

Marriage Guide

First Evangelical Lutheran Church

113 Eighth Avenue South
Nashville, Tennessee 37203
615-256-7580



The symbol behind the rings is a stylized version of the Greek letters, Chi and Rho, the first two letters in the title Christ. This ancient symbol, with rings imposed, reminds us that those who marry in the Christian rite do so with the hope that their union may serve as a reflection of Christ's relationship with the church and that the home they establish may be a portal for others to witness the reign of God among us.

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MARRIAGE AT FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

The marriage service provides a context of praise, Scripture, and prayer ... within which [a couple] make with each other a lifelong covenant of commitment and fidelity according to the ordinances and institution of God. (*Mark 10:2-12*)

The marriage rite is a service filled with joy and gladness and gratitude for the goodness of creation, in which the people are not mere spectators but an active congregation participating in the celebration and representing to the couple the presence and support of the church. *William Pfatteicher, Commentary on the Lutheran Book of Worship (Augsburg Fortress, 1990) p. 456*

THE FIRST STEP

The marriage rite is open to all couples who desire to celebrate their marriage within the Christian rite. At least one of the two individuals must be baptized or have entered into the process of preparing for baptism, lest the church host a rite indicative of a desire to live out this covenant in the context of Christian faith when that is not the desire of either participant.

If the couple has not seen the facilities of the church, they may call the Marriage Coordinator to schedule a tour. At the time the couple requests to marry at the church, they will schedule an initial meeting with a pastor. The couple will complete the Premarital Inquiry Form (see Forms Section) and provide the pastor with it at the time of their consultation. If, at the conclusion of that meeting, the pastor agrees to be celebrant for their marriage, they will schedule their premarital counseling sessions, the rehearsal, and marriage date, and provide the secretary the initial deposit for their service. See Fee Schedule for details.

Visiting clergy, if they are of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America or one of the denominations in which this church body is in full fellowship*, may be permitted at the discretion of the pastor to be celebrant of the marriage rite if the couple desires. (*Presbyterian Church, USA; United Methodist Church; Episcopal Church; Moravian Church; United Church of Christ; Reformed Church in America) A copy of the Marriage Rite and a list of possible scripture readings is provided at the end of this document.

PREMARITAL COUNSELING

The couple will be directed to two online premarital counseling inventories:

Prepare/Enrich and the Gottman Relationship Checkup. The Prepare/Enrich inventory focuses on areas of the couple's relationship, i.e., family and friends, financial planning, sex, children and child rearing, recreation, communication, conflict resolution, spiritual beliefs, relationship roles, and family of origin. The Gottman Relationship Checkup is focused more on the dynamics of the relationship, i.e.

individual attitudes toward the other and the relationship, felt emotional connection, ability to override negative sentiment, and emotional flooding, among other topics. There is an additional nominal fee for each online inventory. The couple will pay this fee online.

In addition to the initial meeting with the pastor, four premarital sessions will be scheduled and are included in the pastor's marriage ministry.

SCHEDULING THE MARRIAGE DATE

Because of the penitential character of Lent as well as added responsibilities of the clergy (Lenten retreats, quiet days of reflection, preparation of midweek and Holy Week liturgies and preparation of Catechumens for Easter rites) marriage rites are not scheduled during this time of the church year. (The dates of Lent are easily discerned for each year by consulting the internet.)

Marriages are also not scheduled for holidays such as New Year's Eve, New Year's Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, and no marriages will be scheduled between Christmas Eve and New Year's Day.

It is good to make arrangements as far in advance as possible in order to guarantee that no scheduling difficulties arise. Minimum advance notice of six months is the rule rather than the exception.

FACILITIES

Marriage Service Locations:

- The Sudekum Chapel seats approximately 80 people. The Sanctuary seats approximately 475 people.

There are two rooms where the couple and their attendants may dress:

- The Gernert Room, furnished with a full-length mirror and a tall clothes stand.
- The Martin Luther Room, located on the lower level of the education building.

Guest clergy are invited to use the vestry for vesting. The wedding coordinator will provide directions to the dressing areas and vestry.

If the Gernert Room is to be used for a reception, alternative space is available for dressing. The couple and members of the wedding party are strongly urged to have make-up and hair done prior to arrival. Use of electronic hair dryers will not be permitted.

