

# *The Wedding Ceremony*



## *Optional Readings and Prayers*

(January 2015)

## Introductory Rite

### Option 1

**Priest:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**All:** And with your spirit.

### Option 2

**Priest:** Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ

**All:** And with your spirit

### Option 3

**Priest:** The Lord be with you.

**All:** And with your spirit.

### Option 4

**Priest:** The Lord be with you.

**All:** And with your spirit

## Lighting of the Candles

**Bride** and **Groom** each light a candle representing their individuality and uniqueness.

## Penitential Rite

### Option 1:

**Priest:** Lord, have mercy.

**All:** Lord, have mercy.

**Priest:** Christ, have mercy.

**All:** Christ, have mercy.

**Priest:** Lord, have mercy.

**All:** Lord, have mercy.

### Option 2

**Priest:** Have mercy on us, O Lord.

**All:** For we have sinned against you.

**Priest:** Show us, O Lord your mercy.

**All:** And grant us your salvation.

**Priest:** May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

**All:** Amen.

**Priest:** Lord, have mercy.

**All:** Lord, have mercy.

**Priest:** Christ, have mercy.

**All:** Christ, have mercy.

**Priest:** Lord, have mercy.

**All:** Lord, have mercy.

### Option 3

**Priest:** You were sent to heal the contrite of heart: Lord, have mercy.

**All:** Lord, have mercy.

**Priest:** You came to call sinners: Christ, have mercy.

**All:** Christ, have mercy.

**Priest:** You are seated at the right hand of the Father to intercede for us: Lord, have mercy.

**All:** Lord, have mercy.

**Priest:** May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

**All:** Amen.

### Option 4

**Priest:** You were sent to heal the contrite of heart: Lord, have mercy.

**All:** Lord, have mercy.

**Priest:** You came to call sinners: Christ, have mercy.

**All:** Christ, have mercy.

**Priest:** You are seated at the right hand of the Father to intercede for us: Lord, have mercy.

**All:** Lord, have mercy.

**Priest:** May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

**All:** Amen.

## The Gloria

Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you,  
we bless you,  
we adore you,  
we glorify you,  
we give you thanks for your great glory,  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,  
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us;  
You take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father: have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father.  
Amen.

## Opening Prayer

### Option 1

O God, who consecrated the bond of Marriage by so great a mystery that in the wedding covenant you foreshadow the Sacrament of Christ and his Church, grant, we pray, to these your servants, that what they receive in faith they may live out in deeds.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

**All:** Amen.

#### Option 2

Oh God who in creating the human race willed that man and wife should be one, join we pray, in a bond of inseparable love these your servants who are to be united in the covenant of Marriage, so that, as you make their love fruitful, they may become, by your grace, witnesses to charity itself.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

**All:** Amen.

#### Option 3

Be attentive to our prayers, O Lord, and in your kindness pour out your grace on these your servants

**Bride** and **Groom** that, coming together before your altar, they may be confirmed in love for one another.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

**All:** Amen.

#### Option 4

Grant, we pray, almighty God that these your servants now to be joined by the Sacrament of Matrimony, may grow in the faith they profess and enrich your Church with faithful offspring.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever

**All:** Amen.

## Liturgy of the Word

### First Reading

#### Option 1

A reading from the book of Genesis 1:26-28. 31

God said, 'Let us make man in our own image, in the likeness of ourselves, and let them be masters of the fish of the sea, the birds of heaven, the cattle, all the wild beasts and all the reptiles that crawl upon the earth.' God created man in the image of himself, in the image of God he created him, male and female he created them. God blessed them, saying to them, 'Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth and conquer it. Be masters of the fish of the sea, the birds of heaven and all living animals on the earth.' God saw all he had made, and indeed it was very good.

#### Option 2

A reading from the book of Genesis 2:18-24

The Lord God said, 'It is not good that the man should be alone. I will make him a helpmate.' So from the soil the Lord God fashioned all the wild beasts and all the birds of heaven. These he brought to the man to see what he would call them; each one was to bear the name the man would give it. The man gave names to all the cattle, all the birds of heaven and all the wild beasts. But no helpmate suitable for man was found for him. So the Lord God made the man fall into a deep sleep. And while he slept, he took one of his ribs and enclosed it in flesh. The Lord God built the rib he had taken from the man into a woman, and brought her to the man. The man exclaimed: 'This at last is bone from my bones, and flesh from my flesh! This is to be called woman, for this was taken from man.' This is why a man leaves his father and mother and joins himself to his wife, and they become one body.

#### Option 3

A reading from the book of Genesis 24:48-51. 58-67

Abraham's servant said to Laban, 'I blessed the Lord, God of my master Abraham, who had so graciously led me to choose the daughter of my master's brother for his son. Now tell me whether you are prepared to show kindness and goodness to my master; if not, say so, and I shall know what to do.' Laban and Bethuel replied, 'This is from the Lord; it is not in our power to say yes or no to you. Rebekah is there before you. Take her and go; and let her become the wife of your master's son, as the Lord has decreed.'

