

# Introductory Rite

Entrance hymn: *"Hymn title"*

The Priest greets and welcomes the bride and bridegroom at the altar.

Priest: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: **Amen.**

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.**

Some words of welcome by the priest.

If you are doing candle ritual, you light the two outside ones now.

Sometimes its done when the bride and groom arrive at the altar.

*OPTIONAL*

All: **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.**

## COLLECT

Priest: Let us pray.

And all pray in silence for a while.

Priest: O 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.**

## The Liturgy of the Word

### First Reading

*Text of the first reading*

Reader: The word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

### Responsorial Psalm (usually sung)

### Second Reading

*Text of the second reading*

Reader: The word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

### Alleluia (usually sung)

Priest: The Lord be with you.

All: **And with your spirit.**

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

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

*Text of the Gospel*

Priest: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

### Homily

# The Rite of Marriage

All stand, including the bride and bridegroom, whom the Priest now addresses:

## ADDRESS

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.

Priest: Is this your understanding of marriage?

Both: It is.

Or:

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.

**N.** and **N.**, 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?

Both: **We have.**

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

Both: **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?

Both: **We are.**

## DECLARATION OF CONSENT

The Priest then invites the couple to declare their consent; choose between:

1

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

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

Bride: **I do. Do you, N., consent to be my husband?**

Groom: **I do. 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.**

**They then join hands and say together:**

Both: **to love each other truly  
for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer,  
in sickness and in health,  
till death do us part, (or all the days of our life?)**

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.

**Or:**

2

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

**They join hands:**

Groom: **I, N., take you, N., as my wife,  
for better, for worse,  
for richer, for poorer,  
in sickness and in health,  
till death do us part. (or all the days of your life?)**

Bride: **I, N., take you, N., as my husband,  
for better, for worse,  
for richer, for poorer,  
in sickness and in health,  
till death do us part, (or all the days of your life?)**

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.

## **BLESSING OF RINGS**

**The Priest says a prayer of blessing:**

Priest: Lord, bless **N.** and **N.** 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.**

The bridegroom places the bride's ring on her finger.

**Groom: N., 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.**

The bride may place a ring on the bridegroom's finger.

**Bride: N., 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.**

### Optional

The bridegroom may give gold and silver (coins) to the bride saying;

**I give you this gold and silver, tokens of all I possess.**

Or, the bride and bridegroom may exchange small symbolic gifts saying:

**N., I give you this gift, a token of all I possess.**

## THE CANDLE RITUAL

If you are doing the candle ritual, the bride and groom now light the centre candle together. Sometimes it is followed by the prayer of the newly married couple.

### PRAYER OF THE NEWLY MARRIED COUPLE

*OPTIONAL*

**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 your 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. Amen.**

### PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Some of the following intercessions or others may be used.

1. For **N.** and **N.**, 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.**

2. For the parents of **N.** and **N.**, for their friends and all who have helped them to become husband and wife. Lord, hear us.

**All: Lord, graciously hear us.**

3. That the Lord may bless the world with his peace and the protection of his love. Lord, hear us.

**All: Lord, graciously hear us.**

4. 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.**

5. 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.**

6. For all who are victims of injustice, and for those deprived of love and affection. Lord, hear us.

**All: Lord, graciously hear us.**

7. 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.**

8. 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.**

9. 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.**

# THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

**Offertory hymn:** *“hymn title”*

The bride and bridegroom or mothers etc may bring the bread and wine to the altar.

**Priest:** Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation, for through your goodness we have received the bread we offer you: fruit of the earth and work of human hands, it will become for us the bread of life

**People:** **Blessed be God forever**

**Priest:** Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation, for through your goodness we have received the wine we offer you: fruit of the vine and work of human hands, it will become our spiritual drink.

**People:** **Blessed be God forever**

**Priest:** Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters), that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

**All:** **May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands  
for the praise and glory of his name,  
for our good and the good of all his holy Church.**

## PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

**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.**

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

**All:** **And with your spirit.**

**Priest:** Lift up your hearts.

**All:** **We lift them up to the Lord.**

**Priest:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All:** **It is right and just.**

The priest continues with the **preface**. Choose option A, B or C

## 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  
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 COMMUNION RITE**

**The Priest introduces the Lord's Prayer:**

**Priest:** At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare 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.**

## **NUPTIAL BLESSING**

**And all pray in silence for a while.**

**Then the Priest, with hands extended over the bride and bridegroom, continues:**

**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.



All pray in silence for a while. Then the Priest, with hands extended over the bride and bridegroom, continues:

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, **N.**,  
and upon **X.**, 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,**

Priest: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**All: And with your spirit.**

Priest: Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

**Then the bride and bridegroom and all present offer one another a sign expressing peace, communion and charity.**

Priest: May this mingling of the Body and Blood  
of our Lord Jesus Christ  
bring eternal life to us who receive it.

**All: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,**

**have mercy on us.**  
**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,**  
**have mercy on us.**  
**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,**  
**grant us peace.**

**Priest:** Behold the Lamb of God,  
behold him who takes away the sins of the world.  
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

**All:** Lord, I am not worthy  
that you should enter under my roof,  
but only say the word  
and my soul shall be healed.

The Communion now follows.

**Communion hymns:** “*hymn title(s)*”

**POST COMMUNION REFLECTION** (OPTIONAL: POEM OR REFLECTIVE PIECE)

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**Priest:** Let us pray.  
All pray silently for a while.

Then the Priest says the Prayer after Communion:

**Priest:** By the power of this sacrifice, O Lord,  
accompany with your loving favour  
what in your providence you have instituted,  
so as 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.  
Through Christ our Lord.

**All:** Amen.

### **THE CONCLUDING RITES**

**Priest:** The Lord be with you.  
**All:** And with your spirit.

## SOLEMN BLESSING

Before blessing the people at the end of Mass, the Priest gives the bride and bridegroom a special blessing.

The Priest, with hands extended over the bride and bridegroom, says:

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.

And he blesses all the people, adding:

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

All: Amen.

## Music

The couple sign the marriage registration form.

## Recessional