

SAINT PETER’S CHURCH

RITE OF MARRIAGE FOR ALL (SEPTEMBER 1, 2011)

ENTRANCE

GREETING

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

And also with you.

INTRODUCTION

Dear friends: We have come together in the presence of God to witness the marriage of ___ and _____, 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 woman are joined as one~~, a holy mystery in which two become one flesh, an image of the union of Christ and the church. As ___ and _____ give themselves 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.

DECLARATION OF INTENTION

Rob/Robin, living in the promise of God, joined to Christ in your baptism, will you give yourself to ___/___ in love and faithful-ness? Will you share your life with him, in joy and in sorrow, in health and in sickness, for richer, for poorer, for better, for worse, and will you be faithful to him as long as you both shall live?

I will, with the help of God.

Families, friends, and all those gathered here with ___ and _____, will you promise to support and care for them in their life together, to sustain and pray for them in times of trouble, to give thanks with them

in times of joy, to honor the bonds of their covenant, and to affirm the love of God reflected in their lives?

We will, with the help of God.

ENTRANCE

The assembly follows the cross and takes seats in the pews.

PRAYERS OF THE DAY



The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Let us pray. Gracious God, you sent your Son Jesus Christ into the world to reveal your love to all people. Enrich ___ and ___ 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 ending; in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

FIRST READING

Ruth 1:16-18

I Sam 18:1-4

Song of Solomon 2:10-13

Song of Solomon 8:6-7

Isaiah 63:7-9

Jeremiah 31:31-34

PSALM 67, 100, 117, 121, 150

SECOND READING

Romans 8:31-35, 37-39

Romans 12:1-2, 9-18

I Corinthians 12:31-13:13

Ephesians 3:14-19

Ephesians 5:1-2
 Philippians 4:4-9
 Colossians 3:12-17
 I John 3:18-24
 I John 4:7-16

VERSE

Blessed are they who walk in the way of the Lord.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Saint Matthew 5:1-10
 Saint Matthew 5:14-16
 Saint Matthew 7:24-27
 Saint Matthew 22:35-40
 Saint John 2:1-11
 Saint John 15:9-17



HOMILY

HYMN OF THE DAY

VOWS AND GIVING OF RINGS

___ and ___, I invite you to join your hands and declare your vows.

I, ___/___ give myself to you, ___/___. 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.

We give you thanks, O God of grace, for your love and faithfulness to your people. Bless these rings, that they may be symbols of the enduring commitment ___ and ___ have made to each other; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen

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

ACCLAMATION

___/___, by their promises before God and in the presence of this assembly, have bound themselves ~~together as husband and wife~~ to one another. Those whom God has joined together let no one put asunder.

Amen. Thanks be to God.

May you dwell in God's presence forever; may true and constant love preserve you.

NUPTIAL BLESSING

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.

By the power of your Holy Spirit, pour out your abundant blessing upon ___/___. 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 forever in your banquet; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and forever.

Amen

INTERCESSIONS

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 pastors, leaders, and servants of the gospel, that the church may be the risen body of Christ in the world.

O God, source of all life,

hear our prayer.

For all communities everywhere; for our nation, for all those who govern and for all in authority, and for justice and peace throughout the world. O God, source of all life,

hear our prayer.

From your great store of strength give ___ and ___ power and patience, affection and understanding, courage and love toward you, toward each other, and toward the world. O God, source of all life,

hear our prayer.

Make them gentle and patient, ready to trust each other, and, when they fail, willing to acknowledge their fault and to give and receive forgiveness. O God, source of all life,

hear our prayer.

Use us to support ___ and ___ in their life together. Give us such a sense of your constant love that we may employ all our strength in a life of praise of you. O God, source of all life,

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. O God, source of all life,

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. O God, source of all life,
hear our prayer.

For all those who are bound to us in love; for our families, friends, and neighbors, remembering especially, and all who have gone before us. O God, source of all life,
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 Rob and Robin grace to live in unity and joy all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ, in the Holy Spirit, to whom, with you, one God, be praise forever and ever.

Amen

GREETING OF PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you.

The assembly greets one another.

OFFERTORY

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. Merciful God,
we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us — our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**
 Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**
 Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places, give thanks to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You made us in your image; ~~male and female you created us~~. You gave us the gift of marriage, and call us to reflect your faithfulness as we serve one another in the bond of covenant love. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name, and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Blessed are you, O God of the universe;
 for your mercy is everlasting
 and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

All creation sings your praise.
 Sun, moon and stars reflect your glory.
 Mountains, lakes and forests declare your wonders.

With musicians and artists we behold your beauty.
 With Sarah and Abraham we journey in faith, trusting in your promise.
 With Miriam and Moses we celebrate our deliverance from bondage.
 With Naomi and Ruth we bind ourselves together in covenant love.
 With Jonathan and David we delight in the gift of deep and abiding friendship.
 With Mary and Elizabeth we welcome your presence in the birth of Jesus, the Holy One.
 With disciples and followers we marvel at your reign come near.
 With saints through the ages we ponder the mystery of Christ's dying and rising.

In the night in which he was betrayed,

our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

With hearts full of memories and hopes,
tears and dreams,
dance and song
we break this bread and share this cup.
We remember the death and resurrection of Christ,
and his promise to be with us always,
as we joyfully proclaim:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

O Divine Lover,
You are the breath within us.
You are our heart's desire.
You are our priceless treasure.
You are the garden of paradise.

Come down, O love divine.
Come among us, O passionate fire.
Come within us, O Spirit of unity.
Come, Holy Spirit.

Bless us
and these your own gifts which we receive from your bounty.
At this table give us gladness of heart

and make of us your body.
 Form us to be a people of justice and peace.
 Fill us with gratitude and generosity
 that we may bear the fruit of love
 in word and deed.

Join our prayers and voices
 with Mary, _____
 and all your saints of every time and every place,
 that together with them we may cast our crowns before you;
 lost in wonder, love, and praise.

Praise to you, O Author of creation.
 Praise to you, O Morningstar.
 Praise to you, O Giver of all good things.
 Praise to you, blessed and holy Trinity, one God,
 now and forever.

Amen

OUR FATHER

AT THE DISTRIBUTION

All may come forward to receive Holy Communion or a blessing.

LAMB OF GOD

PRAYER

Let us pray. Loving God, we thank you that you have fed us with this holy food, united us with Christ, and given us a foretaste of the heavenly banquet. So strengthen us in your service that our daily lives may show our thanks, through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

BLESSING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

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.