



Order for a Wedding

Music appropriate for a Christian service may be inserted wherever fitting.

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

Dearly beloved, we are gathered together here in the sight of God and in the presence of this company to unite this man and this woman in holy matrimony, which as an estate instituted by God signifies for us the mystical union between Christ and his church and is therefore not to be entered lightly but with reverence for God and for one another.

An appropriate text is read, followed by a sermon.

Let us hear the Word of the Lord concerning this estate.

Our Lord Jesus Christ said, "Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female and said, 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? So they are no longer two but one flesh" (Matthew 19:4-6a *ESV*).

Remember also that the same Jesus Christ our Lord, when he was invited to the wedding in Cana of Galilee, gladly came and sat at table with the bridegroom and the bride and revealed his glory and blessed them. Invite the Lord likewise to be your guest and pray that he may abide with you and you with him, in his Word and in his church. And the Lord will make known his glory to you so that you will be strong in faith, sanctified in truth, and guarded from evil.

And although, by reason of sin, many a cross has been laid upon this estate, nevertheless our gracious Father in heaven does not forsake his children in an estate so holy and acceptable to him, but is ever present with his bountiful blessings.

Take to heart also these words of our Lord, "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another" (John 13:34 *ESV*).

And further, "Whoever would be great among you must be your servant" (Matthew 20:26b *ESV*). For all who enter into marriage are above all to love and serve one another.

Be of one heart, but also of one mind. Give in neither to anger nor resentment, but pray with and for each other. Bear each other's burdens, with Christ as your example. Share mutually the trials of the day, but above all, endeavor to help one another on the way to life eternal. And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will sanctify you in body, mind, and soul, and sustain you until the coming of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

I ask you _____ *Groom's Christian name* _____, do you take this woman to be your wife, to live together according to God's holy Word as husband and wife? Do you promise to love her, comfort her, honor, and keep her in sickness and in health; and forsaking all others, give yourself only to her, as long as you both shall live?

Response: I do.

I ask you _____ *Bride's Christian name* _____, do you take this man to be your husband, to live together according to God's holy Word as husband and wife? Do you promise to love him, comfort him, honor, and keep him in sickness and in health; and forsaking all others, give yourself only to him, as long as you both shall live?

Response: I do.

Please join hands and repeat after me.

Each repeats the vow following the minister.

I take you to be my wife/husband,
to have and to hold from this day forward,
for better for worse, for richer for poorer,
in sickness and in health,
to love and to cherish till death us do part,
according to God's holy Word;
therefore, I make this solemn vow.

_____ and _____ by their promises before God and before this assembly have joined themselves to each other as husband and wife.

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

The bride and groom exchange rings with these words.

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

HYMN

The couple kneels.

The minister places his hands on their heads and prays.

Gracious God and Father, grant your blessing to this man and this woman in their life together. Fulfill in them your love that they may be one. Strengthen them with the power of your Holy Spirit, that in both carefree and troublesome days they may put their trust in you alone and in your Word and by mutual love and help fulfill the promises they have made to each other. And bring them at last to eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

- OR -

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.

The couple rises.

BENEDICTION

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.
The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and ✝ give you peace.
Amen.