

# The Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage 1

## The Gathering of the Community

*The people stand. The couple stand before the celebrant.*

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

**People** **And also with you.**

**Celebrant** Dear Friends: We have come together in the presence of God to witness and bless the marriage of N and N and to rejoice with them. The joining of two people in a life of mutual fidelity signifies to us the mystery of the union between Christ and his Church.

The union of two people 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 for the blessing of the procreation, care and upbringing of children].

In marriage two people are linked to each other's families, and they begin a new life together in the community. It is a way of life that all should reverence, and none should lightly undertake it.

Into this holy union N N and N N now come to be joined.

If anyone present knows a reason why they may not lawfully be married, they must declare it now.

*Then the Celebrant says to the persons to be married*

N and N, if either of you knows a reason why you may not be lawfully married, you must declare it now.

*The Celebrant then says to the people*

**People** The Lord be with you.

**People** **And also with you.**

**Celebrant** Let us pray.

O gracious and everliving God, you have created humankind in your image: Look mercifully upon N and N who come to you seeking your blessing, and assist them with your grace, that with true fidelity and steadfast love they may honour and keep the promises and vows they make; through Jesus Christ our Saviour, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

**Or**

Holy and everliving God,  
you have taught us through your Son  
that love is the fulfilling of the law.  
Grant to these your servants

that loving one another  
they may continue in your love  
until their lives' end;  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People        **Amen.**

## The Proclamation of the Word

*Two or three readings are normally read. If Holy Communion is celebrated, then a Gospel reading must be included. Members of the family and friends of the couple may read the lessons. It is appropriate to respond to a reading with a psalm, canticle, hymn, anthem, instrumental music or silence. When a Biblical passage other than one from the Gospels is to be read, the Reader announces it with these words*

Reader        A Reading from \_\_\_\_.

*After the Reading, the Reader may say*

                  The Word of the Lord.  
                  or        Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

People        **Thanks be to God.**

*When a passage from the Gospel is to be read, all stand, and the Deacon or Priest appointed says*

                  The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to \_\_\_\_\_.  
People        **Glorify to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

*After the Gospel, the Reader says*

                  The Gospel of the Lord.  
People        **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

*A homily or other response to the Readings may follow.*

## The Marriage

*The people stand. The celebrant says to one member of the couple, then to the other*

                  N, will you have this woman/man/person to be your wife/husband/spouse; to live  
                  together in the covenant of marriage? Will you love her/him/them, comfort  
                  her/him/them, honour and keep her/him/them, in sickness and in health; and,  
                  forsaking all others, be faithful to her/him/them as long as you both shall live?  
Answer        I will.

*The celebrant may address the following question to the families of the couple.*

Do you, members of the families of N. and N., give your blessing to this marriage?

Answer        We do.

*The celebrant addresses the following to all present.*

You are the witnesses to these vows now being made. Will you do all in your power to support and uphold this marriage?

**Answer** We will.

*The couple face each other and join hands. Repeating after the celebrant they each say to the other*

In the Name of God, I, N, take you, N, to be my wife/husband/spouse,  
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, for  
the rest of our lives.  
This is my solemn vow.

*The couple loose hands. The celebrant receives the rings and addresses the congregation in these words.*

Dear friends in Christ.  
Let us ask God to bless these rings,  
That they may be a symbol of the vow and covenant  
N and N have made this day.

*The celebrant may ask God's blessing on the rings as follows*

Blessed are you,  
God of steadfast love.  
Source of our joy and the end of our hope.  
Bless these rings given and received  
that they may be symbols of the vow and covenant  
N and N have made this day,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**People** Amen.

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

N, I give you this ring as a symbol of my vow,  
and with all that I am, and all that I have, I honour  
you, in the Name of the Father, and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit [or in the Name of God].