They called Rebekah and asked her, 'Do you want to leave with this man?' 'I do,' she replied. Accordingly they let their sister Rebekah go, with her nurse, and Abraham's servant and his men. They blessed Rebekah in these words: 'Sister of ours, increase to thousands and tens of thousands! May your descendants gain possession of the gates of their enemies!' Rebekah and her servants stood up, mounted the camels, and followed the man. The servant took Rebekah and departed. Isaac, who lived in the Negeb, had meanwhile come into the wilderness of the well of Lahai Roi. Now Isaac went walking in the fields as evening fell, and looking up saw camels approaching. And Rebecca looked up and saw Isaac. She jumped down from her camel, and asked the servant 'Who is that man walking through the fields to meet us? The servant replied, 'That is my master'; then she took her veil and hid her face. The servant told Isaac the whole story, and Isaac led Rebecca to his tent and made her his wife; and he loved her. And so Isaac was consoled for the loss of his mother.

#### Option 4

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah 31:31-34

See, the days are coming - it is the Lord who speaks - when I will make a new covenant with the House of Israel and the House of Judah, but not a covenant like the one I made with their ancestors on the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt. No, this is the covenant I will make with the House of Israel when those days arrive - it is the Lord who speaks. Deep within them I will plant my Law, writing it on their hearts. Then I will be their God and they shall be my people. There will be no further need for neighbour to try to teach neighbour, or brother to say to brother, 'Learn to know the Lord!' No, they will all know me, the least no less than the greatest it is the Lord who speaks.

**Reader:** The Word of the Lord.

**All:** Thanks be to God

## Responsorial Psalm

### Option 1

Sung

### Option 2

Response: The Lord fills the earth with his love.

1 They are happy, whose God is the Lord,  
the people he has chosen as his own.  
The Lord looks on those who revere him,  
on those who hope in his love.

Response

2 Our soul is waiting for the Lord.  
The Lord is our help and our shield.  
In him do our hearts find joy.  
We trust in his holy name.

Response

3 May your love be upon us, O Lord,  
as we place all our hope in you.

Response

### Option 3

Response: Praise the name of the Lord.

1 Praise the Lord from the heavens,  
praise him in the heights.  
Praise him, all his angels,  
praise him, all his host.

Response

2 Praise him, sun and moon,  
praise him, shining stars.  
Praise him, highest heavens  
and the waters above the heavens.  
Response

3 All mountains and hills,  
all fruit trees and cedars,  
beasts, wild and tame,  
reptiles and birds on the wing.  
Response

4 All earth's kings and peoples,  
earth's princes and rulers:  
young men and maidens,  
old men together with children.  
Response

5 Let them praise the name of the Lord  
for he alone is exalted.  
The splendour of his name  
reaches beyond heaven and earth.  
Response

#### Option 4

Response: How good is the Lord to all.

1 The Lord is kind and full of compassion,  
slow to anger, bounding in love.  
How good is the Lord to all,  
Compassionate to all his creatures.  
Response

2 All your creatures shall thank you, O Lord,  
and your friends shall repeat their blessing.  
The eyes of all creatures look to you  
and you give them their food in due time.  
Response

3 The Lord is just in all his ways  
and loving in all his deeds.  
He is close to all who call him,  
Who call on him from their hearts.  
Response

## Second Reading

### Option 1

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Think of God's mercy, my brothers, and worship him, I beg you, in a way that is worthy of thinking beings, by offering your living bodies as a holy sacrifice, truly pleasing to God. Do not model yourselves on the behaviour of the world around you, but let your behaviour change, modelled by your new mind. This is the only way to discover the will of God and know what is good, what it is that God wants, what is the perfect thing to do. Do not let your love be a pretence, but sincerely prefer good to evil. Love each other as much as brothers should, and have a profound respect for each other. Work for the Lord with untiring effort and with great earnestness of spirit. If you have hope, this will make you cheerful. Do not give up if trials come; and keep on praying. If any of the saints are in need you must share with them; and you

should make hospitality your special care. Bless those who persecute you: never curse them, bless them. Rejoice with those who rejoice and be sad with those in sorrow. Treat everyone with equal kindness; never be condescending but make real friends with the poor. Do not allow yourself to become self-satisfied. Never repay evil with evil but let everyone see that you are interested only in the highest ideals. Do all you can to live at peace with everyone.

#### Option 2

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

Be ambitious for the higher gifts. And I am going to show you a way that is better than any of them. If I have all the eloquence of men or of angels, but speak without love, I am simply a gong booming or a cymbal clashing. If I have the gift of prophecy, understanding all the mysteries there are, and knowing everything, and if I have faith in all its fullness, to move mountains, but without love, then I am nothing at all. If I give away all that I possess, piece by piece, and if I even let them take my body to burn it, but am without love, it will do me no good whatever. Love is always patient and kind; it is never jealous; love is never boastful or conceited; it is never rude or selfish; it does not take offence, and is not resentful. Love takes no pleasure in other people's sins but delights in the truth; it is always ready to excuse, to trust, to hope, and to endure whatever comes. Love does not come to an end.

#### Option 3

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

The body is not meant for fornication; it is for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. God, who raised the Lord from the dead, will by his power raise us up too.

You know, surely, that your bodies are members making up the body of Christ. But anyone who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with him.