Reception Locations:

- The Assembly Room accommodates a maximum of 250 people for a reception.
- The Gernert Room (the church parlor) will accommodate approximately 50 for a reception.

MUSIC FOR THE MARRIAGE RITE

When the marriage date has become official on the church calendar, which will be immediately following the couple's initial consultation with the pastor, the couple will contact the church Music Director for consultation on music. The director has first right of refusal to play for all marriages at the church. If not available to play

for a service, the director will assist the couple in locating and selecting another organist.

Because the rite of marriage at First Evangelical Lutheran Church takes place within a service of the Word and Prayer, and on occasion Holy Eucharist, only music appropriate to the solemnity of the occasion will be employed. It is the policy of the church to have all musical selections reviewed and approved by the Music Director. The director has a large repertoire of beautiful classical and sacred music from which to choose. Edifying music of a contemporary nature may be used at the discretion of the director and with permission of the pastor.

If you wish to include additional instrumental or vocal soloists, the organist will discuss those arrangements with you. The church does not utilize pre-recorded music.

Regarding Additional Musicians:

If you wish to use other instrumentalists or soloists, in place of or in addition to the organ, please let the Music Director know at your initial meeting. The director will approve all music prior to your hiring additional musicians. The director will also schedule rehearsal time for any additional soloists or musicians. A fee will apply for each hour the director will be present in addition to the marriage rite rehearsal and the day of marriage. The director will assist you in selecting and contacting additional musicians (example: harpist, flautist, string quartet, etc); however, you are responsible for contracting with them and paying for their services. All additional musicians are required to be part of a rehearsal if they are to be part of your marriage rite. Any music not in the library of the director or soloists will be legally obtained by the couple. Photocopies are not permitted, unless the music is no longer under copyright or is otherwise in “public domain.”

Music Planning:

Pre-service music will begin 30 minutes before the rite, or as soon after that time when guests first arrive. If you wish, you may request pieces within the director’s library for pre-service music. Otherwise, these will be selected by the director.

In considering music in addition to the organ, remember that solos may also be sung as pre-service pieces and during the seating of the mothers of the couple. The pastor will determine in consultation with you and the director the placement of other music, as the selected music must be appropriately paired with the reading(s) of the day and flow of the service.

Procession and Recession Music:

Music for the entrance of the pastor, the couple, and their wedding party should be scaled to fit the space (chapel or sanctuary) and the number of participants.

A variety of appropriate pieces of a festive nature are available.

You are invited to visit: <http://www.first-lutheran-nashville.org/sample-music-for-your-marriage-rite/> This website provides a variety of music appropriate for your marriage rite.

The Bridal Chorus (Here Comes the Bride) from “Lohengrin” and The Wedding March from “A Midsummer Night’s Dream” are strongly discouraged as their origin is in operatic productions that make intriguing theatre but reflect marital outcomes (murder, abandonment, and death) quite contrary to the vows exchanged in the marriage rite.

Singing of one or more hymns from Evangelical Lutheran Worship (the hymnal) is encouraged; this fosters greater participation by the assembly.

The Music Director is very pleased to meet with the couple to discuss possible musical selections and play through hymns and service music. However, if the couple find it sufficient to select music from the above website, a phone conversation is perfectly acceptable.

Music Director contact information: Dr. Kristen Hansen
hansen_kristen@columbusstate.edu
706-568-9997

THE MARRIAGE COORDINATOR

The Marriage Coordinator is charged with the responsibility of assisting the clergy and the couple in all the logistical aspects of the day of marriage. The coordinator will be happy to advise you on all non-liturgical matters pertaining to the marriage rite as well as the reception, should you choose to host it at the church.

The coordinator provides the following services:

1. Initially provides a tour of the church for couples unfamiliar with the church facilities.
2. Meets with the couple soon after their initial meeting with the pastor to discuss details not related directly to the rite of marriage.
3. Reviews all rules which vendors (photographer, videographer, florist, caterer, or others) are expected to follow. Couples are advised not to engage the services of any vendors until after reviewing policy details with the coordinator.
4. Is present to assist the pastor and marriage party in the conduct of the rehearsal, making sure that all parties know where they will sit or stand and when they will go to their places.
5. Confirms with the Facilities Manager the times when the building will be unlocked and locked on the days of the rehearsal and marriage.
6. Is available by phone to answer logistical questions that may arise as the couple completes plans for the day of the marriage.
7. Works collegially with the couple's personal wedding planner, should they choose to have one.
8. Lights and extinguishes candles in the absence of an acolyte.

