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# WEDDING HANDBOOK

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Saint Mark's Episcopal Church, Upland, California



**St. Mark's Episcopal Church: A Community of Grace**

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YouTube Channel: [www.youtube.com/user/stmarksupland](https://www.youtube.com/user/stmarksupland)

## **WEDDING HANDBOOK**

*Updated on January 17, 2022*

*Gracious God, bless us as we step out in married love together.*

*Grant us peace to weave our dreams in joy.*

*Grant us wisdom to give and take in hope.*

*Grant us strength to plant and grow in faith.*

*May we be always food for one another throughout our life's journey.*

*May we be always courageous and steadfast, in all our ups and downs.*

*May we always know you more vividly, through our deep love and abiding attraction.*

*Gracious God, you made us for each other.*

*We thank you for the richness of your creation, and for the joy of becoming one in your deep, abiding, self-giving love. Amen.*

This handbook is to help you in the planning of your wedding service. It offers a sample service and a step-by-step explanation of the options within the service.

Please know that you can be confident that all the people with whom you will be dealing in preparation for the service want to help you in every way.

The service is according to *The Book of Common Prayer* of the Episcopal Church.

These days before the wedding can be a special time in which to discover more about each other, your families, management styles, and how you celebrate love.

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

*My uncle is a Presbyterian minister. Would he be allowed to take part in our wedding service?*

Yes, he is welcome to share in the liturgy. He may read the prayers or one of the lessons, or give the sermon or a blessing. Discuss the opportunities with the Rector and your uncle and decide how you would like the ceremony conducted.

*Do I invite the priest to the wedding reception?*

It is entirely up to you; couples often do out of courtesy. However, the priest will usually need to prepare or rest for Sunday services or may have other appointments later in the day.

*I have been living with my girlfriend for the past two years. Surely this is the best way to get to know each other. Do we still need marriage preparation?*

Living together in a “trial marriage” differs from marriage in one way: a trial marriage is conditional (if things go well, then we continue), Christian marriage is covenantal, that is, permanent. Belonging to one another no matter what makes all the difference. This difference is what causes the need for marriage preparation.

*How many pre-marital counseling sessions are needed?*

At minimum five one-hour sessions, plus the wedding rehearsal.

*Do we need a wedding rehearsal?*

Yes. Even the simplest ceremony runs better with a rehearsal. The rehearsal is coordinated by the wedding coordinator and the rector. However, please be aware that if there is a special circumstance that requires the presence of the organist at the rehearsal, an additional fee of \$50 will be added for the organist.

*I am pregnant and my boyfriend and I want to get married. Can we still have a church wedding?*

The fact that you’re pregnant doesn’t mean that you can’t have a church wedding. Even if the baby is born before the wedding, you can still marry in church. However, because of the new situation you need to ensure that you really are entering marriage freely, and not out of a sense of pressure from your boyfriend, parents, or self. You must make a free decision. It will be far better to postpone or cancel your wedding than enter into an unhappy marriage.

*I was brought up as a Christian but I haven't been going to church regularly for several years. My fiancé doesn't belong to any church and has no religious beliefs. Will we be allowed to marry?*

At least one of you needs to be a baptized Christian. Your wedding could be an opportunity for you to make a fresh start with your faith.

*My fiancée has been married before. Her first marriage ended in divorce. Could we still get married in church?*

The wedding cannot happen within a calendar year from the date of the final decree. If this is a second divorce (from either partner) than an extra year is added from the most recent final decree. In addition, special permission must be given by the bishop whenever there has been a divorce. When there are minor children from a previous marriage all legal and financial obligations need to be met before a new marriage may be considered.

*Do I have to be a member of St. Mark's to be married here?*

No. However, before we begin, you must attend a Sunday service and introduce yourself to the rector.

*My aunt is an organist. Would she be allowed to play the organ in our wedding service?*

It is possible. However, you will still be responsible for the full fees for our organist. And she will need to arrange a meeting at our organist's convenience in order review protocol and procedures. This practice is commonplace and recognizes the fact that organs are complex and complicated instruments.

**FEES**

<b>Item/Payable to...</b>	<b>Amount</b>
For the use of the Church Make check payable to St. Mark's Church	\$300
Holiday Weekend Surcharge	\$100
For the use of the Parish Hall Can be included in check to St. Mark's Church	\$600
For flowers at the Altar Can be included in check to St. Mark's Church	
One Sunday size arrangement	From \$200
Larger or multiple arrangements	From \$250
For Organist Separate check payable to: Blane Abernathy	From \$250
For a Soloist Please see Blane Abernathy. Please be aware that a soloist requires additional rehearsal time for the organist and therefore a higher fee. Rates for the church soloist begin at \$100 and an extra \$50 rehearsal fee for the organist.	
For Clergy Honorarium for clergy is made payable directly to the clergy.	At your discretion

Please see the wedding coordinator for more information about payment due dates, holiday weekends, and the cancellation policy.