*Then the Celebrant joins the right hands of the couple and says*

Now that N and N have given themselves to each other by solemn vows,  
with the joining of hands and the giving and receiving of rings,  
I declare that they are wed to one another,  
in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

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

*The register may be signed at this time or at the end of the service.*

## The Prayers of the People

*The Prayers of the People may be led by a friend or a family member of the couple or by the celebrant or another minister. If Communion is to follow, the Lord's Prayer may be omitted.*

*Leader* Let us pray.

Almighty God, in whom we live and move and have our being, look graciously upon the world which you have made and for which your Son gave his life, and especially on all whom you make to be one flesh in holy marriage. May their lives together be a sacrament of your love to this broken world, so that unity may overcome estrangement, forgiveness heal guilt, and joy overcome despair.

Lord, in your mercy,

*People* **Hear our prayer.**

*Leader* May N and N so live together that the strength of their love may enrich our common life and become a sign of your faithfulness.

Lord, in your mercy,

*People* **Hear our prayer.**

[*Leader* May they receive the gift and heritage of children and the grace to bring them up to know and love you.

Lord, in your mercy,

*People* **Hear our prayer.]**

*Leader* May their home be a place of truth, security, and love; and their lives an example of concern for others.

Lord, in your mercy,

*People* **Hear our prayer.**

*Leader* May those who have witnessed these vows find their lives strengthened and their loyalties confirmed.

Lord, in your mercy,

*People* **Hear our prayer.**

*Other suitable prayers may be used.*

## The Lord's Prayer

**Celebrant** Gathering our prayers and praises into one, let us pray as our Saviour taught us,  
**All** **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.**

**Or**

**Celebrant** And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,  
**All** **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,**  
**the power, and the glory,**  
**for ever and ever. Amen.**

## The Blessing of the Marriage

*The People remain standing. The couple kneel, and the celebrant says one of the following prayers*

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 make the way of the cross to be the way of life. We thank you, also, for consecrating the union of two people in his Name. By the power of your Holy Spirit, pour out the abundance of your blessing upon N. and N. 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 for ever in your heavenly home; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever.

**People** **Amen.**

Or

**Celebrant** 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, honour, 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.

**People** **Amen.**

*The couple still kneeling, the celebrant adds this blessing*

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 have life everlasting.

**People** **Amen.**

## The Peace

*The Celebrant may say to the People*

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**People** **And also with you.**

*The newly married couple then greet each other, after which greetings may be exchanged throughout the congregation.*

*When the Eucharist is not celebrated, the Celebrant blesses the people. The Deacon, or in the absence of a Deacon, the Priest, dismisses them.*

*A hymn, psalm, or anthem may be sung, or instrumental music may be played.*

## At the Eucharist

*The bread and wine may be presented to the celebrant by the newly married couple. When the gifts have been prepared, the celebrant may say the Prayer over the Gifts as follows.*

God of the covenant, hear our prayer,  
and accept all we offer you this day.  
You have made N and N one  
in the sacrament of marriage.  
May the mystery of Christ's unselfish love,  
which we celebrate in this Eucharist,  
increase their love for you and for each other;  
through Christ our Lord.

**People** **Amen.**

*The following proper preface may be said*

Because in the marriage of two people in faithful love  
you reveal the joy and abundant life you share  
with your Son Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit.  
Therefore we raise our voices,  
with all who have served you in every age,  
to proclaim the glory of your name.

*Or*

*of the Season*

*At the Communion, it is appropriate that the newly married couple receive Communion first.*

*In place of the usual prayer after communion, the following is said*

Gracious God, may N and N, who have been bound together  
in these holy mysteries,  
become one in heart and soul.  
May they live in fidelity and peace  
and obtain those eternal joys  
prepared for all who love you; through your Son, Jesus Christ the Lord.