Keep away from fornication. All the other sins are committed outside the body; but to fornicate is to sin against your own body. Your body, you know, is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you since you received him from God. You are not your own property; you have been bought and paid for. That is why you should use your body for the glory of God.

#### Option 4

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

Follow Christ by loving as he loved you, giving himself up in our place. Give way to one another in obedience to Christ. Wives should regard their husbands as they regard the Lord, since as Christ is head of the Church and saves the whole body, so is a husband the head of his wife; and as the Church submits to Christ, so should wives to their husbands, in everything. Husbands should love their wives just as Christ loved the Church and sacrificed himself for her to make her holy. He made her clean by washing her in water with a form of words, so that when he took her to himself she would be glorious, with no speck or wrinkle or anything like that, but holy and faultless. In the same-way, husbands must love their wives as they love their own bodies; for a man to love his wife is for him to love himself. A man never hates his own body, but he feeds it and looks after it; and that is the way Christ treats the Church, because it is his body - and we are its living parts. For this reason, a man must leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one body. This mystery has many implications; but I am saying it applies to Christ and the Church. To sum up; you too, each one of you, must love his wife as he loves himself; and let every wife respect her husband.

**Reader:** The Word of the Lord.

**All:** Thanks be to God

### Gospel Acclamation

#### Option 1

Alleluia, alleluia!

God is love;

let us love one another

as God has loved us.

Alleluia!

#### Option 2

Alleluia, alleluia!

As long as we love one another

God will live in us,

and his love will be complete in us.

Alleluia!

#### Option 3

Alleluia, alleluia!

Anyone who lives in love

lives in God,

and God lives in him.

Alleluia!

#### Option 4

Alleluia, alleluia!

Everyone who loves

is begotten by God,

and knows God.

Alleluia!

## Gospel

**Priest:** A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

**All:** Glory to you, Lord.

#### Option 1

Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up the hill. There he sat down and was joined by his disciples. Then he began to speak. This is what he taught them: How happy are the poor in spirit; theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Happy the gentle:

they shall have the earth for their heritage. Happy those who mourn: they shall be comforted. Happy those who hunger and thirst for what is right: they shall be satisfied. Happy the merciful: they shall have mercy shown them.

Happy the pure in heart: they shall see God. Happy the peacemakers: they shall be called sons of God.

Happy those who are persecuted in the cause of right: theirs is the kingdom of heaven.' 'Happy are you when people abuse you and persecute you and speak all kinds of calumny against you on my account.

Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.'

#### Option 2

Jesus said to his disciples: 'You are the salt of the earth. But if salt becomes tasteless, what can make it salty again? It is good for nothing, and can only be thrown out to be trampled underfoot by men.' 'You are the light of the world. A city built on a hilltop cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp to put it under a tub; they put it on the lamp-stand where it shines for everyone in the house. In the same way your light must shine in the sight of men, so that, seeing your good works, they may give the praise to your Father in heaven.'

#### Option 3

Jesus said to his disciples: 'It is not those who say to me, "Lord, Lord", who will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the person who does the will of my Father in heaven.

'Therefore, everyone who listens to these words of mine and acts on them will be like a sensible man who built his house on rock. Rain came down, floods rose, gales blew and hurled themselves against the house, and it did not fall: it was founded on rock. But everyone who listens to these words of mine and does not act on them will be like a stupid man who built his house on sand. Rain came down, floods rose, gales blew and struck that house, and it fell; and what a fall it had!' Jesus had now finished what he wanted to say, and his teaching made a deep impression on the people because he taught them with authority, and not like their own scribes.



#### Option 4

A lawyer, to disconcert Jesus, put a question, 'Master, which is the greatest commandment of the Law?' Jesus said, 'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second resembles it: You must love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments hang the whole Law, and the Prophets also.'

**Priest:** The Gospel of the Lord.

**All:** Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

## Rite of Marriage

#### Option 1

**Priest:** Dear children of God, you have come to this church so that the Lord may seal your love in the presence of the priest and this community.

Christian marriage is a sacred union which enriches natural love.

It binds those who enter it to be faithful to each other for ever;

it creates between them a bond that endures for life and cannot be broken;

it demands that they love and honour each other, that they accept from God the children he may give them, and bring them up in his love.

To help them in their marriage the husband and wife receive the life-long grace of the sacrament.

Is this your understanding of marriage?

**Bride & Groom:** It is.

#### Option 2

**Priest:** Dear children of God, you have come to this church so that the Lord may seal your love in the presence of the priest and this community. Christ blesses this love.

He has already consecrated you in baptism; now, by a special sacrament, he strengthens you to fulfil the duties of your married life.

**Priest:** **Bride and Groom** you are about to celebrate this sacrament.

Have you come here of your own free will and choice and without compulsion to marry each other?

**Bride & Groom:** We have.

**Priest:** Will you love and honour each other in marriage all the days of your life?

**Bride & Groom:** We will.

**Priest:** Are you willing to accept with love the children God may send you and bring them up in accordance with the law of Christ and his Church?

**Bride & Groom:** We are.

#### Option 3

**Priest:** Dear children of God, You have come today to pledge your love before God and before the Church here present in the person of the priest, your families and friends.

In becoming husband and wife you give yourselves to each other for life.

