

The Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage

<<< Ask for Marriage License prior to ceremony>>>
<<< MUSIC ENTRANCE >>>

Dearly beloved: We have come together in the presence of God to witness and bless the joining together of this man and this woman in Holy Matrimony. The bond and covenant of marriage was established by God in creation, and our Lord Jesus Christ adorned this manner of life by his presence and first miracle at a wedding in Cana of Galilee. It signifies to us the mystery of the union between Christ and his Church, and Holy Scripture commends it to be honored among all people.

The union of husband and wife in heart, body, and mind is intended by God for their mutual joy; for the help and comfort given one another in prosperity and adversity; and, when it is God's will, for the procreation of children and their nurture in the knowledge and love of the Lord. Therefore marriage is not to be entered into unadvisedly or lightly, but reverently, deliberately, and in accordance with the purposes for which it was instituted by God.

Into this holy union **Lindsay Marie Gosnell and Ian Meil Sutton** now come to be joined.

If any of you can show just cause why they may not lawfully be married, speak now; or else for ever **hold your peace.**

Then the Celebrant says to the persons to be married

I require and charge you both, here in the presence of God, that if either of you know any reason why you may not be united in marriage lawfully, and in accordance with God's Word, you do now confess it.

The Declaration of Consent

The Celebrant says to the woman

Lindsay, will you have this man to be your husband; to live together in the covenant of marriage? Will you love him, comfort him, honor and keep him, in sickness and in health; and, forsaking all others, be faithful to him as long as you both shall live?

The Woman answers

I will.

The Celebrant says to the man

Ian, will you have this woman to be your wife; to live together in the covenant of marriage? Will you love her, comfort her, honor and keep her, in sickness and in health; and, forsaking all others, be faithful to her as long as you both shall live?

The Man answers

I will.

The Celebrant then addresses the congregation, saying

Will all of you witnessing these promises do all in your power to uphold these two persons in their marriage?

People We will.

If there is to be a presentation or a giving in marriage, it takes place at this time.

Who gives (presents) this woman to be married to this man?

A hymn, psalm, or anthem may follow.

The Ministry of the Word

The Celebrant then says to the people

The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Let us pray.

O gracious and everliving God, you have created us male and female in your image: Look mercifully upon this man and this woman who come to you seeking your blessing, and assist them with your grace, that with true fidelity and steadfast love they may honor and keep the promises and vows they make; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Then one or more of the following passages from Holy Scripture is read

OT Reader>>> _____

[Genesis 1:26-28](#) (Male and female he created them)

[Genesis 2:4-9, 15-24](#) (A man cleaves to his wife and they become one flesh)

[Song of Solomon 2:10-13; 8:6-7](#) (Many waters cannot quench love)

[Tobit 8:5b-9](#) (*New English Bible*) (That she and I may grow old together)

NT Reader >>>>> _____

[1 Corinthians 13:1-13](#) (Love is patient and kind)

[Ephesians 3:14-19](#) (The Father from whom ever family is named)

[Ephesians 5:1-2, 21-33](#) (Walk in love, as Christ loved us)

[Colossians 3:12-17](#) (Love which binds everything together in harmony)

[1 John 4:7-16](#) (Let us love one another for love is of God)

When a passage from the Gospel is to be read, all stand, and the Deacon or Minister appointed says

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to _____.

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

[John 15:9-12](#) (Love one another as I have loved you)

⁹As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

¹² This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

After the Gospel, the Reader says

The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

A homily or other response to the Readings may follow.

1. Marriage is a symbol of God's love for humanity!
 - a. Sometimes we're not lovely
 - b. God sees us as we see this bride... beautiful!
 - c. God desires to run down the aisle for us!
2. Marriage is an opportunity for us to love like Christ!
 - a. Love as Christ loves us... how far does that go?
 - i. God planned a rescue from the moment sin first entered the world (millennia ago)
 - ii. God's love is loyal – Not dependent upon us! (Is there anything "he" could do that would cause you to walk away? (Yep!) ----- (God will never walk away)
 - b. This is your cross to bear

The Marriage

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

In the Name of God, I, **Ian**, take you, **Lindsay**, 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, until we are parted by death. This is my solemn vow.

Then they loose their hands, and the Woman, still facing the man, takes his right hand in hers, and says

In the Name of God, I, **Lindsay**, take you, **Ian**, 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, until we are parted by death. This is my solemn vow.

They loose their hands. The Priest may ask God's blessing on a ring or rings as follows

Bless, O Lord, *this ring* to be a *sign* of the vows by which this man and this woman have bound themselves to each other; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

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

Lindsay / **Ian**, I give you this ring as a symbol of my vow, and with all that I am, and all that I have, I honor you, in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit

Then the Celebrant joins the right hands of husband and wife and says

Now that **Lindsay** and **Ian** have given themselves to each other by solemn vows, with the joining of hands and the giving and receiving of a ring, I pronounce that they are husband and wife, in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

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

People Amen.

The Prayers

All standing, the Celebrant says

Let us pray together in the words our Savior taught us.

People and Celebrant

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.	Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.	Give us today our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.	Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.	Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.	For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.

If Communion is to follow, the Lord's Prayer may be omitted here.

The Deacon or other person appointed reads the following prayers, to which the People respond, saying, Amen.

If there is not to be a communion, one or more of the prayers may be omitted.

Let us pray.

Eternal God, creator and preserver of all life, author of salvation, and giver of all grace: Look with favor upon the world you have made, and for which your Son gave his life, and especially upon this man and this woman whom you make one flesh in Holy Matrimony. *Amen.*

Give them wisdom and devotion in the ordering of their common life, that each may be to the other a strength in need, a counselor in perplexity, a comfort in sorrow, and a companion in joy. *Amen.*

Grant that their wills may be so knit together in your will, and their spirits in your Spirit, that they may grow in love and peace with you and one another all the days of their life. *Amen.*

Give them grace, when they hurt each other, to recognize and acknowledge their fault, and to seek each other's forgiveness and yours. *Amen.*

Make their life together a sign of Christ's love to this sinful and broken world, that unity may overcome estrangement, forgiveness heal guilt, and joy conquer despair. *Amen.*

Bestow on them, if it is your will, the gift and heritage of children, and the grace to bring them up to know you, to love you, and to serve you. *Amen.*

Give them such fulfillment of their mutual affection that they may reach out in love and concern for others. *Amen.*

Grant that all married persons who have witnessed these vows may find their lives strengthened and their loyalties confirmed. *Amen.*

Grant that the bonds of our common humanity, by which all your children are united one to another, and the living to the dead, may be so transformed by your grace, that your will may be done on earth as it is in heaven; where, O Father, with your Son, and the Holy Spirit, you live and reign in perfect unity, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The Blessing of the Marriage

The people remain standing. The husband and wife kneel, and the Priest says one of the following prayers

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 make the way of the cross to be the way of life. We thank you, also, for consecrating the union of man and woman in his Name. By the power of your Holy Spirit, pour out the abundance of your blessing upon 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 foreheads. 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 for ever in your heavenly home; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Now present to you

Mr. and Mrs. Ian and Lindsay Sutton!

You may kiss the bride!!! (Music exit)

(IF COMMUNION IS DESIRED IT HAPPENS AFTER THE BLESSING AND BEFORE THE PRESENTATION OF THE NEWLY BETROTHED COUPLE)