*People*      **Amen.**

*Or*

God, the giver of all that is true and lovely and gracious:  
We give you thanks for binding us together  
in these holy mysteries of the Body and Blood  
of your Son Jesus Christ.  
Grant that by your Holy Spirit,  
N and N, now joined in marriage  
may become one in heart and soul,  
live in fidelity and peace,  
and obtain those eternal joys prepared for all who love you;  
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

*People*      **Amen.**

*The Deacon, or in the absence of a Deacon, the Priest, dismisses them.*

*As the wedding party leaves the church, a hymn, psalm, or anthem may be sung, or instrumental music may be played*

# The Witnessing and Blessing of a Marriage 2

## Concerning the Service

*As indicated in the opening address, the consent, and the blessing of the rings, the rite may be modified for use with a couple who have previously made a lifelong commitment to one another.*

## The Gathering of the Community

*The couple joins the assembly.*

*A hymn of praise, psalm, or anthem may be sung, or instrumental music may be played.*

*The Presider says the following, the People standing*

*Presider* Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.  
*People* **Blessed be God, now and forever. Amen.**

*In place of the above may be said*

*Presider* Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.  
*People* **Glory to God for ever and ever.**

*From Easter Day through the Day of Pentecost*

*Presider* Alleluia. Christ is risen.  
*People* **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

*In place of the above may be said*

*Presider* Alleluia. Christ is risen.  
*People* **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

*Then may be said*

*Presider* Beloved, let us love one another,  
*People* **for love is of God.**  
*Presider* Whoever does not love does not know God,  
*People* **for God is love.**  
*Presider* Since God so loves us,  
*People* **let us love one another.**

*The Presider addresses the assembly in these words*

Dear friends in Christ,  
in the name of God and the Church  
we have come together today with N. N. and N. N.,  
to witness the vows they make,  
committing themselves to one  
another in marriage.  
Forsaking all others,  
they will bind themselves to one another  
in a covenant of mutual fidelity and steadfast love,



remaining true to one another in heart, body, and mind, as long as they both shall live.

The lifelong commitment of marriage is not to be entered into lightly, but responsibly and with reverence.

If anyone present knows a reason why they may not lawfully be married, they must declare it now.

*Then the Celebrant says to the persons to be married*

N and N, if either of you knows a reason why you may not be lawfully married, you must declare it now.

Let us pray, then, that God will give them the strength to remain steadfast in what they vow this day.

Let us also pray for ourselves, that we be given the generosity to support them in the commitment they undertake.

*Or this, for those who have previously made a lifelong commitment to one another*

Dear friends in Christ,  
in the name of God and the Church  
we have come together today with N. N. and N. N.  
to witness the sacred vows they make this  
day and reaffirm their commitment to one  
another.

Forsaking all others,  
they will renew their covenant of mutual fidelity and steadfast  
love, remaining true to one another in heart, body, and mind,  
as long as they both shall live.

Let us pray, then, that God will give them the  
strength to remain steadfast in what they vow this  
day.

Let us also pray for ourselves, that we be given the generosity  
to support them in the commitment they undertake,

## The Collect of the Day

*Presider* The Lord be with you. *or* God be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Presider* Let us pray.

*The Presider prays one of the following Collects*

God of abundance:  
assist by your grace N. and N.,  
whose covenant of love and fidelity we witness this day.  
Grant them your protection, that with firm resolve  
they may honour and keep the vows they make;  
through Jesus Christ our Saviour,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God,  
for ever and ever.  
**Amen.**

*Or*

Almighty and everliving God: look  
tenderly upon N. and N.,  
who stand before you in the company of your Church.  
Let their life together bring them great joy.  
Grant them so to love selflessly and live humbly, that  
they may be to one another and to the world  
a witness and a sign of your never-failing love and care;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, to the ages of age.  
**Amen.**

*Or*

O God, faithful and true,  
whose steadfast love endures forever:  
we give you thanks for sustaining N. and N. in the life they share  
and for bringing them to this day.  
Nurture them and fill them with joy in their life  
together, continuing the good work you have begun in  
them; and grant us, with them, a dwelling place eternal  
in the heavens where all your people will share the joy  
of perfect love, and where you, with the Son and the  
Holy Spirit, live and reign, one God, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