DECORATIONS

Paraments & Cross:

The paraments on the altar, pulpit, and lectern will be the color of the church-year season. The cross and the candles on the retable (ledge behind the altar) are not to be removed.

Flowers:

Live plants and cut flowers are to be used (no artificial flowers). The one exception is in the case of flower petals that may be strewn as part of a procession. In this case, only silk petals may be used for safety and to keep from staining the slate floor. Flowers or decorations are not to be placed on the altar or baptismal font. If plant or floral decorations adorning the pews or windows are desired, please make sure that the fasteners do not deface the pews or windows in any way. Only ribbon or cloth covered hangers may be used on the pews, no tape.

There are two large brass floral vases available for use. If these are to be utilized, the liners may be picked up at the church on the Monday prior to the marriage. The liners must be left at the church following the marriage. These two brass floral vases or other appropriate vases may be placed on the retable outside the large candles in the chancel. Please note that floral arrangements placed on the retable shall not be higher than the horizontal beam of the cross (maximum 18 inches wide, 12 inches high). If live plants are used in your decorating plans, please use plastic or other waterproof protection under the containers before placing them on the floor. The florist is welcome to provide stands for floral arrangements.

The couple will provide the florist with a copy of the Marriage Guidelines for Florists. It is included in the Forms Section of this guide.

Candles and Candelabra:

The two large candles beside the cross on the retable are furnished by the church as are the candles in the candelabra next to the retable and the candles for the Unity Candle, if that is desired. If the custom of lighting the Unity Candle from two other candles is desired, please discuss this with the pastor. (The Unity Candle is of modern invention and is neither required nor encouraged.)

The couple will assure that all decorations will be removed following the marriage service unless other arrangements have been made.

MARRIAGE LICENSE

The couple will bring the marriage license to the rehearsal and give it to either the coordinator or the pastor. A legal ceremony may not be performed without it. The individual(s) invited by the couple to witness the document by signing their name(s), will do so immediately after the ceremony and before pictures are taken. The pastor who signs the license will return it to the issuing county via U.S. Postal Service.

PHOTOGRAPHER

In order to maintain the dignity of worship, no flash photographs will be permitted from the time the processional begins until the benediction. If video cameras are to be utilized, they must be placed in stationary positions in the balcony or out of the view of the congregation. Posed photographs may be taken in the nave before the ceremony. However, the photography must be completed three-quarters of an hour before the ceremony is scheduled to begin. If pictures are taken after the marriage and the couple desires one with the pastor, this will be the first picture taken. Please share this paragraph with your photographer.

BULLETINS

Many couples wish to have bulletins prepared for their wedding. The blank bulletins may be purchased at almost any Bible bookstore or church supply store. St. Mary's, 1909 West End Avenue is one suggestion. Bulletins may be typeset and reproduced at any local printer. The pastor will assist the couple in preparing the order of service and will approve the information to be printed in the bulletin. A sample order of service is included in this booklet. It is perfectly acceptable to print only the headings of each part of the service in outline form.

LIGHTS AND SOUND SYSTEM

Marriages that take place in the chapel do not require the church's light and sound technician. Marriages that take place in the nave require a light and sound technician. A sound check will take place one hour prior to the service. Please advise any additional musicians you may employ. If the sound and/or projection system is used for the reception or rehearsal dinner in the assembly room, the technician will also be required.

BAPTISMAL FONT

The Baptismal Font is equipped with an electric pump to provide flowing water as a visible and audible reminder of our baptism. The water will flow until shortly before the service begins.

