
Service of Marriage

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Gathering

Entrance
Opening Sentences
Greeting
Prayer of the Day
[Presentation]
Declarations of Intent
Affirmations

Word

Prayer of Illumination
Scripture
Sermon

Marriage

Vows
[Exchange of Rings]
Prayer
Announcement of Marriage
The Peace (This has not been typical in weddings over which I've presided.)

If the Eucharist is not celebrated, the service continues with the Sending.

Eucharist

Invitation to the Lord's Table
Great Thanksgiving
Breaking of the Bread
Communion
Prayer after Communion

Sending

Charge and Blessing

GATHERING

ENTRANCE

The couple may enter while music is played or a hymn is sung. They proceed to a central place to stand with the presider. Family members or presenters may stand with the couple or may be seated nearby.

OPENING SENTENCES

The presider says one of the following, either before or after the entrance:

- | | | |
|----------|---|--------------------|
| 1 | This is the day that the Lord
has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in
it. | <i>Ps. 118:24</i> |
| 2 | God is love,
and those who abide in love
abide in God,
and God abides in them. | <i>1 John 4:16</i> |
| 3 | O give thanks, for the Lord is
good.
God's steadfast love
endures forever. | <i>Ps. 106:1</i> |

GREETING

PRAYER OF THE DAY

[PRESENTATION]

If there is to be a presentation of the couple, the presenters stand with them. The presider says:

Who presents N. and N. as they prepare to make their vows and seek God's blessing upon their marriage? **We do.**

DECLARATIONS OF INTENT

Addressing the couple, the presider asks each person in turn to declare their intent, using one of the following:

1. N., do you desire to enter the covenant of marriage, giving of yourself in every way, with mutual love and respect? **I do.**

1. *If both are baptized, water may be poured into the font. The following may be used, standing by the font:*

N., in your baptism you are claimed by God and called to love as Christ has loved you.

Do you intend to honor this calling through the covenant of marriage? **I do.**

AFFIRMATIONS

The presider may address the families of the couple:

Do you, the families of N. and N., give them your blessing, promise to uphold them in their marriage, and encourage them in their life together? **We do.**

The presider may address the assembly, saying:

Do all of you witnessing these vows promise to uphold N. and N. in their marriage and encourage them in their life together? **We do.**

A hymn, psalm, spiritual song, or anthem may be sung.

The couple and any attendants may be seated.

WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE

One or more scripture passages are read (725–26).

SERMON

After the scriptures are read, a brief sermon may be given.

A hymn, psalm, spiritual song, or other music may follow.

MARRIAGE

VOWS

If the couple has been seated, they may stand and join the presider. They may be accompanied by attendants.

The presider addresses the couple:

N. and N., join your right hands
and make your vows to one another.

The couple join hands. In turn they make their vows using one of the following or similar words:

1. N., you are my beloved,
and I promise,
before God and these witnesses,
to be loving and faithful to you
in plenty and in want;
in joy and in sorrow;
in sickness and in health;
as long as we both shall live.
1. *The presider and the couple may stand by the font. Water may be poured into the font if this has not occurred earlier in the service.*

In the presence of God,

I, N., give myself to you, N., and take you to myself.
I will support and care for you by the grace of God:
in times of sickness, in times of health.
I will hold and cherish you in the love of Christ:
in times of plenty, in times of want.
I will honor and love you with the Spirit's help:
in times of anguish, in times of joy,
forsaking all others, as long as we both shall live.
This is my solemn vow.

EXCHANGE OF RINGS (OR OTHER SYMBOLS)

If rings are to be exchanged, the presider may say to the couple:

What do you bring as the sign of your promise?

When the rings are presented, the presider may say the following prayer:

By your blessing, O God,
may these rings be for N. and N.
symbols of unending love and faithfulness,
and signs of the covenant they have made this day,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The couple may exchange rings, using one of the following or similar words:

1. This ring I give you,
as a sign of our constant faith
and abiding love,
in the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.
1. N., I give you this
ring as a sign of my love,

a pledge of my faithfulness,
and a symbol of the covenant we make this day.

Other ritual acts may be included here.

PRAYER

ANNOUNCEMENT OF MARRIAGE

The presider addresses the congregation:

Before God
and in the presence of this congregation,
N. and N. have made their solemn vows to each other.
They have confirmed their promises by the joining of hands
[and by the giving and receiving of rings].
Therefore, I proclaim that they are now married.

THE PEACE

The couple may share a kiss of peace.

The peace of Christ be with you all. **And also with you.**

The congregation may exchange signs of peace.

*A hymn, psalm, or spiritual song may be sung. If Communion is to be celebrated,
bread and wine may be brought forward at this time.*

*If Communion is not celebrated, the service continues with the charge and
blessing.*

EUCCHARIST

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

GREAT THANKSGIVING

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

COMMUNION

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

SENDING

CHARGE AND BLESSING

The presider addresses the couple, using one or both of the following:

1 As God's own, *Col. 3:12–14*
clothe yourselves with compassion,
kindness, and patience,
forgiving each other
as the Lord has forgiven you,
and crown all these things with love,
which binds everything together in
perfect harmony.
Amen. *or* Thanks be to God.

2 Whatever you do, in word or deed, *Col. 3:17*
do everything in the name of the Lord
Jesus,
giving thanks to God through him.
Amen. *or* Thanks be to God.

The presider asks God's blessing upon the couple and the congregation, using one of the following:

1 The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord be kind and gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor
and give you peace. **Alleluia!** *or* **Amen.**

Num. 6:24–26

2 The grace of Christ be with you,
the love of God surround you,
the Holy Spirit keep you,
that you may live in faith,
abound in hope,
and grow in love,
both now and forevermore. **Alleluia!** *or*
Amen.

A psalm, hymn, spiritual, or anthem may be sung, or instrumental music may be played, as the wedding party leaves.