*Or this, for those who bring children*

Holy Trinity, one God,  
three Persons perfect in unity and equal in majesty:  
Draw together with bonds of love and affection  
N. and N., who with their families  
seek to live in harmony and forbearance all their  
days, that their joining together will be to us  
a reflection of that perfect communion  
which is your very essence and life,  
O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
who live and reign in glory everlasting.  
**Amen.**

## The Lessons

*Two or three readings are normally read. If Holy Communion is celebrated, then a Gospel reading must be included. Members of the family and friends of the couple may read the lessons. It is appropriate to respond to a reading with a psalm, canticle, hymn, anthem, instrumental music or silence. When a Biblical passage other than one from the Gospels is to be read, the Reader announces it with these words*

**Reader** A Reading from\_\_\_\_\_.

*After the Reading, the Reader may say*

The Word of the Lord.  
or Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

**People** **Thanks be to God.**

*All standing, the Deacon or Priest reads the Gospel, first saying*

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to\_\_\_\_\_  
or The Holy Gospel of our Saviour Jesus Christ according to\_\_\_\_\_.

**People** **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

*After the Gospel, the Reader says*

The Gospel of the Lord.  
**People** **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

## The Sermon

## The Witnessing of the Vows and the Blessing of the Covenant

*The couple comes before the assembly. If there is to be a presentation, the presenters stand with the couple, and the Presider says to them*

**Presider** Who presents N. and N., as they seek the blessing of God and the Church on their love and life together?

**Presenters** We do.

**Presider** Will you love, respect, and pray for N. and N., and do all in your power to stand with them in the life they will share?

**Presenters** We will.

*The Presider then addresses the couple, saying*

N. and N., you have come before God and the Church to exchange *and* renew solemn vows with one another and to ask God's blessing.

*The Presider addresses one member of the couple, saying*

**Presider** N., do you freely and unreservedly offer yourself to N.?

**Answer** I do.

**Presider** Will you *continue* to live together in faithfulness and holiness of life as long as you both shall live?

**Answer** I will, with God's help.

*The Presider addresses the other member of the couple, saying*

**Presider** N., do you freely and unreservedly offer yourself to N.?

*Answer* I do.

*Presider* Will you continue to live together in faithfulness and holiness of life as long as you both shall live?

*Answer* I will, with God's help.

*The assembly stands, the couple faces the People, and the Presider addresses them, saying*

*Presider* Will all of you gathered to witness these vows do all in your power to uphold and honour this couple in the covenant they make?

*People* **We will.**

*Presider* Will you pray for them, especially in times of trouble, and celebrate with them in times of joy?

*People* **We will.**

## The Prayers

*The Presider then introduces the prayers*

*Presider* Let us pray for N. and N. in their life together and for the concerns of this community.

*A leader or a deacon bids prayer for the couple.*

*Prayers for the Church and for the world, for the concerns of the local community, for those who suffer or face trouble, and for the departed are also appropriate. If the rite takes place in the principal Sunday worship of the congregation, the rubric concerning the Prayers of the People on page 190 of the Book of Alternative Services is followed.*

*Adaptations or insertions may be made to the form that follows. A bar in the margin indicates a bidding that may be omitted.*

*Leader* For N. and N., seeking your blessing and the blessing of your holy people;  
Loving God, *or* Lord, in your mercy,

*People* **Hear our prayer.**

*Leader* For a spirit of loving-kindness to shelter them all their days;  
Loving God, *or* Lord, in your mercy,

*People* **Hear our prayer.**

*Leader* For friends to support them and communities to enfold them;  
Loving God, *or* Lord, in your mercy,

*People* **Hear our prayer.**

*Leader* For peace in their home and love in their family;  
Loving God, *or* Lord, in your mercy,

*People* **Hear our prayer.**

*[Leader* For the grace and wisdom to care for the children you entrust to them [*or may entrust to them*];

Loving God, *or* Lord, in your mercy,

*People* **Hear our prayer.]**

*Leader* For the honesty to acknowledge when they hurt each other, and the humility to seek each other's forgiveness and yours;

