QUESTION OF SUPPORT**

Will all of you witnessing these promises do all in your power to uphold these two persons,

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ in their marriage?

If so, please answer, "We will."

#### **INVOCATION**

O gracious and everliving God, you have created us male and female in your image: Look mercifully upon this man \_\_\_\_\_ and this woman \_\_\_\_\_ who come to you seeking your blessing, and assist them with your grace, that with true fidelity and steadfast love they may honor and keep the promises and vows they make; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

#### **PRAYERS**

Eternal God, creator and preserver of all life, author of salvation, and giver of all grace: Look with favor upon the world you have made, and for which your Son gave his life, and especially upon this man,

\_\_\_\_\_ and this woman, \_\_\_\_\_ whom  
you make one flesh in Holy Matrimony.

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.

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

Make their life together a sign of Christ's love  
to (this sinful and) broken world, that unity may  
overcome estrangement, forgiveness heal guilt, and  
joy conquer despair.

Bestow on them, if it is your will, the gift and  
heritage of children, and the grace to bring them up  
to know you, to love you, and to serve you.

Give them such fulfillment of their mutual  
affection that they may reach out in love and concern  
for others. Grant that all people who have witnessed  
these vows may find their lives strengthened and their  
loyalties confirmed.

Grant that the bonds of our common  
humanity, by which all your children 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; where, O Father, with your  
Son and the Holy Spirit, you live and reign in perfect  
unity, now and for ever. Amen.

#### **LORD'S PRAYER**

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.

### **PRONOUNCEMENT**

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 husband and wife, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

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

### **THE BLESSING OF THE MARRIAGE**

O God, you have so consecrated the covenant of marriage that in it is represented the spiritual unity between Christ and his Church: Send therefore your blessing upon these your servants, that they may so love, honor, and cherish each other in faithfulness and patience, in wisdom and true godliness, that their

home may be a haven of blessing and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

### **THE PASSING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*And also with you.*

### **THE BENEDICTION**

God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit, bless, preserve, and keep you; the Lord mercifully with his 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.

*You may kiss one another!*

**PRESENTATION**

It gives me great pleasure to be the first to  
present to you \_\_\_\_\_ and  
\_\_\_\_\_ as husband and wife.