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

Wedding Coordinator  
Bobbi Arjo  
(909) 816-0090 (Mobile)  
(909) 981-1255 (Home)  
[bobbi.arjo@verizon.net](mailto:bobbi.arjo@verizon.net)

Church Secretary: Service bulletin and space reservations:  
Parish Administrator  
909-920-5565 (Church Office) [parishadmin@stmarks-upland.org](mailto:parishadmin@stmarks-upland.org)

- We are happy to include reception invitations/directions, and any other information in the bulletin that will help accommodate your guests or honor the occasion.

Flowers at the Altar  
Christy Hyder  
909-466-6434  
[Classylady3838@aol.com](mailto:Classylady3838@aol.com)

Organist and Director of Music Ministry  
TBA  
909-920-5565 (Church Office)  
[babernathy@stmarks-](mailto:babernathy@stmarks-)

## **SOME MUSIC SUGGESTIONS**

Wedding services at St. Mark's are best supported by music from our designated hymnals. It is also appropriate for a soloist to present a religious piece of music such as the *Ave Maria* in the context of the service. Please present other music at the reception.

**DECLARATION OF INTENTION**

*Please write out the Declaration below in your own hand. Please complete with your full names in the first paragraph. You do not need to include the word “signatures” or the underscore/underlines “\_\_\_\_\_” in the final document.*

We, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_,  
desiring to receive the blessing of Holy Matrimony in the Church, do solemnly  
declare that we hold marriage to be a lifelong union as it is set forth in the Book of  
Common Prayer.

We believe that this union in heart, body, and mind, is intended by God for the  
couple’s 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.

And we do engage ourselves, so far as in us lies, to make our utmost effort to  
establish this relationship and to seek God’s help thereto.

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*Signatures*



**COUPLE INFORMATION**

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_ & Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Denomination/Church: \_\_\_\_\_

Date and Place of Baptism: \_\_\_\_\_

Date and Place of Confirmation: \_\_\_\_\_

Father's Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parents' Hometowns: \_\_\_\_\_

Names & Ages of Children: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Number of Previous Marriages: \_\_\_\_\_

Approval from the bishop will be needed for any divorces.

Please present the church with certified copies of all final divorce and/or annulment decrees. Date received: \_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever been refused marriage in the Episcopal Church? Yes/No

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_ & Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Denomination/Church: \_\_\_\_\_

Date and Place of Baptism: \_\_\_\_\_

Date and Place of Confirmation: \_\_\_\_\_

Father's Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parents' Hometowns: \_\_\_\_\_

Names & Ages of Children: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Number of Previous Marriages: \_\_\_\_\_

Approval from the bishop will be needed for any divorces.

Please present the church with certified copies of all final divorce and/or

annulment decrees. Date received: \_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever been refused marriage in the Episcopal Church? Yes/No

## **SERMON PREPARATION**

*Please complete and return this page. Your responses for this section will be used for the preparation of the Homily. Please only include stories you wouldn't mind hearing from the pulpit on your wedding day. Please be as specific and complete as possible. Not everything you submit here will be included in the Homily.*

**Names:** \_\_\_\_\_

### “Dearly beloved”

Who are the principle people involved in your wedding?  
Please include a one line description of each person.

### “Joining together”

How did you meet?  
Describe your first date.  
Describe the wedding proposal.

### “This couple”

Describe your personality and what you like about yourself.  
Describe your partner's personality.  
What do you like about your partner?  
What are some things that make the other person special?

### “Bond and covenant”

How are you two alike that makes for a good match?  
How are you two different that makes for a good team?  
What are some personal characteristics (or quirks) about the other person that you are learning to love?

### “A wedding in Cana of Galilee”

Are there special reasons behind the particular choices of your wedding ceremony

### “Mutual joy, help, and comfort”

How does your partner help you become a better person?  
How does your partner help your relationship with God?

### “Their nurture in the knowledge and love of the Lord”

Are there any children? Or animals?

**WEDDING SERVICE INFORMATION**

Please read through the following sample service and complete the following guide to help us complete the Church bulletin, announcements, and register. If you have any questions please contact the church office.

Including the couple, how many are there in the Wedding Party? \_\_\_\_\_

About how many guests do you expect? \_\_\_\_\_

Guest Clergy

All guest clergy must get approval from the rector – and, at times, from the Bishop via the rector.

Title and Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Position and Church: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact information: \_\_\_\_\_

Rehearsal

Day, Date & Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Place: \_\_\_\_\_

Please remember to bring the Wedding License to be completed and signed at the rehearsal.