Loving God, *or* Lord, in your mercy,

*People* **Hear our prayer.**

*Leader* For the outpouring of your love through their work and witness;  
Loving God, *or* Lord, in your mercy,

*People* **Hear our prayer.**

*Leader* For the strength to keep the vows each of us has made;  
Loving God, *or* Lord, in your mercy,

*People* **Hear our prayer.**

*The leader may add one or more of the following biddings*

*Leader* For all who have been reborn and made new in the waters of Baptism;  
Loving God, *or* Lord, in your mercy,

*People* **Hear our prayer.**

*Leader* For those who lead and serve in communities of faith;  
Loving God, *or* Lord, in your mercy,

*People* **Hear our prayer.**

*Leader* For those who seek justice, peace, and concord among nations;  
Loving God, *or* Lord, in your mercy,

*People* **Hear our prayer.**

*Leader* For those who are sick or suffering, homeless or poor;  
Loving God, *or* Lord, in your mercy,

*People* **Hear our prayer.**

*Leader* For victims of violence and those who inflict it;  
Loving God, *or* Lord, in your mercy,

*People* **Hear our prayer.**

*Leader* For communion with all who have died [especially those whom we remember  
this day: \_\_\_\_\_];  
Loving God, *or* Lord, in your mercy,

*People* **Hear our prayer.**

*The Presider concludes the Prayers with the following or another appropriate Collect*

Giver of every gift, source of all goodness,  
hear the prayers we bring before you for N. and N., who seek  
your blessing this day.  
Strengthen them as they share in the saving work of Jesus, and bring  
about for them and for all you have created  
the fullness of life he promised,  
who now lives and reigns for ever and ever.  
**Amen.**

*If the Eucharist is to follow, the Lord's Prayer is omitted here.*

*Leader* Gathering our prayers and praises into one, let us pray as our Saviour Christ has taught us,  
*All* **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 for ever. Amen.**

*Or*

*Leader* As our Saviour taught us, let us pray.  
*All* **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,  
the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen**

## **The Marriage**

*The People sit. The couple stands, facing the Presider.*

*Presider* N. and N., I invite you now, illumined by the Word of God and strengthened by the prayer of this community, to make your covenant before God and the Church.

*Each member of the couple, in turn, takes the hand of the other and says*

In the name 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 honour 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.

*If rings are to be exchanged, they are brought before the Presider, who prays using the following words*

Let us pray.

Bless, O God, these rings  
as signs of the enduring covenant  
N. and N. have made with each  
other, through Jesus Christ our  
Lord. **Amen.**

*The two people place the rings on the fingers of one another, first the one, then the other, saying*

N., I give you this ring as a symbol of my vow,  
and with all that I am, and all that I have, I honour you,  
in the name of God or (in the name of the Father, and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit).

*If the two have previously given and worn rings as a symbol of their commitment, the rings may be blessed on the hands of the couple, the Presider saying*

Let us pray.

By the rings which they have worn, faithful God,  
N. and N. have shown to one another and the world  
their love and faithfulness. Bless now these rings,  
that from this day forward they may be signs of the  
vows N. and N. have exchanged in your presence  
and in the communion of your Church, through  
Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*The Presider joins the right hands of the couple and says*

Now that N. and N. have exchanged vows of love and fidelity  
in the presence of God and the Church,  
I declare that they are married  
and bound to one another  
as long as they both shall live.

**People** **Amen.**

## **Blessing of the Couple**

*As the couple stands or kneels, the Presider invokes God's blessing upon them, saying*

Let us pray.

