ORDER OF SERVICE FOR
THE SOLEMNIZATION OF MARRIAGE

At the proper time and place, the man and the woman to be married shall stand before the minister; the man at the right hand of the woman, when the minister shall say:

Votum

Our help is in the name of the Lord who made heaven and earth.

Then the minister shall say to all present:

Dearly Beloved, we are assembled here in the sight of God and in the presence of this company to join this man and this woman in the bonds of holy marriage; which is an honorable estate, instituted by God when he said that a man shall leave his father and his mother and shall cleave to his wife; and they shall be one flesh. It was confirmed by the words of our blessed Savior; hallowed by his presence at the marriage in Cana of Galilee; and compared by St. Paul to the mystical union between Christ and his Church. It ought not, therefore, to be entered into lightly or hastily, but reverently, discreetly, and in the fear of God.

These two persons have come to be joined into this holy estate. If any man, therefore, can show just cause why they may not lawfully be joined together, let him now declare it, or else hereafter hold his peace.

Speaking to those who have come to be married, the minister shall say:

I charge you, each and both, as you shall answer to him before whom the secrets of all hearts are open, that if either of you know any reason why you may not lawfully be joined in marriage, declare it now. For be well assured that if any persons are joined together contrary to the Word of God, their marriage is not blessed of God nor is it lawful in his sight.

If no impediment appear, the minister may offer the following or some other prayer or proceed directly to the interrogation.
Prayer

Let us pray.

Almighty and eternal God, giver of all good gifts, look with favor, we pray thee, on these thy servants who lift up their hearts to thee. Enable them to make their vows to one another in all sincerity, as in thy sight, and to be faithful hereafter in keeping them, to the glory of thy holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Vows

The minister, before asking the questions, shall say:

Dearly Beloved, hear what the Apostle Paul says: “Wives, be subject to your husbands, as to the Lord, ...as the Church is subject to Christ...Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the Church and gave himself up for her” (Ephesians 5:22, 24, 25). In the same spirit, I call on each of you to answer.

The minister, calling the man by his Christian name, shall say:

Do you, N.______, take N.______ before God and these witnesses, to be your wedded wife?

The man shall answer:

I do.

Will you love her, comfort her, honor and keep her, in sickness and in health, and forsaking every other, keep to her only, so long as you both shall live?

Here the man shall answer:

I will.

The minister then, calling the woman by her Christian name, shall say:

Do you, N.______, take N.______, before God and these witnesses, to be your wedded husband?
The woman shall answer:

I do.

Will you love him, comfort him, honor and keep him, in sickness and in health, and forsaking every other, keep to him only, as long as you both shall live?

Here the woman shall answer:

I will.

At this point the minister may ask:

Who gives this woman to be married to this man?

The father, or guardian, of the woman may respond with “I do.” The minister shall then bid the man to take the right hand of the woman and to say after him:

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, according to God’s holy ordinance; and thereto I pledge myself truly with all my heart.

Then they shall loose their hands; and the woman, with her right hand taking the man by his right hand, shall likewise say after the minister:

I, N.______, take you, N.______, as 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 to part, according to God’s holy ordinance; and thereto I pledge myself truly with all my heart.

When a ring is used, the minister shall ask:

What token do you give of this your marriage vow?

The minister, having received the ring and given it to the man, shall bid him say:

This ring I give in token of the covenant made this day between us; in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.
Or,

With this ring I thee wed; in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

If the woman also gives a ring, she shall present it in the same manner.

The minister shall now bid them join right hands and declare:

Declaration

Forasmuch as you, N____ and N____, have covenanted together according to God’s holy ordinance of marriage, and have confirmed the same by making solemn vows before God and this company and by joining hands (and by giving and receiving a ring), I pronounce you husband and wife; in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Hereafter the minister, addressing the congregation, shall say:

What therefore God has joined together, let no man put asunder. Amen.

Scripture

The minister may use the following Scripture or proceed directly to the Prayer.

Hear what the Word of God says concerning Christian love:

Love is patient and kind; love is not jealous or boastful; it is not arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrong, but rejoices in the right. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

Beloved,... love one another; for love is of God, and he who loves is born of God and knows God. He who does not love does not know God; for God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. 1 John 4:7-9

The minister, asking the man and woman to kneel, may use the following or another prayer.
Prayer

Let us pray.

O faithful God, who keepest covenant and truth with them that love thee, hear thou in heaven, thy dwelling place, the marriage vow which thy servants, N_____ and N_____, have vowed with thee. Grant to them the grace of thy good Spirit, that with all fidelity they may observe and keep it; walking together in thy faith and fear, being led by the angel of thy presence and strengthened by thy hand, until they come into the inheritance of the saints in light; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who has commanded us to pray, saying:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

The minister shall pronounce over them one of the following benedictions:

Benediction

The peace of God that passes all understanding keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God and of his Son Jesus Christ; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always. Amen.

Or,

The Lord bless you and keep you:
The Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you:
The Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.

Or,

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