You promise to be true and faithful, to support and cherish each other until death, so that your years together will be the living out in love of the pledge you now make.

May your love for each other reflect the enduring love of Christ for his Church.

As you face the future together, keep in mind that the Sacrament of marriage unites you with Christ, and brings you, through the years, the grace and blessing of God our Father. Marriage is from God: he alone can give you the happiness which goes beyond human expectation, and which grows deeper through the difficulties and struggles of life.

Put your trust in God as you set out together in life.

Make your home a centre of Christian family life.

The Christian home makes Christ and his Church present in the world of everyday things. May all who enter your home find there the presence of the Lord; for he has said: "Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them."

**Priest:** Now, as you are about to exchange your marriage vows the Church wishes to be assured that you appreciate the meaning of what you do, and so I ask you:  
Have you come here of your own free will and choice to marry each other?

**Bride & Groom:** We have.

**Priest:** Will you love and honour each other in marriage all the days of your life?

**Bride & Groom:** We will.

**Priest:** Are you willing to accept with love the children God may send you, and bring them up in accordance with the law of Christ, and his Church?

**Bride & Groom:** We are.

Option 4

**Priest:** Dear children of God, You have come today to pledge your love before God and before the Church here present in the person of the priest, your families and friends.

In becoming husband and wife you give yourselves to each other for life.

You promise to be true and faithful, to support and cherish each other until death, so that your years together will be the living out in love of the pledge you now make.

May your love for each other reflect the enduring love of Christ for his Church.

As you face the future together, keep in mind that the Sacrament of marriage unites you with Christ, and brings you, through the years, the grace and blessing of God our Father. Marriage is from God: he alone can give you the happiness which goes beyond human expectation, and which grows deeper through the difficulties and struggles of life.

Put your trust in God as you set out together in life.

Make your home a centre of Christian family life.

The Christian home makes Christ and his Church present in the world of everyday things. May all who enter your home find there the presence of the Lord; for he has said: "Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them."

**Priest:** Now, as you are about to exchange your marriage vows the Church wishes to be assured that you appreciate the meaning of what you do, and so I ask you:  
Have you come here of your own free will and choice to marry each other?

**Bride & Groom:** We have.

**Priest:** Will you love and honour each other in marriage all the days of your life?

**Bride & Groom:** We will.

**Priest:** Are you willing to accept with love the children God may send you, and bring them up in accordance with the law of Christ, and his Church?

**Bride & Groom:** We are.

## Declaration of Consent

Option 1

**Priest:** I invite you then to declare before God and his Church your consent to become husband and wife.

**Groom:** **Bride**, do you consent to be my wife?

**Bride:** I do.

**Bride:** Do you, **Groom**, consent to be my husband?

**Groom:** I do.

**Groom:** I take you as my wife and I give myself to you as your husband.

**Bride:** I take you as my husband and I give myself to you as your wife.

**Bride & Groom:** To love each other truly for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, till death do us part.

**Priest:** What God joins together man must not separate. May the Lord confirm the consent that you have given and enrich you with his blessings.

**All:** Amen.

Option 2

**Priest:** I invite you then to declare before God and his Church your consent to become husband and wife.

**Groom:** I, **Groom**, take you, **Bride**, as my wife,  
for better, for worse,  
for richer, for poorer,  
in sickness and in health,  
till death do us part.

**Bride:** I, **Bride**, take you, **Groom**, as my husband,  
for better, for worse,  
for richer, for poorer,  
in sickness and in health,  
till death do us part.

**Priest:** What God joins together man must not separate. May the Lord confirm the consent that you have given and enrich you with his blessings.

**All:** Amen.

Option 3

**Priest:** I invite you then to declare before God and his Church your consent to become husband and wife.

**Priest:** **Groom**, do you take **Bride** as your wife,  
for better, for worse,  
for richer, for poorer,  
in sickness and in health,  
all the days of your life.

**Groom:** I do.

**Priest:** **Bride**, do you take **Groom** as your husband,  
for better, for worse,  
for richer, for poorer,  
in sickness and in health,  
all the days of your life.

**Bride:** I do.

**Priest:** What God joins together man must not separate.

May the Lord confirm the consent that you have given and enrich you with his blessings.

**All:** Amen.

## **Blessing of the Rings**

Option 1

**Priest:** May the Lord bless these rings which will be the sign of your love and fidelity.

**All:** Amen.

#### Option 2

**Priest:** Lord, bless **Bride** and **Groom**, and consecrate their married life.

May these rings be a symbol of their faith in each other, and a reminder of their love.

Through Christ, our Lord.

**All:** Amen.

#### Option 3

**Priest:** Lord bless these rings.

Grant that those who wear them may always be faithful to each other.

May they do your will and live in peace with you in mutual love.

Through Christ, our Lord.

**All:** Amen.

#### Option 4

**Priest:** Lord bless these rings.

Grant that those who wear them may always be faithful to each other.

May they do your will and live in peace with you in mutual love.

Through Christ, our Lord.

**All:** Amen.

### Exchange of Rings

**Groom:** **Bride**, wear this ring as a sign of our faithful love in the Name of The Father and of The Son and of The Holy Spirit.