VERY YOUNG CHILDREN IN THE MARRIAGE PARTY

Couples who are considering asking very young children to be in the wedding party should be aware that their involvement brings a dimension of uncertainty to the ceremony. While children can be a charming part of the ceremony, they can also distract from the solemnity of the occasion and take the focus off the couple. Children younger than six years of age rarely have the maturity to participate without creating a distraction or disrupting the service. Please give the extent to which you would like to involve children in the ceremony serious consideration, so as to avoid putting unnecessary strain on the children, their parents, and the whole marriage party.

THE REHEARSAL

Rehearsals are usually held in the early evening of the day before the marriage. All members of the marriage party are strongly urged to attend the rehearsal and arrive on time. If a rehearsal dinner is planned, it should be scheduled after the rehearsal. The rehearsal is normally about one hour in length if the participants arrive promptly. The rehearsal will be conducted by the officiating pastor, assisted by the coordinator.

Cell phones should be turned off before the rehearsal.

USE OF ALCOHOL AT MARRIAGES

Other than the sacrament, no alcohol may be consumed on church grounds.

If either member of the couple arrives at the wedding intoxicated, the marriage rite will not be conducted.

THE RECEPTION

Wedding receptions may be held at the church provided a reservation is made well in advance. The wedding coordinator will confer with the reception caterer chosen by the couple well in advance of the wedding to clarify the church's policy regarding the use of the kitchen, clean-up requirements, delivery of rented equipment, number of tables and chairs needed, etc.

Ordinarily, the kitchen is not available for food storage or preparation for receptions. However, space is available for finishing touches to be applied to food trays, etc. No food or drinks are to be taken outside the reception area. If the tables and chairs on premises are used, they must be returned to their original places.

Use of the ovens, including convection and warming ovens, is included in the fee for the reception space provided that a licensed caterer oversees their use. The caterer will provide the church a certificate of insurance 30 days prior to the event.

All garbage will be removed and disposed of in the dumpster provided or otherwise removed from the premises. If the assembly room is used, it will be returned to its normal setting as illustrated in the framed schematic on the pillar closest to the steps leading toward the kitchen end of the room.

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SAFETY ISSUES

Throwing of rice, birdseed, or the release of balloons is not permitted. Only silk flower petals may be used if a flower girl is employed.

TIME PARAMETERS FOR USE OF THE BUILDING AND PARKING LOTS

On the day of the marriage, access and use of the building and parking lot(s) will commence two hours prior to the marriage rite and will end one hour after the marriage rite or, if the reception is held at the church, one hour after the reception is scheduled to end. This will be reflected in the completion of the form: Building and Parking Lot Use Request Form.

Parking is included in the building use fee for the day of the marriage (not for the rehearsal). The church owns two of the lots across the street from the small chapel. Note carefully: the use of the parking lot expires at the same time as the use of the building. Those who wish to stay longer must pay for parking at the kiosks provided or risk the possibility of a ticket from the parking authority. The couple will notify their guests accordingly.

On the day of the rehearsal, those who gather may use any available undesignated parking spaces that are in the lot attached to the church building, accessible from 8th Avenue via the alley behind the Federal Building located at 8th Avenue and Broadway, within the fenced in area.

Do not park in the spaces adjacent to the Federal Building in the alley between the church and the Federal Building. Those using the parking lot in the fenced-in area on the day of the rehearsal will vacate it immediately following the rehearsal or rehearsal dinner, if the dinner is held at the church.

FORMS

- Fee and Honorarium Schedule
- Pastor's Honorarium
- Facility Use Fee Form
- Premarital Inquiry Form
- Marriage Ceremony Form
- Building and Parking Lot Use Request Form

FEE AND HONORARIUM SCHEDULE

MUSIC DIRECTOR FEES

Service provided	Cost	Paid
Music consultation (via phone or in-person)-- <i>required</i>	100.00	
Organ (includes rehearsal and marriage rite)	175.00	
Additional rehearsal with other musicians (75.00 per hour)	75.00 x ___ hours	
Total		

Fee is due 30 days prior to marriage. Make checks payable to Kristen Hansen.

Additional musicians will be paid directly by the bridal party.

Typically, additional musicians (ie. trumpet, violin, flute, vocal soloist) will charge between \$150 to \$300 for rehearsal and service.

CUSTODIAL FEES

The custodian's fee is \$200.00 without reception and \$300.00 with reception. Fee is due 30 days prior to marriage. Make check payable to Jeff Binkley. This check will be left with the secretary.

