

Wedding Service - Second Order

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

The following greeting may be used.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with you all.

And also with you.

3 This, or another appropriate Sentence of Scripture, may be read.

God is love, and those who live in love live in God, and God lives in them.
1 John 4.16.

5 The minister says

We have come together in the presence of God
to witness the marriage of {Groom} and {Bride},
and to ask God's blessing on them
as we share their joy.

Marriage is a gift of God our creator.
It is a symbol of God's unending love for his people,
and of the union between Christ and his Church.
Christ loved his bride the Church,
and gave himself for her.

As he has called {Groom} and {Bride} to marriage,
so he draws their differing gifts and hopes
into a unity of love and service.
Scripture teaches that marriage is a lifelong partnership
uniting a woman and a man in heart, mind and body.
In the joy of their union, husband and wife
enrich and respond to each other,
growing in tenderness and understanding.
Through marriage a new family is formed,
where children may be born
and grow in secure and loving care.

Marriage is therefore to be honoured by all.
No one should enter it lightly or selfishly,
but responsibly and joyfully,
with mutual respect and the promise to be faithful.

So let us pray with {Groom} and {Bride}
as they prepare to exchange their solemn vows:

Blessed are you, loving God,
your Spirit binds us together.

**Crown our lives with your goodness;
sustain us all our days with your love.**

Bless {Groom} and {Bride} with wisdom and pleasure.

Be their friend and companion in joy,
their comfort in need and in sorrow.

And when this life is ended
welcome them into your presence,
there with all your people
to praise your holy name:

**Blessed be God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
as in the beginning, so now, and for ever. Amen.**

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

One or more Readings from the Scriptures. When the Holy Communion is to follow, there are at least two readings of which the final one is the Gospel.

After each reading the reader may say

Hear the word of the Lord,
thanks be to God.

Gospel

The gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to ...

and there may be said

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

After the Gospel the reader may say

This is the Gospel of the Lord,

praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

[For] the Gospel of the Lord,

praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

THE WEDDING

The couple stand before the minister.

The minister says to the man

{Groom}, will you give yourself to {Bride}, to be her husband,
to live with her according to God's word?
Will you love her, comfort her,
honour and protect her,
and, forsaking all others, be faithful to her
so long as you both shall live?

The man answers

I will.

The minister says to the woman

{Bride}, will you give yourself to {Groom}, to be his wife,
to live with him according to God's word?
Will you love him, comfort him,
honour and protect him,
and, forsaking all others, be faithful to him
so long as you both shall live?

The woman answers

I will.

The minister says to the congregation

Families and friends,
you are witnesses to these vows.
Will you do everything in your power
to uphold {Groom} and {Bride} in their marriage?

We will.

The man, facing the woman and taking her hand in his, says

I, {Groom}, in the presence of God,
take you, {Bride}, to be my wife:
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,
so long as we both shall live.
All this I vow and promise.

They loose their hands.

The woman, still facing the man and taking his hand in hers, says

I, {Bride}, in the presence of God,
take you, {Groom}, to be my 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,
so long as we both shall live.
All this I vow and promise.

When rings are to be given, the minister may receive them and may say

God of steadfast love,
by your blessing,
let these rings be for {Groom} and {Bride}
a symbol of their love and faithfulness
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The giver places the ring on the ring-finger of the other's hand and says

I give you this ring
as a symbol of our marriage.
With all that I am and all that I have
I honour you; in the name of God.

Amen.

I receive this ring
as a symbol of your love and faithfulness
to the end of our days.

Amen.

Amen.

The minister joins their hands and declares to the people

Before God and in the presence of us all,
{Groom} and {Bride} have joined hands
and made their solemn vows,
promising life-long faithfulness to each other.
In the name of God,
I declare them to be husband and wife.
What God has joined together,
let no one separate.

The couple may say

God of tenderness and strength,
you have brought our paths together
and led us to this day;
go with us now as we travel through good times,
through trouble, and through change.
Bless our home, our partings and our meetings.
Make us worthy of one another's best,
and tender with one another's dreams. Amen.
Amen.

