

St John's Perth

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St John's - Lutheran Church
Perth, W.A.

Order of Marriage

ORDER OF MARRIAGE

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INTRODUCTION

1 ENTRANCE

The procession forms and enters the church.

The minister may meet the wedding party at the church entrance. The following may be said.

The peace of the Lord be with you.

Amen.

2 PROCESSIONAL MUSIC OR HYMN/SONG

The congregation may stand and sing an appropriate hymn, or appropriate music may be played, as the procession enters.

3 OPENING

The minister says one of the following.

EITHER

God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you grace and peace.

Amen.

OR

In the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

4 PRESENTATION (Lighting of Birth Candles)

The parents may present the couple to be married. The minister asks the presenters to stand, if they are not already in position, and says:

Who presents N and N to be married?

I/We do.

Mothers or parents may light the birth candles

5 HYMN/SONG

If no processional hymn has been sung, a hymn may be sung here. Please note, Hymns/Songs are optional, not essential.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

6 PRAYER

The minister says:

Let us pray for N and N who have come to be married.

One of the following prayers or another suitable prayer is said.

EITHER

Eternal God, our creator and redeemer: As you have established marriage and desire to make it holy, pour out your Spirit on N and N, so that they may live faithfully in the state of marriage to your glory and for their good; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

OR

Lord Jesus Christ, as you were present at the wedding at Cana and blessed it, be present at this wedding and bless N and N. Fill them with your joy in their life together, and grant that they may finally celebrate with you the marriage feast that has no end.

Amen.

OR

Faithful God, since you have established marriage, unite N and N as they make their vows publicly to each other, and help them to remain faithful throughout their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

7 PSALM

A psalm may be sung or said.

Psalms 23

Psalms 37:3-7

Psalms 121

Psalms 100

Psalms 117

Psalms 45

Psalms 127

Psalms 128

8 READINGS

One or more readings may be read by the minister or a lector.

Genesis 1:26-31

Genesis 2:18-24

Genesis 24:50, 51, 58-67

Ecclesiastes 9:7-10

Song of Songs 2:10–13
Isaiah 63:7–9
John 15:7–12
Romans 8:37–39
Romans 15:5–7
Ephesians 5:31–33
1 John 4:7–11, 19
Ecclesiastes 4:9–12

Song of Songs 8:6, 7
John 2:1–11
John 15:9–17
Romans 12:1, 2, 9–12
1 Corinthians 13
Colossians 3:12–19
Philippians 4:4–9

9 ADDRESS

10 HYMN/SONG

A hymn may be sung.

THE MARRIAGE

11 FOUNDATION AND PURPOSE OF MARRIAGE

The minister reads some or all of the following passages to the congregation and particularly to the couple to be married.

N and N: God established marriage as the basis of family life, and for the wellbeing of human society. He said: 'It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner'.

God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them, and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it'. God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good.

Our Lord Jesus Christ said: Haven't you read that at the beginning the Creator 'made them male and female', and said, 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh'? So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let no-one separate.

The apostle Paul says to Christian couples: Be subject to one another out of reverence for Christ. Wives, be subject to your husbands as you are to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Saviour. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her. In the same way, husbands should love their wives as they do their own bodies.

So then, N and N, our Lord promises to bless those who honour his purpose for marriage and remain faithful to each other in it.

12 DECLARATION OF INTENT

The minister says to the man.

I therefore ask you: N, will you have N as your wife, to live together, as God has ordained, in the state of marriage? Will you love her, comfort her, honour and protect her, and, forsaking all others, be faithful to her, as long as you both shall live?

Yes, I will.

The minister says to the woman.

N, will you have N as your husband, to live together, as God has ordained, in the state of marriage? Will you love him, comfort him, honour and protect him, and, forsaking all others, be faithful to him, as long as you both shall live?

Yes, I will.

13 VOWS

N and N, join your right hands and *say after me/exchange your vows.*

VOW 1

I, N,

in the presence of God,

take you, N, 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,

so long as we both shall live.

This is my solemn vow.

VOW 2

I, N,

in the presence of God and these witnesses,

take you, N, to be my wife;

and I promise to be faithful to you

as long as we live.

ALTERNATE MARRIAGE VOWS

"The following alternative marriage vows have been authorized by the church and may be used in a marriage service instead of those printed in Church Rites... However, it must be emphasized that the vows printed in Church rites are preferable to the alternatives and should be accorded a higher status." (LCA Bishop in consultation with the Chief Registrar)

3.) I take you, N, to be my wife/husband, and these things I promise: I will be faithful to you and forgive you as God has forgiven us; I will respect, trust, help, and care for you. I will share my life with you through the best and the worst of what may come until death parts us.

4.) I take you, N, to be my wife/husband. I promise before God and these witnesses to be your faithful husband/ wife, to share with you in poverty and in prosperity, in joy and in sorrow, in sickness and in health, to forgive and support you, and to join you in serving God and others as long as we both shall live.

5.) I, N, take you, N, to be my wife/husband. I promise to be faithful to you in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health. I will love you and honour you all the days of my life.

6.) I, N, in the presence of God, take you, N, to be my wife/husband. All that I am I give to you, and all that I have I share with you. Whatever the future holds, I will love you and stand by you, as long as we both shall live. This is my solemn vow.

7.) I take you, N, 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.

14 EXCHANGE OF RINGS

The minister says:

Take this ring and say after me:

EITHER

(N,) I give you this ring as a sign of our marriage and the vows we have made today.