Wedding

Day, Date & Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Place (if different from above):  
\_\_\_\_\_

Reception

Day, Date & Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Place (if different from above):  
\_\_\_\_\_

The Celebration and Blessing of the Marriage of  
*Name* and *Name*  
On **Saturday**, the **nth** day of **Month**,  
2015 At St. Mark's Episcopal Church  
Upland, California

*Processional*

“Canon in D Major”  
“Trumpet Voluntary”

*by Johann Pachelbel*  
*by Jeremiah Clarke*

*The Opening Address*

*Please remain standing until the Readings.*

Dearly beloved: We have come together in the presence of God to witness and bless the joining together of *Name* and *Name* 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.

This union 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 *Name* and *Name* 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.

*The Celebrant says to the couple*

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 Name*

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

*Name*: I will.

### *The Declaration of Consent by the Parents (Optional)*

*Form 1*: Will you accept and support this marriage? *Or this*

*Form 2*: In your new relationship with *Name* and *Name*, will you, as their parents, pledge your loving support? *Or this*

*Form 3*: Will you strengthen this marriage by upholding both *Name* and *Name* with your love and concern?

*The Parents answer affirmatively.*

### *The Declaration of Consent by the Children (Optional)*

Will you continue to receive the love of *Name* and *Name* in their marriage?

*The Children respond affirmatively.*

*The Celebrant says to the community*

Will all of you witnessing these promises do all in your power to uphold these two persons in their marriage? If so, please say “we will.”

*Community* **We will.**

### *The Presentation (Optional)*

*The Celebrant says to the Presenter(s):*

Who presents *Name* to be married to *Name*?

*Or this*

Who presents *Name* and *Name* to be married to each other?

*The Presenter(s) respond affirmatively*

### *The Opening Prayer*

O gracious and everliving God, you have created us in your image: Look mercifully upon *Name* and *Name* 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.**

### *The Readings*

One or more readings are presented. Please note that chapter and verse citations are not customarily spoken aloud. To see the full text, please go to the “Marriages” section of the Lectionary Page on the web:  
<http://www.lectionarypage.net/YearABC/SpecServ/Marriage.html>

A reading from the book of Ruth

Where you go, I will go; where you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God my God. Where you die, I will die - there will I be buried. May the Lord do thus and so to me, and more as well, if even death parts me from you!

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*The reading above is Ruth 1:16-17. You may also choose from the following: 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-8 (New English Bible) (That she and I may grow old together)*

Please read the Psalm in unison. (Psalm 139: 1-9, 13)

**LORD, you have searched me out and known me; you know my sitting down and my rising up; you discern my thoughts from afar. You trace my journeys and my resting-places and are acquainted with all my ways. Indeed, there is not a word on my lips, but you, O LORD, know it altogether. You press upon me behind and before and lay your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain to it. Where can I go then from your Spirit? where can I flee from your presence? If I climb up to heaven, you are there; if I make the grave my bed, you are there also. If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, Even there your hand will lead me and your right hand hold me fast. I will thank you because I am marvelously made; your works are wonderful, and I know it well.**

*The reading above is Psalm 139: 1-9, 137. You may also choose from the following: Psalms: 67, 127, or 128.*

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians  
(1 Corinthians 13:1-13 – Shortened Version)

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**



*The reading above is 1 Corinthians 13:4-7, 13. You may also choose from the following: 1 Corinthians 13:1-13; Ephesians 3:14-19 (The Father from whom every 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)*

#### **SEQUENCE HYMN (OPTIONAL):**

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

Jesus said, “As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.”

The Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

*The reading above is John 15:9-12. You may also choose from the following: Or Matthew 5:1-10 (The Beatitudes); Matthew 5:13-16 (You are the light . . . Let your light so shine); Matthew 7:21, 24-29 (Like a wise man who built his house upon the rock); Mark 10:6-9, 13-16 (They are no longer two but one) Please note that a Gospel reading is required with Holy Communion and then read by the clergy.*

*The Homily*

*The Marriage*

*Name*, facing *Name* and taking *her/his* right hand in *his/hers*, says  
In the Name of God, I, *Name*, take you, *Name*, to be my **wife/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 asks God's blessing on the rings*

Bless, O Lord, these rings to be signs of the vows by which *Name* and *Name* 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*

*Name*, 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.

*The Celebrant joins the right hands of the couple and says*

Now that *Name* and *Name* have given themselves to each other by solemn vows, with the joining of hands and the giving and receiving of rings, 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. **Amen.**

### *The Lord's Prayer*

*If Holy Eucharist is included in the service, then the Lord's Prayer is omitted at this time and instead said at the Holy Eucharist.*

*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. 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 Prayers (Optional)*

For the Prayers you may have a clergy person lead the prayers or appoint the person who leads the prayers also known as the Intercessor.

