



## Evangelical Lutheran Worship Marriage

*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 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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## ENTRANCE

## GREETING

In the name of the Father, and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit.  
Amen

## INTRODUCTION

### ***OPTION A: Dear friends***

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

The scriptures teach us that the bond and covenant of marriage is a gift of God in which a man and a woman are joined as one, an image of the union of Christ and the church. As *name* and *name* make their promises to each other today, we remember that at Cana in Galilee our Lord Jesus Christ made the wedding feast a sign of God's reign of love.

Let us enter into this celebration confident that, through the Holy Spirit, Christ is present with us now also. We pray that this couple may fulfill God's purpose for the whole of their lives.

***OPTION B: The Lord God in goodness***

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.

***OPTION C: Have come to make their marriage vows***

*Name* and *name* have come to make their marriage vows in the presence of God and of this assembly. The uniting of this man and this woman in heart, body, and mind is intended by God for their mutual joy, for the help and comfort they give one another in prosperity and adversity, and that their love may be a blessing to all whom they encounter.

Let us now witness their promises to each other and surround them with our prayers, giving thanks to God for the gift of marriage and asking God's blessing upon them, that they may be strengthened for their life together and nurtured in the love of God.

## DECLARATION OF INTENTION

### ***OPTION A: Will you have***

*Name*, will you have *Name* to be your *wife/husband*, to live together in the 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 receive***

*Name*, will you receive *Name* as your *wife/husband* and 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: From this day forward***

*Name*, will you have *Name* as your *wife/husband* from this day forward, for better or worse, for richer or poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, according God's holy will, as long as you both shall live?

***Response:***

I will.

***OPTION D: Living in the promise of God***

*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.

***ADDITIONAL INTENT:***

*When the couple has grown children the minister may also address the families of the couple.*

Will you, the families of *Name* and *Name*, give your love and blessing to this new family?

***The families respond:***

We 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 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 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,  
as you gladdened the wedding  
at Cana in Galilee  
by the presence of your Son,  
so bring your joy to this wedding by his presence now.  
Look in favor upon *Name* and *Name* and grant that they,  
rejoicing in all your gifts,  
may at length celebrate  
the unending marriage feast  
with Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you  
and the Holy Spirit, one God,  
now and forever. **Amen.**

**READINGS**

(Options on p. 16 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**

## VOWS

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

*The couple may join hands.*

### ***OPTION A: I take you to be my***

I take you, *Name*, to be my *wife/husband* from this day forward,  
to join with you and share all that is to come,  
and I promise to be faithful to you until death parts us.

### ***OPTION B: In the presence of God***

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.

### ***OPTION C: through the best and the worst***

I love you *Name* as I love no other. All that I am I share with you.  
I, *Name*, take you, *Name* to be my *wife/husband* and these things  
I promise you: I will be faithful to you and honest with you; I will  
respect, trust, help, and care for you; I will share my life with you;  
I will forgive you as we have been forgiven; and I will try with you  
to better understand ourselves, the world, and God; through the  
best and the worst of what is to come as long as we live.

***OPTION D: with my whole life and with my whole being***

I love you, *Name*, as I love no other. All that I am I share with you. I take you to be my *wife/husband* from this time onward, to join with you and to share with you all that is to come, to give and to receive, to speak and to listen, to inspire and to respond, and in all circumstances of our life together to be loyal to you with my whole life and with my whole being.

***OPTION E: according to God's gracious will***

I *Name* take you *Name* to be my *wife/husband*, from this day on, as long as I live. To be with you in times of joy and suffering, wealth and poverty; to love you and honor you, according to God's gracious will.

***OPTION F: from this time onward***

*Name*, I take you to be my *wife/husband* from this time onward. To join with you and share all that is to come, to give and to receive, to speak and to listen, to inspire and to respond, and in all circumstances of our life together to be loyal to you with my whole life, and with all my being.