The minister adds a blessing for the couple.

God the Father lovingly enfold you,
God the Son grace your home and table,
God the Holy Spirit crown you with joy and peace.
The Lord bless you and keep you in eternal life.
Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*A selection of the following or other prayers is said. When the Holy Communion follows, A Prayer for all People (page 666) should be used here.
The prayers may be led by a friend or member of the families of the couple.*

For faithfulness

God of all grace,
friend and companion,
look in favour on {Groom} and {Bride},
and all who are made one in marriage.
In your love deepen their love,
strengthen their wills
to keep the promises they have made,
that they may continue
in life-long faithfulness to each other;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

For the joy of loving

God our Creator,
we thank you for your gift of sexual love
by which husband and wife
may delight in each other,
and share with you the joy of creating new life.
By your grace may {Groom} and {Bride} remain lovers,
rejoicing in your goodness all their days. Amen

For children

Lord of life,
you shape us in your image,
and by your gracious gift
the human family is increased.
To {Groom} and {Bride} grant the blessing of children.
Fill them with wisdom and love
as they care for their family,
so that they and their children
may know and love you,
through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.Amen

For an existing family

God of all grace and goodness,
we thank you for this new family,
and for everything parents and children have to share;
by your Spirit of peace draw them together
and help them to be true friends to one another.
Let your love surround them
and your care protect them,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.Amen

For grace to live well

Faithful God,
giver of all good things,
give {Groom} and {Bride} wisdom and devotion
in the ordering of their life together.
May they dwell together in love and peace
all the days of their life,
seeking one another's welfare,
bearing one another's burdens,
and sharing one another's joys;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.Amen

For discipleship

Eternal God,
without your grace nothing is strong, nothing is sure.
Strengthen {Groom} and {Bride} with patience, kindness, gentleness,
and all other gifts of the Holy Spirit,
so that they may fulfil the vows they have made.
Keep them faithful to each other and to you.
Fill them with such love and joy
that they may build a home of peace and welcome.
Make their life together a sign of Christ's love

in this broken world,
that unity may overcome estrangement,
forgiveness heal guilt,
and joy conquer despair;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.Amen

For the families of the couple

Gracious Lord,
bless the parents and families of {Groom} and {Bride}
that they may grow in love and friendship.
Grant that, as they have witnessed these vows today,
they may find their lives enriched and strengthened
and their loyalties confirmed.Amen

For the healing of memory

Loving God,
you are merciful and forgiving.
Grant that those who are suffering the hurts of the past
may experience your generous love.
Heal their memories, comfort them,
and send them all from here
renewed and hopeful.Amen

For the joy of companionship

All praise and blessing to you, God of love,
creator of the universe,
maker of man and woman in your likeness,
source of blessing for married life.
All praise to you, for you have created
courtship and marriage,
joy and gladness,
feasting and laughter,
pleasure and delight.
May your blessing come in full upon {Groom} and {Bride}.
May they know your presence
in their joys and in their sorrows.
May they reach old age in the company of friends
and come at last to your eternal kingdom. Amen

A prayer for all people

Almighty God, look graciously on the world which you have made and for which your
Son gave his life. Bless all whom you make one flesh in marriage. May their life
together be a sign of your love to this broken world, so that unity may overcome

estrangement, forgiveness heal guilt, and joy overcome despair.

Lord, in your mercy

hear our prayer.

May {Groom} and {Bride} so live together that the strength of their love may reflect your love and enrich our common life.

Lord, in your mercy

hear our prayer.

May they be gentle and patient, ready to trust each other, and, when they fail, willing to recognise and acknowledge their fault and to ask each other's forgiveness.

Lord, in your mercy

hear our prayer.

[May {Groom} and {Bride} be blessed with the gift of children. Fill them with wisdom and love as they care for their family.

Lord, in your mercy

hear our prayer.]

May the lonely, the bereaved, and all who suffer want or anxiety, be defended by you, O Lord.

Lord, in your mercy

hear our prayer.

May those whose lives are today brought together be given wisdom, patience and courage to serve one another in Christ's name.

