

# THE ORDER FOR MARRIAGE

\_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_  
bride's full name groom's full name

Luther Memorial Church ~ Madison, Wisconsin

\_\_\_\_\_ ~ \_\_\_\_\_  
Date Time

*Please refrain from taking photos during the ceremony and make sure to turn off all cell phones.*

## GATHERING

PRELUDE \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

PROCESSIONAL \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## GREETING

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

**C: And also with you.**

*Opt. A:* 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.

*Opt. B:* 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.

*Opt. C:* 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

*Opt. A:* 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?

*Opt. B:* 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?

Bride/Groom: I will.

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?

**C: We will.**

#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

*Opt. A:* 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.

*Opt. B:* 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.

**C: Amen.**

## WORD

FIRST LESSON \_\_\_\_\_

PSALM [optional] \_\_\_\_\_

SECOND LESSON \_\_\_\_\_

SOLO or HYMN [optional] \_\_\_\_\_

SERMON

HYMN [optional] \_\_\_\_\_

## MARRIAGE

VOWS [Additional Marriage Vow options are attached.]

P: Name and name, I invite you to declare your vows to one another.

*Opt. A:* 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.

*Opt. B:* 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.

GIVING OF RINGS [Additional Ring Exchange options are attached.]

P: 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.

**C: Amen.**

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

## ACCLAMATION

P: 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.

C: **Amen. Thanks be to God.**

SIGNING OF THE MARRIAGE LICENSE \_\_\_\_\_

LIGHTING OF THE UNITY CANDLE [opt.] \_\_\_\_\_

## MARRIAGE BLESSING

*Opt. A:* Most gracious God, we give you thanks for your tender love in sending Jesus Christ to come among us, to be born of a human mother, 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.

*Opt. B:* 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.

C: **Amen.**

*Please Stand*

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*Opt. A:* 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.**

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 who, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and praise forever.

*Opt. B:* 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.**

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

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

[opt.] 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.**

We give thanks to you, merciful God, for those who have died. 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.**

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

**C: Amen.**

**C: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by 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.**

**SENDING**

**BLESSING**

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.

**C: Amen.**

**PRESENTATION OF COUPLE**

**DISMISSAL**

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**RECESSIONAL** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**POSTLUDE** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*Receiving Line message [opt]*

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*Other message(s) [opt]*

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Please list (PRINT) names and relations as you wish them to appear in the bulletin. Please list couples together and use additional lines for different households.

PARTICIPANTS

Presiding Minister ..... \_\_\_\_\_  
Preaching Minister ..... \_\_\_\_\_  
Minister (additional)..... \_\_\_\_\_  
.....  
Organist ..... \_\_\_\_\_  
Lectors..... \_\_\_\_\_ *Relation* \_\_\_\_\_  
..... *Relation* \_\_\_\_\_  
..... *Relation* \_\_\_\_\_  
Soloist..... \_\_\_\_\_ *Relation* \_\_\_\_\_  
..... *Relation* \_\_\_\_\_  
Acolyte/Candle Lighter..... \_\_\_\_\_ *Relation* \_\_\_\_\_  
..... *Relation* \_\_\_\_\_

THE WEDDING PARTY

Parents of the Bride..... \_\_\_\_\_  
.....  
Parents of the Groom..... \_\_\_\_\_  
.....  
Grandparents of the Bride ..... \_\_\_\_\_  
.....  
Grandparents of the Groom ..... \_\_\_\_\_  
.....  
Maid/Matron of Honor ..... \_\_\_\_\_ *Relation* \_\_\_\_\_  
Bridesmaids ..... \_\_\_\_\_ *Relation* \_\_\_\_\_  
..... *Relation* \_\_\_\_\_  
..... *Relation* \_\_\_\_\_  
..... *Relation* \_\_\_\_\_  
..... *Relation* \_\_\_\_\_  
Best Man ..... \_\_\_\_\_ *Relation* \_\_\_\_\_  
Groomsmen..... \_\_\_\_\_ *Relation* \_\_\_\_\_  
..... *Relation* \_\_\_\_\_  
..... *Relation* \_\_\_\_\_  
..... *Relation* \_\_\_\_\_

Flower Girls ..... \_\_\_\_\_ *Relation* \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ *Relation* \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ *Relation* \_\_\_\_\_

Ring Bearer..... \_\_\_\_\_ *Relation* \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ *Relation* \_\_\_\_\_

Ushers ..... \_\_\_\_\_ *Relation* \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ *Relation* \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ *Relation* \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ *Relation* \_\_\_\_\_

Other

\_\_\_\_\_ ..... \_\_\_\_\_ *Relation* \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ ..... \_\_\_\_\_ *Relation* \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ ..... \_\_\_\_\_ *Relation* \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ ..... \_\_\_\_\_ *Relation* \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ ..... \_\_\_\_\_ *Relation* \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ ..... \_\_\_\_\_ *Relation* \_\_\_\_\_

Memorial Flowers message [opt]

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# *Selections for the wedding service bulletin*

## **Scripture Passages**

Please select passages of Scripture you desire to have read at the service. The following are among those that are often used; however, you may select others if you wish.