**Bride:** **Groom**, wear this ring as a sign of our faithful love in the Name of The Father and of The Son and of The Holy Spirit.

### Lighting of the Marriage Candle

**Groom** and **Bride** light their Marriage Candle which represents their Sacramental Union as husband and wife.

### Prayer of the Newly Married Couple (Optional)

**Bride & Groom:** We thank you, Lord, and we praise you for bringing us to this happy day. You have given us to each other. Now, together, we give ourselves to you. We ask you, Lord: make us one in our love; keep us one in your peace. Protect our marriage. Bless our home. Make us gentle. Keep us faithful. And when life is over unite us again where parting is no more in the kingdom of your love. There we will praise you in the happiness and peace of our eternal home.

**All:** Amen.

### Prayer of the Faithful (Pick as many as are required or add)

For **Bride** and **Groom** that the Lord, who has brought them to this happy day will keep them forever in fidelity and love.

Lord hear us.

**All:** Lord Graciously Hear us.

For the parents of **Bride** and **Groom** for their friends and all who have helped them to become husband and wife.

Lord hear us.

**All:** Lord Graciously Hear us.

That the Lord may bless the world with his peace and the protection of his love.

Lord hear us.

**All:** Lord Graciously Hear us.

For our community and our families, who welcome Christ into their lives; that they learn to receive him in the poor and suffering people of this world.

Lord hear us.

**All:** Lord Graciously Hear us.

For God's Church, the Bride of Christ, that it may be united in faith and love.

Lord hear us.

**All:** Lord Graciously Hear us.

For all who are victims of injustice, and for those deprived of love and affection.

Lord hear us.

**All:** Lord Graciously Hear us.

For married couples everywhere that their lives will be an example to the world of unity, fidelity and love.

Lord hear us.

**All:** Lord Graciously Hear us.

For those who mourn while we are rejoicing, that in their suffering and loneliness they may experience the strength of God's support.

Lord hear us.

**All:** Lord Graciously Hear us.

For the faithful departed and especially for those whom we, ourselves, have loved, that God will one day unite us again in the joys of our eternal home.

Lord hear us.

**All:** Lord Graciously Hear us.

## **Liturgy of the Eucharist**

### Option 1

**Priest:** Receive, we pray, O Lord, the offering made on the occasion of this sealing of the sacred bond of Marriage, and, just as your goodness is its origin, may your providence guide its course.

Through Christ our Lord.

**All:** Amen.

### Option 2

**Priest:** Receive in your kindness, Lord, the offerings we bring in gladness before you, and in your fatherly love watch over those you have joined in a sacramental covenant.

Through Christ our Lord.

**All:** Amen.

### Option 3

**Priest:** Show favour to our supplications, O Lord, and receive with a kindly countenance the oblations we offer for these your servants, joined now in a holy covenant, that through these mysteries they may be strengthened in love for one another and for you.

Through Christ our Lord.

**All:** Amen.

### Option 4

**Priest:** Show favour to our supplications, O Lord, and receive with a kindly countenance the oblations we offer for these your servants, joined now in a holy covenant, that through these mysteries they may be strengthened in love for one another and for you.

Through Christ our Lord.

**All:** Amen.

## Preface

**Priest:** It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For you have forged the covenant of marriage as a sweet yoke of harmony and an unbreakable bond of peace, so that the chaste and fruitful love of holy Matrimony may serve to increase the children you adopt as your own.

By your providence and grace, O Lord, you accomplish the wonder of this twofold design: that, while the birth of children brings beauty to the world, their rebirth in Baptism gives increase to the Church, through Christ our Lord

Through him, with the Angels and all the Saints, we sing the hymn of your praise, as without end we acclaim:

**All:** Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord,  
Hosanna in the highest.

## The Eucharistic Prayer

### Option 1

To you, therefore most merciful Father, we make humble prayer and petition through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord: that you accept and bless these gifts, these offerings, these holy and unblemished sacrifices, which we offer you firstly for your holy catholic Church. Be pleased to grant her peace, to guard, unite and govern her throughout the whole world, together with your servant N. our Pope and N. our Bishop, and all those who holding to the truth, hand on the catholic and apostolic faith.

Remember, Lord your servants **Bride** and **Groom** and all gathered here, whose faith and devotion are known to you. For them, we offer you this sacrifice of praise or they offer it for themselves and all who are dear to them: for the redemption of their souls, in hope of health and well-being, and paying their homage to you, the eternal God, living and true.

In communion with those whose memory we venerate, especially the glorious ever - Virgin Mary, Mother of our God and Lord, Jesus Christ, and blessed Joseph, her Spouse, your blessed Apostles and Martyrs, Peter and Paul, Andrew, (James, John, Thomas, James, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Simon and Jude; Linus, Cletus, Clement, Sixtus, Cornelius, Cyprian, Laurence, Chrysogonus, John and Paul, Cosmas and Damian) and all your Saints; we ask that through their merits and prayers, in all things we may be defended by your protecting help.

Therefore, Lord, we pray: graciously accept this oblation of our service, the offering of your servants **Bride** and **Groom**, and of your whole family, who entreat your majesty on their behalf; and as you have brought them to their wedding day, so (gladden them with your gifts of the children they desire and) bring them in your kindness to the length of days for which they hope.