Most gracious God,  
we praise you for the tender mercy and unfailing  
care revealed to us in Jesus the Christ  
and for the great joy and comfort bestowed upon  
us in the gift of human love.  
We give you thanks for N. and N.,  
and the covenant of faithfulness they have made.  
Pour out the abundance of your Holy Spirit upon them.  
Keep them in your steadfast love;  
protect them from all danger;  
fill them with your wisdom and peace;  
lead them in holy service to each other and the world

*The Presider continues with one of the following*

God the Father,  
God the Son,  
God the Holy Spirit,  
bless, preserve, and keep you  
and mercifully grant you rich and boundless grace,  
that you may please God in body and soul.  
God make you a sign of the loving-kindness and steadfast fidelity  
manifest in the life, death, and resurrection of our Saviour,  
and bring you at last to the delight of the heavenly banquet,  
where he lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

*Or*

God, the holy and undivided Trinity, bless, preserve, and keep you,  
and mercifully grant you rich and boundless grace,  
that you may please God in body and soul.  
God make you a sign of the loving-kindness and steadfast fidelity  
manifest in the life, death, and resurrection of our Saviour,  
and bring you at last to the delight of the heavenly banquet,  
where he lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## **The Peace**

*Presider* The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
*People* **And also with you.**

*In place of the above may be said*

*Presider* The peace of Christ be always with you.  
*People* **And also with you.**

*The liturgy continues with the Holy Communion. When the Eucharist is not celebrated, the Presider blesses the people. The Deacon, or in the absence of a Deacon, the Priest, dismisses them. As the wedding party leaves the church, a hymn, psalm, or anthem may be sung, or instrumental music may be played*

## **At the Eucharist**

*The liturgy continues with the Offertory, at which the couple may present the offerings of bread and wine. The following proper preface may be said*

Because in the giving of two people to each other in faithful love  
you reveal the joy and abundant life you share  
with your Son Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit.  
Therefore we raise our voices,  
with all who have served you in every age,  
to proclaim the glory of your name.



*The following prayer after communion may be said*

God our strength and joy,  
we thank you for the communion of our life together,  
for the example of holy love that you give us in N. and N.,  
and for the Sacrament of the Body and Blood  
of our Saviour Jesus Christ.  
Grant that it may renew our hope  
and nourish us for the work you set before us  
to witness to the presence of Christ in the world,  
through the power of your Spirit,  
and to the glory of your Name. **Amen.**

# Readings for the Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage 1 and 2

## ***Readings from the Hebrew Scriptures***

Ruth 1:16–17  
1 Samuel 18:1b, 3; 20:16–17; 42a;  
or 1 Samuel 18:1–4

Ecclesiastes 4:9–12  
Song of Solomon 2:10–13; 8:6–7  
Micah 4:1–4

## **Selections from the Psalms**

*Psalm 65, Psalm 67, Psalm 85:7–13, Psalm 98, Psalm 100, Psalm 126, Psalm 127, Psalm 133, Psalm 148, and Psalm 149:1–5.*

## **Readings from the New Testament Epistles**

Romans 12:9–18  
1 Corinthians 12:31b–13:13  
2 Corinthians 5:17–20  
Galatians 5:14, 22–26

Ephesians 3:14–21  
Colossians 3:12–17  
1 John 3:18–24  
1 John 4:7–16, 21

## ***Readings from the Gospels***

Matthew 5:1–16  
Mark 12:28–34  
Luke 6:32–38

John 15:9–17  
John 17:1–2, 18–26

## **A Note on these Liturgies**

*These liturgies are authorized by the Bishop of the Diocese of New Westminster for use when conducted in churches that concur with the hosting of the marriages of same-sex couples and when the couple have satisfied all the requirements that any couple must satisfy in order to be married in the Anglican Church of Canada.*

*Both liturgies draw on the good work done in The Episcopal Church USA on marriage rites for trial use in preparation for their 2018 General Convention. Modifications made to those rites are related to differences in spelling, the order of some liturgical elements in The Book of Alternative Services marriage rite and in specific prayers that occur in The Book of Alternative Services that seemed appropriate to include.*

For the portions drawn from *The Book of Alternative Services of the Anglican Church of Canada*:

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For the portions drawn from *Liturgical Resources 2 As presented to the 79<sup>th</sup> General Convention, 2018* acknowledgement is given to the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music of The Episcopal Church, USA.