### **OLD TESTAMENT**

Genesis 1:26-28 (31a) *Woman and man created in the image of God*  
Genesis 2:18-24 *Companionship rather than loneliness*  
Genesis 24:48-51, 58-67 *Rebekah agrees to marry Isaac*  
Ruth 1:15-18 *Your people will be my people, and your God my God*  
Proverbs 3:3-6 *Loyalty and faithfulness written on the heart*  
Song of Solomon 2:10-13 *The voice of the beloved*  
Song of Solomon 8:6,7a *Set me as a seal upon your heart*  
Song of Solomon 8:6-7 *Many waters cannot quench love*  
Isaiah 63:7-9 *God's steadfast love lifts up the people*  
Jeremiah 31:31-34 (or Jeremiah 31:31-32a, 33-34a) *The new covenant of the people of God*

### **PSALMS**

67 *May God be merciful to us and bless us*  
100 *We are God's people and the sheep of God's pasture*  
117 *The steadfast love of the Lord*  
121 *The Lord keeps watch over you*  
127 *Unless the Lord builds the house*  
128 *Blessed are those who walk in the Lord's ways*  
150 *Let everything that breathes praise the Lord*

### **NEW TESTAMENT**

Romans 8:31-35, 37-39 (or Romans 8:31b-35, 37-39) *If God is for us, who is against us*  
Romans 12:1-2, 9-18 (or Romans 12:1, 9-13) *A living sacrifice and genuine love*  
1 Corinthians 6:13c-15a, 17-20 *But anyone united to the Lord becomes one spirit with him*  
1 Corinthians 12:31—13:13 *The greatest gift is love*  
Ephesians 3:14-19 *The breadth, length, height and depth of Christ's love*  
Ephesians 5:1-2, 21-33 (or Ephesians 5:2a, 21-33) *Walk in love, as Christ loved us*  
Philippians 4:4-9 *Rejoice in the Lord always*  
Colossians 3:12-17 *Clothed in compassion, kindness, meekness and patience*  
1 John 3:18-24 (or 1 John 4:7-12) *Let us love in truth and action*  
1 John 4:7-16 *Let us love one another for love is of God*  
Revelation 19:1, 5-9a *Let us rejoice and exult...for the marriage of the Lamb has come*

### **GOSPEL**

Matthew 5:1-12a (or Matthew 5:1-10) *The beatitudes*  
Matthew 5:13-15 *Salt of the earth and light of the world*  
Matthew 5:14-16 *You are the light, let your light shine*  
Matthew 7:21, 24-29 *A wise person builds upon the rock*  
Matthew 19:3-6 *What God has united must not be divided*  
Matthew 22:35-40 *Love, the greatest commandment*  
Mark 10:6-9 *They are no longer two but one*  
John 2:1-11 *The wedding at Cana*  
John 15:9-12 (or John 15:9-17) *Love one another as I have loved you*

## Marriage Vows

Please select one of the following nine vows as you reflect on what you will be promising each other before God.

- A.** 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.
- B.** 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.
- C.** I, *name*, give myself to you, *name*. By the grace of God, I promise to support and care for you. In the love of Christ, I promise to love and cherish you. With the Spirit's help, I promise to be faithful to you, as long as we both shall live.
- D.** I 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 forgive you as we have been forgiven; and I will share my life with you, through the best and worst of all that is to come, until death parts us.
- E.** I take *name*, to be my wife/husband from this day forward, to join with you and share all that is to come, and with the help of God, I promise to be faithful to you, as long as we both shall live.
- F.** *Name*, I take you to be my wife/husband from this time forward, 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 be loyal to you with my whole life and with all my being, as long as we both shall live.
- G.** I take you, 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 strengthen you and to join with you so that together we may serve God and others as long as we both shall live.
- H.** I 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 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 worst of what is to come as long as we live.
- I.** I, \_\_\_\_\_, take you, \_\_\_\_\_, to be my wedded wife/husband, to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and health, to love and to cherish, till death us do part, according to God's holy word; and therefore I pledge you my love.

## Ring Exchange

- A.** I give you this ring as a sign of my love and faithfulness.
- B.** Receive this ring as a pledge and token of married love and faithfulness.