Be pleased, O God, we pray, to bless, acknowledge, and approve this offering in every respect; make it spiritual and acceptable, so that it may become for us the Body and Blood of your most beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

On the day before he was to suffer, he took bread in his holy and venerable hands, and with eyes raised to heaven to you, O God, his almighty Father, giving you thanks, he said the blessing, broke the bread and gave it to his disciples, saying:

TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND EAT OF IT, FOR THIS IS MY BODY, WHICH WILL BE GIVEN UP FOR YOU.

In a similar way, when supper was ended, he took this precious chalice in his holy and venerable hands, and once more giving you thanks, he said the blessing and gave the chalice to his disciples, saying:

TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND DRINK FROM IT, FOR THIS IS THE CHALICE OF MY BLOOD, THE BLOOD OF THE NEW AND ETERNAL COVENANT, WHICH WILL BE Poured OUT FOR YOU AND FOR MANY FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS.

DO THIS IN MEMORY OF ME.

The mystery of faith:

**All:** We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.

Therefore, O Lord, as we celebrate the memorial of the blessed Passion, the Resurrection from the dead and the glorious Ascension into heaven of Christ, your Son, our Lord, we, your servants and your holy people, offer to your glorious majesty from the gifts that you have given us, this pure victim, this holy victim, this spotless victim, the holy Bread of eternal life and the Chalice of everlasting salvation.

Be pleased to look upon these offerings with a serene and kindly countenance, and to accept them, as once you were pleased to accept the gifts of your servant Abel the just, the sacrifice of Abraham, our father in faith, and the offering of your high priest Melchizedek, a holy sacrifice, a spotless victim.

In humble prayer we ask you, almighty God: command that these gifts be borne by the hands of your holy Angel to your altar on high in the sight of your divine majesty, so that all of us, who through this participation at the altar receive the most holy Body and Blood of your Son, may be filled with every grace and heavenly blessing.

Remember also, Lord, your servants, N. and N., who have gone before us with the sign of faith and rest in the sleep of peace. Grant them, O Lord, we pray, and all who sleep in Christ, a place of refreshment, light and peace.

To us, also, your servants, who though sinners, hope in your abundant mercies, graciously grant some share and fellowship with your holy Apostles, and Martyrs: with John the Baptist, Stephen, Matthias, Barnabas, (Ignatius, Alexander, Marcellinus, Peter, Felicity, Perpetua, Agatha, Lucy, Agnes, Cecilia, Anastasia) and all your Saints; admit us, we beseech you, into their company, not weighing our merits, but granting us your pardon, through Christ our Lord. Through whom you continue to make all these good things, O Lord; you sanctify them, fill them with life, bless them, and bestow them upon us.

## Option 2

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Father most holy, through your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, your Word through whom you made all things, whom you sent as our Saviour and Redeemer, incarnate by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin.

Fulfilling your will and gaining for you a holy people, he stretched out his hands as he endured his Passion, so as to break the bonds of death and manifest the resurrection.

And so, with the Angels and all the Saints we declare your glory as with one voice we acclaim:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts, Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

You are indeed Holy, O Lord, the fount of all holiness. Make holy therefore, these gifts, we pray, by sending down your Spirit upon them like the dewfall, so that they may become for us the Body and Blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

At the time he was betrayed and entered willingly into his Passion, he took bread and giving thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples saying:

TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND EAT OF IT, FOR THIS IS MY BODY, WHICH WILL BE GIVEN UP FOR YOU.

In a similar way, when supper was ended, he took the chalice and, once more giving thanks, he gave it to his disciples, saying:

TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND DRINK FROM IT, FOR THIS IS THE CHALICE OF MY BLOOD, THE BLOOD OF THE NEW AND ETERNAL COVENANT, WHICH WILL BE POURED OUT FOR YOU AND FOR MANY FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS.

DO THIS IN MEMORY OF ME

The mystery of faith.

-

Therefore, as we celebrate the memorial of his Death and Resurrection, we offer you, Lord, the Bread of life and the Chalice of salvation, giving thanks that you have held us worthy to be in your presence and minister to you.

Humbly we pray that, partaking of the Body and Blood of Christ, we may be gathered into one by the Holy Spirit.

Remember, Lord, your Church, spread throughout the world, and bring her to the fullness of charity, together with N. our Pope and N. Our Bishop and all the clergy.

Be mindful also, Lord of **Bride and Groom.**, whom you have brought to their wedding day, so that by your grace they may abide in mutual love and in peace.

Remember also our brothers and sisters who have fallen asleep in the hope of the resurrection, and all who have died in your mercy: welcome them into the light of your face. Have mercy on us all, we pray that with the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, with the blessed Apostles, and all the Saints who have pleased you throughout the ages, we may merit to be coheirs to eternal life, and may praise and glorify you through your Son, Jesus Christ.

Through him, and with him, and in him, O God, almighty Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honour is yours, for ever and ever.

**All:** Amen.

Option 3

You are indeed Holy, O Lord and all you have created rightly gives you praise, for through your Son our Lord Jesus Christ, by the power and working of the Holy Spirit, you give life to all things and make them holy, and you never cease to gather a people to yourself, so that from the rising of the sun to its setting a pure sacrifice may be offered to your name.