Lord, in your mercy

hear our prayer.

May friends and family gathered here, and those separated by distance, be strengthened and blessed this day.

Lord, in your mercy

hear our prayer.

We praise you, merciful God, for those who have died in the faith of Christ. May we be strengthened by their example.

The prayers conclude with either

Almighty God, you have promised to hear our prayers.

**Grant that what we have asked in faith
we may by your grace receive,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Accept our prayers, loving God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray,

**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.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

Unless the Holy Communion follows, the service concludes here with the blessing and dismissal. If the marriage certificates have not been signed, they are signed here.

and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

Amen

and the blessing of God, creator and redeemer, giver of life and love, be with you all, now and for ever.

Amen

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face to shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord lift up his countenance on you, and give you peace.

Amen.

The minister may say

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

THE SENDING OUT OF GOD'S PEOPLE

The priest says one of the following or another suitable prayer.

[Let us pray.] Most gracious God, we give you thanks for your tender love in sending Jesus Christ to come among us, born of a human mother, to make the way of the cross to be the way of life. Pour out the abundance of

your blessing on this man and this woman. Defend them from every enemy. Lead them into all peace. Let their love for each other be a seal upon their hearts, a mantle about their shoulders, and a crown upon their heads. 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 us all to that table where your saints feast for ever in your heavenly home.

Amen

Almighty God, Lord of the universe, all love, strength, and understanding come from you; so direct and govern us in body and soul that we may strive to live according to your word and to do everything that is agreeable to your will: through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

The Blessing

May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ:

and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

Amen

and the blessing of God, Creator and Redeemer, giver of life and love, be with you all, now and for ever.

Amen

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face to shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord lift up his countenance on you, and give you peace.

Amen.

The minister may say

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord:
In the name of Christ. Amen.

Notes

1The man may receive the woman's hand from a member of the family or a friend and similarly, the woman may receive the man's hand.

2At a suitable point in the service, such as before or after the readings, a copy of the Bible may be presented to the couple.

The minister may say

May the word of God inspire you
as you build your home and your marriage.

3The following may be inserted at ¶ 10 after the woman has said 'I will'.

The minister addresses the families of the couple in these or similar words

Members of the families of {Groom} and {Bride}, do you give your blessing to this marriage?

We do.

4 Readings suitable for weddings

A. Genesis 1.26–2.4a; Genesis 2.18–24; Genesis 24.48–51, 58–67; Song of Solomon 2.8–14; Song of Solomon 4.1–7; Song of Solomon 8.6–7

B. Psalm 23; Psalm 37.3–6; Psalm 46; Psalm 67; Psalm 100; Psalm 111; Psalm 121; Psalm 127; Psalm 128; Psalm 138

C. Romans 12.9–18; 1 Corinthians 12.31–13.13; Ephesians 3.14–19; Ephesians 5.21–33; Colossians 3.12–17 [18-19]; 1 John 3.18–24; 1 John 4.7–16

D. Matthew 5.1–12; Matthew 7.21–29; Matthew 22.35–40; John 2.1–11; John 15.9–12 and/or 12–16

5 Hymns suitable for weddings

The following hymns are chosen from The Australian Hymn Book and from Sing Alleluia.

The Australian Hymn Book (1977)

Christ is the heavenly food (for Holy Communion)

Come down, O Love divine

Come, gracious Spirit, heavenly dove

Fairest Lord Jesus

Father, hear the prayer we offer

For the beauty of the earth

God be in my head

Happy the home that welcomes you

Lord of all hopefulness

Love divine, all loves excelling

Morning has broken

Now thank we all our God

O God, from whom mankind derives its name

O Holy Spirit, Lord of grace

O Jesus, King most wonderful

O perfect love

Our God, be gracious unto us
Praise, my soul, the King of heaven
Sing a new song
The king of love my shepherd is
The Lord's my shepherd
Lord of creation
Sing Alleluia
As man and woman we were made
Brother, sister, let me serve you
He is the way
Our Father, by whose name all fatherhood is known
Where love and loving kindness dwell