



Evangelical Lutheran Worship **Renewal of Marriage Vows and** **Affirmation of a Marriage**

Affirmation of a Marriage may be used in a variety of settings to celebrate a wedding anniversary, to mark a significant life passage within the marriage, or to bless a marriage that has already taken place.

Marriage is a gift of God, intended for the joy and mutual strength of those who enter it and for the well-being of the whole human family. God created us male and female and blessed humankind with the gifts of companionship, the capacity to love, and the care and nurture of children. Jesus affirmed the covenant of marriage and revealed God's own self-giving love on the cross. The Holy Spirit helps those who are united in marriage to be living signs of God's grace, love, and faithfulness.

Marriage is also a human estate, with vows publicly witnessed. The church in worship surrounds these promises with the gathering of God's people, the witness of the word of God, and prayers of blessing and intercession.

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GATHERING AND ENTRANCE

GREETING

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.

INTRODUCTION

OPTION A: Dear friends

Dear friends: We have come together in the presence of God to give thanks for the marriage of *name* and *name*, to surround them with our prayers, and to share in their joy.

The Lord God in goodness created us male and female, and by the gift of marriage founded human community in a joy that begins now and is brought to perfection in the life to come.

Because of sin, our age-old rebellion, the gladness of marriage can be overcast and the gift of a family can become a burden. But because God, who established marriage, continues still to bless it with abundant and ever-present support, we can be sustained in our weariness and have our joy restored.

Name and Name, today you vow to renew your intention to share with each other your joys and sorrows, all that the years will bring, and your everlasting covenant with each other as husband and wife.

OPTION B: By Your Presence

By your presence here on this day, those of you who assemble at this celebration show your love and support for this couple. As the two of them share their promises with one another and renew their married life together, you are encouraged to continue to share your words of support and encouragement and acts of kindness and genuine Christian love.

In his letter to the church members at Colossae, the Apostle Paul defines the necessary elements of living together in Christian community to include compassion, kindness, lowliness, meekness, patience, forbearance, forgiveness, love and peace. These elements are gifts given to us by Christ himself.

Today we pray that these gifts remain central to *name* and *name* as they continue to grow in Christian love with God, God's people and with one another.

DECLARATION OF INTENTION

OPTION A: Will You Recommit

Name, will you recommit to hold *name* dear to you as your wife/husband, to continue your covenant of marriage?

Will you love her/him, comfort her/him, honor and keep her/him in sickness and in health and, forsaking all others, be faithful to her/him as long as you both shall live?

Response:

I will.

OPTION B: Will You Recieve

Name, will you receive again *name* as your wife/husband and continue to bind yourself to *her/him* in the covenant of marriage?

Will you promise

to love and honor *her/him* in true devotion,

to rejoice with *her/him* in times of gladness,

to grieve with *her/him* in times of sorrow,

and to be faithful to *her/him* as long as you both shall live?

Response:

I will.

OPTION C: Living in the promise of God

Name, living in the promise of God,

[joined to Christ in baptism,]

will you again give yourself to *name* in love and faithfulness?

Will you continue to 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

OPTION A: Will All of You

Will all of you, by God's grace, uphold and care for *name* and *name* in their life together?

We will.

OPTION B: Families, Friends

Families, friends, and all those gathered here with *name* and *name*, will you continue to 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.

OPTION A: Gracious God

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 continue to 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.

OPTION B: Eternal God

Eternal God, our creator and redeemer, we thank you for providing *name* and *name* these *number of years* together. Grant that they, abiding in your love and faithfulness, may continue to share with one another their joys and sorrows and all that the years will bring; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

OPTION C: As You Blessed

Eternal God, our creator and redeemer, as you blessed the wedding at Cana in Galilee by the presence of your Son, so by his presence continue to bring your joy to this union. Look with favor upon *name* and *name* and grant that they, rejoicing in all your gifts, may at one day celebrate with Christ the marriage feast which has no end.

Amen.

READINGS

(Last page of this booklet) – *One or two scripture readings are proclaimed. The presiding minister will choose the gospel for the day, taking preferences into consideration.*

SERMON

HYMN

AFFIRMATION OF VOWS

Name and name, I invite you to affirm your vows to one another as husband and wife.

OPTION A: In the Presence

In the presence of God *and this community*,
I affirm my vow to you, *name*.

With thanksgiving, I promise to share with you
all that is still to come
and to be faithful to you until death parts us.

OPTION B: I Recommit

I *name* recommit my love to you *name*
As my wife/husband, today and always, as long as I live.
I will be with you in times of joy and suffering,
wealth and poverty;
I will love you and honor you,
according to God's gracious will.

GIVING OF RINGS

The ring is a symbol of perfection. It is without beginning and it is without end. It also communicates a sense of equality since every point is equidistant from the center. We know, however, that perfect love comes only from God. We pray, therefore, that God will continue to bless this marriage with the perfect love of Christ.

With the exchange of rings xxx & xxx express their wedded love for one another and recommit their promises to be faithful to each other.

Name and *name*, receive this ring once again as a sign of my love and faithfulness.

ACCLAMATION

OPTION A: Affirm and Give Thanks

Name and *name*, in the presence of God and this assembly, affirm and give thanks for their life together as husband and wife. Those whom God has joined together let no one separate.

Amen. Thanks be to God.