Therefore, O Lord, we humbly implore you: by the same Spirit graciously make holy these gifts we have brought to you for consecration, that they may become the Body and Blood of your Son our Lord Jesus Christ, at whose command we celebrate these mysteries.

For on the night he was betrayed he himself took bread, and, giving you thanks, he said the blessing, broke the bread and gave it to his disciples, saying:

TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND EAT OF IT, FOR THIS IS MY BODY, WHICH WILL BE GIVEN UP FOR YOU.

In a similar way, when supper was ended, he took the chalice, and, giving you thanks, he said the blessing, and gave the chalice to his disciples, saying:



TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND DRINK FROM IT, FOR THIS IS THE CHALICE OF MY BLOOD, THE BLOOD OF THE NEW AND ETERNAL COVENANT, WHICH WILL BE Poured OUT FOR YOU AND FOR MANY FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS.

DO THIS IN MEMORY OF ME.

The mystery of faith.

**All:** When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.

Therefore, O Lord, as we celebrate the memorial of the saving Passion of your Son, his wondrous Resurrection and Ascension into heaven, and as we look forward to his second coming we offer you in thanksgiving this holy and living sacrifice.

Look, we pray, upon the oblation of your Church and, recognising the sacrificial Victim by whose death you willed to reconcile us to yourself, grant that we, who are nourished by the Body and Blood of your Son and filled with his Holy Spirit, may become one body, one spirit, in Christ.

May he make of us an eternal offering to you, so that we may obtain an inheritance with your elect, especially with the most Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, with your blessed Apostles and glorious Martyrs (with Saint N. : the saint of the day or Patron Saint) and with all the Saints, on whose constant intercession in your presence we rely for unfailing help.

May this Sacrifice of our reconciliation, we pray, O Lord, advance the peace and salvation of all the world. Be pleased to confirm in faith and charity your pilgrim Church on earth with your servant N. our Pope and N. our Bishop, the Order of Bishops, all the clergy, and the entire people you have gained for your own.

Listen graciously to the prayers of this family, whom you have summoned before you: Strengthen, we pray, in the grace of Marriage **Bride** and **Groom**, whom you have brought happily to their wedding day, that under your protection they may always be faithful in their lives to the covenant they have sealed in your presence. In your compassion, O merciful Father, gather to yourself all your children scattered throughout the world.

To our departed brothers and sisters and to all who were pleasing to you at their passing from this life, give kind admittance to your kingdom. There we hope to enjoy for ever the fullness of your glory through Christ our Lord, through whom you bestow on the world all that is good.

Through him, and with him, and in him, O God, almighty Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honour is yours, for ever and ever.

**All:** Amen.

## **Communion Rite**

### **Lord's Prayer**

**Priest:** Let us pray with confidence to the Father, in the words our Saviour gave us.

**All:** Our Father...

## **Nuptial Blessing**

### **Option 1**

**Priest:** Dear brother and sisters, let us humbly pray to the Lord that on these his servants, now married in Christ, he may mercifully pour out the blessing of his grace and make of one heart in love (by the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood) those he has joined by a holy covenant.

O God, who by your mightily power created all things out of nothing, and, when you had set in place the beginnings of the universe, formed man and woman in your own image, making the woman an

inseparable helpmate to the man, that they might no longer be two, but one flesh and taught that what you were pleased to make one must never be divided;

O God, who consecrated the bond of Marriage by so great a mystery that in the wedding covenant you foreshadowed the Sacrament of Christ and his Church;

O God, by whom woman is joined to man and the companionship they had in the beginning is endowed with the one blessing not forfeited by original sin nor washed away by the flood.

Look now with favour on these your servants joined together in Marriage, who ask to be strengthened by your blessing. Send down on them the grace of the Holy Spirit and pour your love into their hearts, that they may remain faithful in the Marriage covenant.

May the grace of love and peace abide in your daughter **Bride** and let her always follow the example of those holy women whose praises are sung in the Scriptures. May her husband entrust his heart to her, so that acknowledging her as his equal and his joint heir to the life of grace. He may show her due honour and cherish her always with the love that Christ has for his Church.

And now, Lord, we implore you: may these your servants hold fast to the faith and keep your commandments; made one in the flesh, may they be blameless in all they do; and with the strength that comes from the Gospel, may they bear true witness to Christ before all; (may they be blessed with children, and prove themselves virtuous parents, who live to see their children's children)

An grant that, reaching at last together the fullness of years for which they hope, they may come to the life of the blessed in the Kingdom of Heaven.

#### Option 2

**Priest:** Let us pray to the Lord for this bride and groom, who come to the altar as they begin their married life, that (partaking of the Body and Blood of Christ) they may always be bound together by love for one another.

Holy Father, who formed man in your own image, male and female you created them, so that as husband and wife, united in body and heart, they might fulfil their calling in the world;

O God, who, to reveal the great design you formed in your love, willed that the love of spouses for each other should foreshadow the covenant you graciously made with your people, so that, by fulfilment of the sacramental sign, the mystical marriage of Christ with his Church might become manifest in the union of husband and wife among your faithful;

Graciously stretch out your right hand over these your servants **Bride** and **Groom**, we pray, and pour into their hearts the power of the Holy Spirit.

