

# **Holy Matrimony**

## **Preface**

Standing together, the Groom on the right of the Bride, the Minister addresses those who have gathered:

Dearly beloved, we are gathered together here in the sight of God and His angels, and all the Saints, in the face of His Church, to join together this man and this woman in holy Matrimony, which was first instituted by God in Creation and then adorned and beautified by Christ with His presence and first miracle at Cana, and which signifies the mystical union between Christ and His Church: that they may be one body, yet two souls, in the faith and law of God, and together may attain eternal life.

## **Vows**

The Minister asks the Groom:

*N*, will you have this woman to be your wedded wife; Will you love, honor, hold and cherish her, in sickness and in health; and, forsaking all others, be faithful to her, so long as you both shall live?

The Groom answers: I will.

The Minister asks the Bride:

*N*, will you have this man to be your wedded husband; Will you love, honor, comfort and cherish him, in sickness and in health; and, forsaking all others, be faithful to him, so long as you both shall live?

The Bride answers: I will.

The Minister asks: Who gives this woman to be married to this man?

The Minister receives the Bride from her father or friend and places her right hand in the Groom's right hand, who then repeats after the Minister: I, *N*, take you, *N*, to be my wedded 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, till death us do part.

They loose their hands and the Bride takes the Groom's right hand in her right hand, likewise repeating after the Minister: I, *N*, take you, *N*, to be my wedded 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.

### **Blessing with the Rings**

They again loose their hands and the Groom gives the rings to the Minister, who prays:

O Lord, bless those who wear these rings, that they will be steadfast in Your peace and abide in Your will; that they will live, increase, and grow old in Your love; and that the length of their days will be multiplied. Through Christ our Lord. *Amen*.

The Minister then gives the Bride's [Groom's] ring to the Groom [Bride], who receives it in his [her] right hand and, holding the Bride's [Groom's] right hand in his [her] left hand, repeats after the Minister:

With this ring I thee wed, and with my body I thee honor, and with all my worldly goods I thee endow. In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. *Amen*.

They loose their hands and, if the Bride gives a ring, the former procedure is then repeated.

They bow their heads and the Minister blesses them.

O Eternal God, Creator and Preserver of all mankind, Giver of all spiritual grace, Author of everlasting life: Send Your blessing upon this man and this woman, so that, living faithfully together in love and peace, they may fulfill and keep the vow and covenant they have made, of which these rings are a token and pledge, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*.

The Minister joins their right hands together and says:

Those whom God has joined together let no man put asunder.

The Couple now turns to face those present, and the Minister addresses the company:

*N* and *N* have entered into holy wedlock, and have witnessed the same before God and this company, and have given and pledged their troth to each other, and have declared the same by their exchange of rings and by their joining hands: I pronounce that they are Man and Wife; In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. *Amen*.

The Couple now turns to face the Minister and prays.

May the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit bless, preserve, and keep you, and may the Lord mercifully with His favor look upon you and fill you with all spiritual blessings and grace that you may so live together in this life that in the world to come you may have eternal life. *Amen*. You [Groom] may now kiss the Bride.

### **Brief Sermon**

**Lord's Prayer (*Company Together; all standing*)**

**Concluding Prayer**