SOUND AND LIGHT TECHNICIAN FEE

The technician's fee is \$100.00 for managing the light and sound system of the nave and \$100.00 if the sound and projector system are used in the assembly hall, and is payable 30 days prior to the marriage. Make check payable to _____ . This check will be left with the secretary.

PASTOR'S HONORARIUM

	Members of FELC	Active members of other Lutheran Churches	Non-members
Consultation	No fee	No fee	No fee
Four (4) premarital counseling sessions	*	500.00++	500.00
Marriage rite	*	500.00	500.00

The honorarium will be provided in two payments, \$500.00 at the initial premarital counseling session and \$500.00 to be paid 30 days prior to the marriage.

++ Guest Lutherans whose pastor has provided pre-marital counseling will provide a letter testifying to this and will not be required to undergo premarital counseling.

* Members of FELC are welcome to provide the pastor with an honorarium of their choosing in consideration for the time and expertise invested in assisting them to prepare for this milestone event.

MARRIAGE COORDINATOR

The coordinator's fee is \$300.00 and is payable upon the first meeting with the coordinator following placement of the marriage date on the church calendar. The check will be made payable to Rhonda Tully.

FACILITY USE FEE FORM

Complete this form and present it to the church secretary with your deposit and initial payment. The secretary will retain it to keep track of payments received. The couple will prepare separate checks for the church, organist, marriage coordinator, custodian, sound/light technician and, where appropriate, the pastor.

	Members of FELC	Active members of other Lutheran Churches	Non-members
Chapel	No fee	500.00	700.00
Nave	No fee	1000.00	1500.00
Assembly Room	No fee	250.00	350.00
Gernert Room	No fee	150.00	250.00
Total Payment to FELC			

1/2 total of facility use fees are due following initial meeting with pastor. Paid on _____ Received by _____.

Second 1/2 due 30 days prior to marriage. Paid on _____ Received by _____.

Custodial fee received on _____.

Sound and light technician fee received on _____.

Music Director/Organist's fee received on _____.

Honorarium for the pastor and fee for the Marriage Coordinator are paid directly to them.

____ (check) Certificate of insurance has been provided by caterer if reception or rehearsal dinner is held at the church.

Premarital Inquiry Form

This form is to be completed and given to the pastor at the first scheduled meeting. Please check the ____ for the term appropriate for you.

Spouse #1 ___Bride___ Groom

Full Name: _____

Phone: 1 _____ Email _____

Spouse #2 ___Bride___ Groom

Full Name: _____

Phone: _____ Email _____

Preferred mailing address for the couple _____

Prior marriage by Spouse #1 ___yes___ no Children? ___yes___ no

Religious affiliation _____

Prior marriage by Spouse #2 ___yes___ no Children? ___yes___ no

Religious affiliation: _____

Pastor's notes:

The following section of the form will be completed by the pastor during the first session.

Marriage Date and Time: _____ Rehearsal Date and Time: _____

Dates of Premarital Counseling Sessions:

1. _____ 2. _____

3. _____ 4. _____

Marriage Ceremony Information Form

Please complete as much of this form as possible after you meet with the pastor and return it to the Church Office.

Spouse #1 Full Name: _____

Preferred designation: ___ Bride ___ Groom

Phone: _____ Email _____

Spouse #2 Full Name: _____

Preferred designation: ___ Bride ___ Groom

Phone: _____ Email _____

Preferred mailing address for the couple _____

Marriage Date and Time: _____ Rehearsal Date and Time: _____

Marriage Party:

Grandparents: Spouse #1: _____ Escorted by _____

Escorted by _____

Spouse #2: _____ Escorted by _____

Escorted by _____

Mother of Spouse #1: _____ Escorted by _____ Pew # _____

Mother of Spouse #2: _____ Escorted by _____ Pew # _____

Name and Role of Father of Spouse #1: _____

Name and Role of Father of Spouse #2: _____

Attendants: You may designate Best Person, Person of Honor, Maid of Honor, Best Man.