Grant, O Lord, that, as they enter upon this sacramental union, they may share with one another the gifts of your love and, by being for each other a sign of your presence, become one heart and one mind.

May they also sustain, O Lord, by their deeds the home they are forming (and prepare their children to become members of your heavenly household by raising them in the way of the Gospel).

Graciously crown with your blessings your daughter **Bride** so that, by being a good wife (and mother), she may bring warmth to her home with a love that is pure and adorn it with welcoming graciousness.

Bestow a heavenly blessing also, O Lord, on **Groom** your servant, that he may be a worthy, good and faithful husband (and a provident father).

Grant, holy Father, that, desiring to approach your table as a couple joined in Marriage in your presence, they may one day have the joy of taking part in your great banquet in heaven.

Through Christ our Lord

**All:** Amen.

#### Option 3

**Priest:** Let us humbly invoke by our prayers, dear brothers and sisters, God's blessing upon this bride and groom, that in his kindness he may favour with his help those on whom he has bestowed the Sacrament of Matrimony.

Holy Father maker of the whole world who created man and woman in your own image and willed that their union be crowned with your blessing, we humbly beseech you for these your servants, who are joined today in the Sacrament of Matrimony.

May your abundant blessing, Lord, come down upon this bride, **Bride** and upon **Groom** her companion for life, and may the power of your Holy Spirit set their hearts aflame from on high, so that, living out together the gift of Matrimony, they may (adorn their family with children and) enrich the Church.

In happiness may they praise you, O Lord, in sorrow may they seek you out; may they have the joy of your presence to assist them in their toil, and know that you are near to comfort them in their need; let them pray to you in the holy assembly and bear witness to you in the world, and after a happy old age, together with the circle of friends that surrounds them, may they come to the Kingdom of Heaven,

Through Christ our Lord

**All:** Amen.

## Prayer after Communion

#### Option 1

**Priest:** Let us pray.

By the power of this sacrifice, O Lord, accompany with your loving favour what in your providence you have instituted, so has to make of one heart in love those you have already joined in this holy union (and replenished with the one Bread and the one Chalice).

#### Option 2

**Priest:** Having been made partakers at your table, we pray, O Lord, that those who are united by the Sacrament of Marriage may always hold fast to you and proclaim your name to the world.

#### Option 3

**Priest:** Grant, we pray, almighty God, that the power of the Sacrament we have received may find growth in these your servants and that the effects of the sacrifice we have offered may be felt by us all.

#### Option 4

**Priest:** Grant, we pray, almighty God, that the power of the Sacrament we have received may find growth in these your servants and that the effects of the sacrifice we have offered may be felt by us all.

Through Christ our Lord.

**All:** Amen.

## Concluding Rite

#### Option 1

**Priest:** May God the eternal Father keep you of one heart in love for one another, that the peace of Christ may dwell in you and abide always in your home.

**All:** Amen.

**Priest:** May you be blessed in your children, have solace in your friends and enjoy true peace with everyone.

**All:** Amen.

**Priest:** May you be witnesses in the world to God's charity, so that the afflicted and needy who have known your kindness may one day receive you thankfully into the eternal dwelling of God.

**All:** Amen.

**Priest:** And may almighty God bless all of you, who are gathered here, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit

**All:** Amen.

### **Option 2**

**Priest:** May God, the all-powerful Father, grant you his joy and bless you in your children.

**All:** Amen.

**Priest:** May the Only Begotten Son of God stand by you with compassion in good times and in bad.

**All:** Amen.

**Priest:** May the Holy Spirit of God always pour forth his love into your hearts.

**All:** Amen.

**Priest:** And may almighty God bless all of you, who are gathered here, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit

**All:** Amen.

### **Option 3**

**Priest:** May The Lord Jesus, who graced the marriage at Cana by his presence, bless you and your loved ones.

**All:** Amen.

**Priest:** May he, who loved the Church to the end, unceasingly pour his love into your hearts.

**All:** Amen.

**Priest:** May the Lord grant that, bearing witness to faith in his Resurrection, you may await with joy the blessed hope to come.

**All:** Amen.

**Priest:** And may almighty God bless all of you, who are gathered here, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit

**All:** Amen.

### **Option 4**

**Priest:** May The Lord Jesus, who graced the marriage at Cana by his presence, bless you and your loved ones.

**All:** Amen.

**Priest:** May he, who loved the Church to the end, unceasingly pour his love into your hearts.

**All:** Amen.

**Priest:** May the Lord grant that, bearing witness to faith in his Resurrection, you may await with joy the blessed hope to come.

**All:** Amen.

**Priest:** And may almighty God bless all of you, who are gathered here, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit

**All:** Amen.

## Dismissal

### Option 1

**Priest:** Go forth the Mass is ended.

**All:** Thanks be to God.

### Option 2

**Priest:** Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life.

**All:** Thanks be to God

### Option 3

**Priest:** Go in peace.

**All:** Thanks be to God.

### Option 4

**Priest:** Go in peace.

**All:** Thanks be to God.