OR

(N,) Receive this ring as a pledge and token of wedded love and faithfulness.

15 DECLARATION OF MARRIAGE

The minister says to the man and woman:

Turn to each other and join your right hands.

Since N and N have promised themselves to each other before God and in the presence of us all, I, as a servant of God and by the authority of the Commonwealth of Australia, declare them to be husband and wife. What God has joined together, let no-one separate.

The bridegroom may raise the bride's veil. [Kiss]

16 AFFIRMATION BY PARENTS [Optional]

The parents of the couple may come forward to greet them.

The minister may say to the parents:

Do you, *parents/N and N*, give your blessing to this marriage?

We give our blessing to N and N.

OR

The minister may say to the congregation:

I ask those assembled to join me in the pronouncement saying:

We, your family and friends, now pronounce you married.

17 OTHER RITUALS OF MARRIAGE

The couple may light the Unity candle together or participate in other wedding rituals or customs.

BLESSING AND PRAYERS

18 BLESSING OF COUPLE

*The minister goes to the altar. The man and woman follow him and kneel.
The minister lays his hands on them and says one of the following.*

EITHER

Live together in faith and love, so that your marriage may reflect the union of Christ with his bride the church. And the blessing of God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit +, be with you always.

Amen.

OR

God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit bless, protect, and enrich you + in your married life.

Amen.

19 PRAYER

One of the following prayers or another prayer is said.

EITHER

Let us pray.

Gracious God, our heavenly Father, as you have united N and N in marriage: Help them to live together according to your word. Strengthen them in faithfulness and love toward each other. Give them the heritage of children. Make them wise and loving parents, so that they may bring up their children to know, love, and serve you. (Help them to accept and love N, N, and N [children/grandchildren of previous marriage], so that they may grow together as a family.) Watch over them in the joys and troubles of their life. Keep them in the fellowship of your church. Strengthen their faith in you and encourage them to serve each other; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

OR

Let us pray. (As we pray, respond to each prayer with the words 'Lord, hear our prayer'.)

Lord God, our ever-present helper and counsellor: Be with N and N, who have promised each other lifelong love and faithfulness in marriage.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Guide and strengthen them by your Holy Spirit to fulfil this promise.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Make them of one mind, and help them to live together in harmony with each other.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Make their home your dwelling-place, and teach them to ask you for whatever they need.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Give them joy in their work and let your blessing rest upon it.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Make them ready to ask and receive forgiveness from each other.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, hear our prayer.

When their life on earth is over, bring them to your eternal home; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

OR

Loving God, we praise you for the ways in which your love comes into our lives. Bless the families, relatives and friends gathered here today. Enrich husbands and wives, parents and children so that they may strengthen and support one another.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, hear our prayer.

With N and N we thank you for the loving care of their parents which has supported and guided them to maturity and prepared them for each other. At this time of parting may they find new happiness as they share their children's joy.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Be with N and N. Give them the strength to keep their promise to be loyal and faithful to each other. Watch over them in good times and in bad. May they bear each other's burdens and share each other's joys.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Help N and N to be honest and patient with each other, to be loving and wise parents of any children they may have. May their home be a place of peace and warmth and laughter. May they enjoy each other's lives and grow through each other's love.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Make them ready to ask and receive forgiveness from each other. When their life on earth is over, bring them to your eternal home; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Saviour and Lord.

Amen.

20 LORD'S PRAYER

The minister may lay his hands on the couple as the congregation says:

Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come,

your will be done

on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.**

OR

**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 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
For ever and ever. Amen.**
The man and woman stand.

21 HYMN/SONG

A hymn is sung.

CONCLUSION

22 BLESSING

The minister says one of the following to the congregation.

EITHER

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

Amen.

OR

(May) God, who gives patience and encouragement, help you to live in harmony as you follow Christ Jesus, so that together you may praise God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ; and the blessing of almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit +, be with you always.

Amen.

23 SIGNING THE REGISTER

After the signing the minister may say:

Ladies and gentlemen, I present to you Mr and Mrs N.

The congregation may greet the couple with applause.

24 RECESSION

WEDDING SUGGESTIONS

When you plan your wedding service, you may want to involve the congregation in some way so that they are not simply an audience. They could read a Psalm together, sing a hymn or song, pray the Lord's Prayer, join in the pronouncement...

Check with your families to determine if they have any special family traditions for weddings. There is usually a place where these can be included in the service.

One ritual which is popular is the use of candles - two birth candles lit by the mothers and a Marriage Unity candle lit by the couple - you can use the candles we provide or bring your own.

When printing the Order of Service, do not print material which the congregation does not need to have. If Vows and Declaration are printed, people will tend to read them rather than focus on the bride and groom. So print a general order with some main headings and do include words for Hymns, Songs, Lord's Prayer and maybe Bible readings.

Often at weddings people do not know much about some of the people involved in the Bridal party. One idea is to give a few words of introduction when you list the names: "Bridesmaid - Penny Smith: Penny was my best friend in Primary school in Kalgoorlie and we have shared many experiences over the years."

You could also use the Order of Service to give people information about the reception or what they could do between the wedding and reception if they are not from Perth.

We have a data projector set up in the church. This provides possibilities for pre-service presentations. Please provide your own laptop, etc. and arrange for someone to run the program.

Please send a copy of your Order of Service to the Pastor for review before you have it printed.