Spouse #1: _____ Spouse #2: _____

Ushers: (additional)

Children:

_____ Age: _____ Role: _____

_____ Age: _____ Role: _____

_____ Age: _____ Role: _____

Florist: _____ Contact Person: _____

Phone: _____ Arrival Time: _____ Pew Markers: _____

Aisle Canvas? _____ If yes, who will provide it? _____

Number of Pews reserved for family _____

Photographer: _____ Contact Person: _____

Phone: _____ Arrival Time: _____

Address: _____ Schedule (before/after): _____

Videographer: _____ Contact Person: _____

Phone: _____ Arrival Time: _____

Address: _____ Schedule (before/after): _____

Music: Organist: _____

Soloist(s) or Instrumentalist(s): _____

Approximate Number of Guests: _____

Marriage Party's Arrival Time: _____

Location of Reception _____ Caterer _____

BUILDING AND PARKING LOT USE REQUEST FORM

SPECIAL ACTIVITY

FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

The secretary will complete this form with the couple at the time the marriage is scheduled. If a rehearsal dinner is held at the church, use one form for this event and a separate one for the day of the marriage.

Date of Activity _____

Name of Your Group _____

Time you will need to get into the building _____ a.m. / _____ p.m.

Your activity begins at (time) _____ a.m. / _____ p.m.

Your activity ends at (time) _____ a.m. / _____ p.m.

SPACE NEEDED FOR YOUR ACTIVITY:

- Parking lot(s) across the street from the Sudekum Chapel. Specify if one (60 spaces) or two (120 spaces) lots will be used: one, two. Please note that the time frame for use of the parking lot(s) is the same as the agreed upon time for the use of the building.
- Nave
- Assembly Room
- Gernert Room
- Kitchen Adjacent to Gernert Room
- Sudekum Chapel
- Dining Room
- Kitchen Adjacent to Dining Room

EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES NEEDED FOR YOUR EVENT:

Number of Tables _____

Number of Chairs _____

Audio-Visual Equipment (Specify) _____

IF LIVE PLANTS ARE USED, PLEASE PLACE PLASTIC OR OTHER WATERPROOF PROTECTION UNDER THE CONTAINERS BEFORE SETTING THEM ON THE FLOORS.

YOU ARE REQUESTED TO LEAVE THE AREA(S) OF USE IN THE SAME CONDITION AS YOU FOUND IT/THEM PREPARED FOR YOU. THANK YOU.

Marriage Guidelines for Florists
First Evangelical Lutheran Church
113 Eighth Avenue South; Nashville, Tennessee 37203
Church Office: 256-7580 Fax: 256-7587

The church office hours will be observed for wedding preparations—Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. The church will be opened two hours prior to the wedding service unless prior arrangements have been made.

The church staff is available to assist those persons who have been employed by families for wedding decorations and preparations. The following members of the church staff will be able to answer your questions and to orient you to our facilities: Mrs. Rhonda Tully, Wedding Coordinator and Jeff Binkley, Facilities Manager.

The furniture in the worship space (pews, baptismal font, altar, pulpit, lectern) shall not be defaced in any way. The Cross and the two candles on the retable are not to be removed.

The paraments on the altar, pulpit, and lectern will be the color of the church-year season.

No flowers or decorations are to be placed on the altar or baptismal font.

Live plants and cut flowers are to be used (no artificial flowers). The one exception is in the case of flower petals that may be strewn as part of a procession. In this case, only silk petals may be used for safety and to keep from staining the slate floor. If live plants are used, please use plastic or other waterproof protection under the containers before placing them on the floor.

If the two (2) large brass floral vases are to be used, the liners may be picked up at the church on the Monday prior to the wedding. The two large brass floral vases or other appropriate vases may be placed on the retable outside the large candles. Flower arrangements in this location shall not be higher than the horizontal arm of the Cross (maximum 18 inches wide and 12 inches high).

The two (2) large candles beside the Cross on the retable are furnished by the church as are the candles in the candelabra next to the retable and the candles for the Unity Candle, if that is desired. If the custom of lighting the Unity Candle from two (2) other candles is desired, please discuss your options with the pastor.

You are requested to remove all decorations following the wedding unless other instructions and/or arrangements have been made.