*Celebrant:* Let us pray.

*Intercessor:* 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 *Name* and *Name* whom you make one flesh in Holy Matrimony. Gracious God;

***People:* Hear our prayer.**

*Intercessor:* 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. Gracious God;

***People:* Hear our prayer.**

*Intercessor:* 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. Gracious God;

***People:* Hear our prayer.**

*Intercessor:* Give them grace, when they hurt each other, to recognize and acknowledge their fault, and to seek each other's forgiveness and yours. Gracious God;

***People:* Hear our prayer.**

*Intercessor:* 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. Gracious God;

***People:* Hear our prayer.**

Do you wish to include the following petition for Children? Yes/No  
Explanation: This is often omitted when a primetime couple is getting married.

*Intercessor:* 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. Gracious God;

**People: Hear our prayer.**

*Intercessor:* Give them such fulfillment of their mutual affection that they may reach out in love and concern for others. Gracious God;

**People: Hear our prayer.**

*Intercessor:* Grant that all married persons who have witnessed these vows may find their lives strengthened and their loyalties confirmed. Gracious God;

**People: Hear our prayer.**

*Celebrant:* 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.**

### *Explanation of the Holy Eucharist*

The Eucharist is the church's most powerful sign of God's grace and presence in our lives, in the community, and in the world through Jesus Christ. In this church it is not meant to feel exclusive. All are invited.

If you wish to receive the bread, please hold out your hand. You may eat it, or have it dipped in wine. If you wish to take a sip of wine, please help the minister guide the chalice to you lips. If you want to receive a blessing instead of the bread or wine, please come forward and cross your arms across your chest.

Do you wish for the Holy Communion to be included in the service?

Yes, to Whole Congregation.

No Holy Communion.

Option: Instead of the Eucharistic Prayer, the couple may choose to receive the bread and wine from the reserve sacrament (already consecrated) following The Prayers.

***OFFERTORY MUSIC (OPTIONAL):***

The bread and wine are brought to the Altar in one of three ways.

1. They may already be on the Altar.
2. The couple may bring up the bread and wine.
3. You may appoint people to bring up the bread and wine. This role is especially good for those who do not wish a speaking part. These people are called Oblation Bearers.

*The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer A*

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.

*People* **We lift them to the Lord.**

*Celebrant* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People* **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

*Celebrant*

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. (A proper preface is said here.) Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world. On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:  
**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom. All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,  
**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 Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. After a period of silence the Celebrant says*

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
**Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

*The community is invited to the altar with these or similar words:  
The Gifts of God for the People of God...*

*Please be seated. At this time the bread and wine are distributed. All are welcome to receive communion. Please follow the directions of the usher. You may be seated until the appropriate time.*

<p>The bread and wine may be distributed by the Clergy with the help of one or more people, also known as the Eucharistic Ministers. The Couple may serve as Eucharistic Ministers. The couple may also appoint Eucharistic Ministers.</p>
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***COMMUNION MUSIC (OPTIONAL):***

*After Communion (Please remain seated.)*

**O God, the giver of all that is true and lovely and gracious: We give you thanks for binding us together in these holy mysteries of the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Grant that by your Holy Spirit, *Name* and *Name*, now joined in Holy Matrimony, may become one in heart and soul, live in fidelity and peace, and obtain those eternal joys prepared for all who love you; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

If there is no Holy Eucharist, the service continues with the Blessing of the Marriage immediately following the Prayers.

*The Blessing of the Marriage (Please remain seated.)*

*The couple kneel or stand, and the Priest says*

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 *Name* and *Name* in his Name. By the power of your Holy Spirit, pour out the abundance of your blessing upon *Name* and *Name*. 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. In your mercy, bring them to that table where your saints feast for ever in your heavenly home.

God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit, bless, preserve, and keep you; the Lord mercifully with his favor look upon you, and fill you with all spiritual benediction and grace; that you may faithfully live together in this life, and in the age to come have life everlasting. **Amen.**

*The Nuptial Kiss and Introduction of*  
*...Mr. and Mrs John and Jane Doe*  
*...Mr. and Mrs. John Doe*  
*...The Newly Married Couple*

***RECESSIONAL MUSIC:***

## **OTHER PARTICIPANTS IN THE SERVICE**

Please let us know of the other participants in the service you would like us to mention. Please print their name and how you would like them identified in the service bulletin, including but not limited to Ushers, Wedding party, Flower Girl, Ring bearer, Soloist, Parents of the Bride and Groom, Brides Maids/Maid of Honor, Groomsmen, Best etc...