OPTION B: By Their Promises

Name and *name*, by their promises before God and in the presence of this assembly, have renewed their vows with each other as husband and wife. Those whom God has joined together let no one separate.

The Lord God who created our first parents and established them in marriage, establish and sustain you, that you may find delight in each other and grow in holy love until your life's end. **Amen.**

MARRIAGE BLESSING

Let us pray.

OPTION A: Most Gracious God

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

By the power of your Holy Spirit continue to 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.

OPTION B: Lord God

Lord God, constant in mercy, great in faithfulness: with high praise we recall your acts of unending love for the human family, for the house of Israel, and for you people the Church.

We bless you for the joy which your servants, *name* and *name*, share with each other, and pray that you give to us such a sense of your constant love that we may employ all our strength in a life of praise of you, whose work alone holds true and endures

forever.

Faithful Lord, source of love, pour down your grace upon *name* and *name*, that they may fulfill their wedded vows and reflect your steadfast love in their life-long faithfulness to each other.

As members with them of the Body of Christ, use us to support their life together; and from your great store of strength give them power and patience, affection and understanding, courage, and love toward you, toward each other, and toward the world, that they may continue together in mutual growth according to your will in Jesus Christ our Lord. We pray especially you would shower joy, peace, happiness, safety and wisdom upon *name* and *name*, their family and friends so that all may enjoy the life you have given and the love you share with us and the world.

Gracious Father, you bless the family and renew your people. Enrich husbands and wives, parents and children more and more with your grace, that, strengthening and supporting each other, they may serve those in need and be a sign of the fulfillment of your perfect kingdom where, with your Son Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit, you live and reign, one God through all ages of ages.
Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

For the Christian community everywhere;
for the life and ministry of the baptized,
and for all servants of the gospel,
that the church may be the risen body of Christ in the world.
Gracious and faithful God, **hear our prayer.**

For all who are joined by bonds of marriage, kinship, and
friendship,
and for communities everywhere;
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 might be instruments of God's peace.
Gracious and faithful God, **hear our prayer.**

For those who suffer in any way,
and those who are lonely,
for the sick, the dying, and those who are bereaved,
for those who are 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
(especially *name/s*).

Gracious and faithful God, **hear our prayer.**

Other intercessions may be added.

The presiding minister concludes the prayers.

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.

A service with Holy Communion continues with the peace.

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

A service without Holy Communion continues with the Lord's Prayer followed by the Blessing.

HOLY COMMUNION

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You made us in your image;
male and female you created us.

You give us the gift of marriage
and call us to reflect your faithfulness
as we serve one another in the bond of covenant love.

DISTRIBUTION

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Loving God,
we thank you that you have fed us in this holy meal,
united us with Christ,
and given us a foretaste of the heavenly banquet.

So strengthen us in your service
that our daily lives may show our thanks,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

BLESSING

OPTION A: The blessed and holy Trinity

The blessed and holy Trinity make you strong in faith and love, defend you on every side, and guide you in truth and peace, now and forever.

Amen.

OPTION B: God almighty send you light and truth

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.

OPTION C: The Lord Bless and Keep

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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SCRIPTURE READING SUGGESTIONS

As you prepare for your wedding please select passages from scripture which communicate something special to you that you would like conveyed during worship. The following represents a sample of possibilities.

Please read through them and select one from each section. You are encouraged to ask someone to read each of the selected readings. The presiding minister will select a gospel reading to accompany the other two.

Old Testament Readings

Genesis 1:26-28
Genesis 2:18-24
Ruth 1:16-18
Psalm 33
Psalm 67
Psalm 100
Psalm 117
Psalm 121
Psalm 127
Psalm 128
Psalm 136
Psalm 150
Proverbs 3:3-6
Proverbs 31:10-31
Song of Solomon 2:8-12
Song of Solomon 8:6-7
Isaiah 61:10-11
Isaiah 63:7-9
Jeremiah 31:31-34

New Testament Readings

Romans 8:31-35, 37-39
Romans 12:1-2, 9-18
I Corinthians 6:13-20
I Corinthians 12:31-13:13
Ephesians 3:14-19
Ephesians 5:21-33
Philippians 4:7-12
Philippians 4:4-9
Colossians 3:12-19
I Peter 3:1-9
I John 3:18-24
I John 4:7-12

WORSHIP LITURGY PREFERENCES

Names _____

Date of Affirmation and Renewal _____

Presiding Minister _____

INTRODUCTION

- A: Dear friends
- B: By Your Presence

DECLARATION OF INTENTION

- A: Will You Recommit
- B: Will You Receive
- C: Living in the promises of God

DECLARATION ADDRESS

- A: Will all of you
- B: Families, Friends

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- A: Gracious God
- B: Eternal God
- C: As You Blessed

AFFIRMATION OF VOWS

- A: In the Presence
- B: I recommit
- C: Other (In conversation with Pastor/Please Attach)

ACCLAMATION

- Affirm and Give Thanks
- By Their Promises

MARRIAGE BLESSING

- A: Most Gracious God
- B: Lord God

HOLY COMMUNION

- Yes
- No

BLESSING

- A: The blessed and holy Trinity
- B: God almighty send you light and truth
- C: The Lord Bless and Keep

OLD TESTAMENT READING

NEW TESTAMENT READING