Evangelical Lutheran Worship

Marriage

Marriage is a gift of God, intended for the joy and mutual strength of those who enter it and for the well-being of the whole human family. Jesus affirmed the covenant of marriage and revealed God's own self-giving love on the cross. The Holy Spirit helps those who are united in marriage to be living signs of God's grace, love, and faithfulness.

Marriage is also a human estate, with vows publicly witnessed. The church in worship surrounds these promises with the gathering of God's people, the witness of the word of God, and prayers of blessing and intercession.

Pre-Service Music

Entrance of the Marriage Party

Greeting

The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other.

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.

The minister may introduce the service with these or similar words.

Dear friends: We have come together in the presence of God to witness the marriage of *name* and *name*, to surround them with our prayers, and to share in their joy.

As *name* and *name* make their promises 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

Those who are declaring their intention to marry may be accompanied by their parents. The parents may place a hand on the shoulders of their children while responding to the question addressed to families.

The minister addresses the couple in these or similar words, asking each person in turn: Name, will you have name to be your spouse/wife/husband, to live together in the covenant of marriage? Will you love her/him, comfort her/him, honor and keep her/him, in sickness and in health, and, forsaking all others, be faithful to her/him as long as you both shall live?

Response:

I will.

If pastorally advisable, the minister may address the families of the couple in these or similar words:

Will you, the families of *name* and *name*,
give your love and blessing to this new
family?

The families respond:

We will.

The minister may address the assembly in these or similar words. Will all of you, by God's grace, uphold and care for *name* and *name* in their life together? **We will.**

Prayer of the Day

The presiding minister leads the prayer of the day.

Let us pray.

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

Readings

The assembly is seated. Two or three scripture readings are proclaimed. When the service includes communion, the last is a reading from the gospels. Responses may include a psalm in response to a reading from the Old Testament, a sung acclamation preceding the reading of the gospel, or other appropriate hymns, songs, and psalms.

Sermon

Silence for reflection follows.

Hymn

A hymn of the day may be sung.

Vows

The presiding minister may address the couple in these or similar words.

Name and name, I invite you to declare your vows to one another.

The couple may join hands. Each promises faithfulness to the other in these or similar words.

In the presence of God and this community,
I, *name*, take you, *name*, to be my *wife/husband/spouse*;
to have and to hold from this day forward,
in joy and in sorrow, in plenty and in want,
in sickness and in health,
to love and to cherish, as long as we both shall live.
This is my solemn vow.

Giving of Rings

When rings are to be exchanged, the presiding minister may say:

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God of grace, for your love and faithfulness to your people. May these rings be symbols of the promise *name* and *name* have made with each other; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

The couple may exchange rings with these or similar words.

Name, I give you this ring as a sign of my love and faithfulness.

Acclamation

The presiding minister addresses the assembly. In places where the announcement of marriage is prescribed by law, that form should be used instead.

Name and name, by their promises before God and in the presence of this assembly, have joined themselves to one another in the covenant of marriage. Those whom God has joined together let no one separate.

Amen. Thanks be to God.

The assembly may offer acclamation with applause. A sung acclamation, hymn, or other music may follow.

Other symbols of marriage may be given or used at this time.

Marriage Blessing

The couple may kneel. The presiding minister may extend a hand over the couple while praying for God's blessing, using one of the following forms or similar words.

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 endure the cross for our sake, that we may have abundance of life.

By the power of your Holy Spirit pour out the abundance of your blessing on *name* and *name*. Defend them from every enemy. Lead them into all peace. Let your love be a seal upon their hearts, a mantle about their shoulders, and a crown upon their foreheads.

Bless them so that their lives together may bear witness to your love. 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 heavenly home, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Parents or others may speak additional words of blessing and encouragement at this time.

Prayers of Intercession

The assembly stands. Prayers of intercession for the world and its needs may be prayed. These prayers, prepared or adapted for the particular occasion, may include the following or similar petitions. An assisting minister may lead the prayers.

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 all servants of the gospel, that the church may be the risen body of Christ in the world.

Gracious and faithful God,

hear our prayer.

For all who are joined by bonds of marriage, kinship, and friendship, and for communities everywhere; for the nations, for all those who govern, and for justice and peace throughout the world.

Gracious and faithful God,

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. Gracious and faithful God, **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. Gracious and faithful God,
hear our prayer.