***OPTION G: that together we may serve God***

I take you, *Name*, to be my *wife/husband*. I promise before God and these witnesses to be your faithful *husband/wife*, to share with you in plenty and in want, in joy and in sorrow, in sickness and in health, to forgive and to strengthen and to join with you so that together we may serve God and others as long as we both shall live.

## **GIVING OF RINGS**

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.**

### ***OPTION A: The ring as a sign***

*Name*, I give you this ring as a sign of my love and faithfulness.

### ***OPTION B: This ring as a symbol***

*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**

*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.  
**Amen. Thanks be to God.**

## **UNITY CEREMONY (OPTIONAL)**

*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. (ie. Unity  
Ceremony)*

## **MARRIAGE BLESSING**

### ***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 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: The Lord God***

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.**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

### *OPTION 1: Seeing how greatly God has loved us*

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.**

***OPTION II: On this day of rejoicing***

On this day of rejoicing, let us bless God  
for divine love made flesh in Jesus Christ.

We praise you, O God,  
for the joy that *name* and *name*  
have found in each other,  
and we pray that their love and faithfulness  
may reflect your gracious love and enrich our common life.  
Gracious and faithful God, **hear our prayer.**

Give them gentleness and patience,  
affection and understanding,  
readiness to trust one another,  
and, when they hurt each other,  
grace to acknowledge their fault  
and to give and receive forgiveness.  
Gracious and faithful God, **hear our prayer.**

**OPTION:**

Give to *name* and *name* the gift and heritage of children  
in accordance with your will; make their home a haven of peace.

**OR**

You have given *name* and *name* the gift and heritage of children;  
make their home a haven of peace.

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

Use us to support *name* and *name* in their lives together.  
Give us such a sense of your constant love  
that we may employ all our strength in a life of praise of you.  
Gracious and faithful God, **hear our prayer.**

Strengthen and bless friends and family gathered here,  
even as we call to mind those who are absent from us.  
Console those who mourn the loss of loved ones,  
and be present with those for whom love is a stranger.  
Gracious and faithful God, **hear our prayer.**

Look graciously on the world you have made  
and for which your Son gave his life.  
Strengthen marriages, families, and communities everywhere.  
Defend and guide all who suffer want or anxiety.  
Gracious and faithful God, **hear our prayer.**

*Other intercessions may be added.*

We give thanks to you, merciful God,  
for those who have died (especially *name/s*).  
Strengthen us by the example of the saints,  
and bring us all to the marriage feast of the Lamb.  
Gracious and faithful God, **hear our prayer.**

*The presiding minister concludes the prayers.*

Most gracious God,  
you have made us in your image  
and given us over to one another's care.  
Hear the prayers of your people,  
that unity may overcome division,  
hope vanquish despair,  
and joy conquer sorrow;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**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**

### **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 you and keep you***

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 AND ANNOUNCEMENT**

I announce to you \_\_\_\_\_.

## 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 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**

*For the Wedding of:* \_\_\_\_\_

### INTRODUCTION

- A: Dear friends
- B: The Lord God in goodness
- C: Have come to make their marriage vows

### DECLARATION OF INTENTION

- A: Will you have
- B: Will you receive
- C: From this day forward
- D: Living in the promises of God
- Addition Intent: Couple with Children

### DECLARATION ADDRESS

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

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

- A: Gracious God
- B: Eternal God

### VOWS

Option A-G (*or create your own*):

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### GIVING OF RINGS

- A: The ring as a sign
- B: This ring as a symbol

UNITY CEREMONY

- Candle
- Sand
- Other (In conversation with Pastor)

MARRIAGE BLESSING

- A: Most Gracious God
- B: The Lord God

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

- Option I
- Option II

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 you

ANNOUNCEMENT – *How should we address you when we introduce you?*

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OLD TESTAMENT READING (*Choose one*)

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NEW TESTAMENT READING (*Choose one*)

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