For all those who are joined to us in love; for our families, friends, and neighbors, for those separated from us by distance or discord, and giving thanks also for those who have gone before us [*especially name/s*] Gracious and faithful God,
hear our prayer.

Other intercessions may be added.

The presiding minister concludes the prayers.

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 *name* and *name* grace to live in unity and joy all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and praise forever. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

The Lord's Prayer is prayed by all. The presiding minister may introduce the prayer with these or similar words.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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, forever and ever. Amen.

Blessing

The presiding minister proclaims God's blessing in these or similar words.

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. **Amen.**

Recession

Postlude

Psalms and Readings Appropriate to the Marriage Rite

Old Testament

Genesis 1:26-28: *Woman and man created in God's image*
Genesis 2:18-24: *Companionship rather than loneliness*
Proverbs 3:3-6: *Loyalty and faithfulness written on the heart*
Song of Solomon 2:10-13: *The voice of the beloved*
Song of Solomon 8:6-7: *Many waters cannot quench love*
Isaiah 63:7-9: *God's steadfast love lifts up the people*
Jeremiah 31:31-34: *The new covenant of the people of God*

Psalm

67: *May God be merciful to us and bless us*
100: *We are God's people*
117: *The steadfast love of the LORD*
121: *The LORD keeps watch over you*
127: *Unless the LORD builds the house*
128: *Happy are they who follow in God's ways*
150: *Let everything that has breath praise the LORD*

New Testament

Romans 8:31-35, 37-39: *If God is for us, who is against us?*
Romans 12:1-2, 9-18: *A living sacrifice and genuine love*
1 Corinthians 12:31—13:13 *The greatest gift is love*
Ephesians 3:14-19: *The greatness of Christ's love*
Ephesians 5:1-2: *Live in love, as Christ loved us*
Philippians 4:4-9: *Rejoice in the Lord always*
Colossians 3:12-17: *Clothed in gifts of God*
1 John 3:18-24: *Let us love in truth and action*
1 John 4:7-16: *Let us love one another, for love is of God*

Gospel

Matthew 5:1-10: The Beatitudes

Matthew 5:14-16: You are the light, let your light shine

Matthew 7:24-27: Build on the rock

Matthew 19:3-6: What God has united must not be divided

Matthew 22:35-40: Love, the greatest commandment

Mark 10:6-9: They are no longer two but one

John 2:1-11: The wedding at Cana

John 15:9-17: Love one another as I have loved you

Psalms and Readings

Alleluia. Happy are they who | fear the LORD, *

and who follow | in God's ways. Alleluia. (Ps. 128:1)

Proper Preface

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, O Lord, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You made us in your image; male and female you created us. You give 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:

Continue with "Holy, Holy, Holy."

COLOR of the season

Hymns

308: O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright! 312: Jesus, Come! For We Invite You

436: Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying

460: Now the Silence

488, 489: Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness

585: Hear Us Now, Our God and Father

586: This Is a Day, Lord, Gladly Awaited

631: Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

642: Ubi caritas et amor

644: Although I Speak with Angel's Tongue

648: Beloved, God's Chosen

816: Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life

836: Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

839, 840: Now Thank We All Our God

879: For the Beauty of the Earth

881: Let All Things Now Living

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To-Do Check List for Couple

Six months prior to marriage:

- ___ Complete Premarital Inquiry Form
- ___ Initial Meeting with Pastor
- ___ Schedule Date with Church Office and Pay 1/2 of Facility Use Fee
- ___ Complete Marriage Ceremony Information Form
- ___ Complete Building and Parking Lot Use Request Form
- ___ Meet with Wedding Coordinator (if applicable)
- ___ Complete Premarital Counseling and pay \$500 honorarium to Pastor

Thirty days prior to marriage:

- ___ Complete Music Consultation with Organist
- ___ Pay Remainder of Facility Use Fee
- ___ Pay Organist - \$275
- ___ Pay Custodian - \$200
- ___ Pay Wedding Coordinator - \$300
- ___ Pay Sound/Light Technician - \$100
- ___ Pay Pastor \$500 for Marriage Rite

After Ceremony:

- ___ Remove any flowers or decorations from the Church