

1. Prelude, solo, hymn,* processional. [*God-centered--e.g., "O perfect Love."]

2. ADDRESS [or reverse with item #3]: Dearly beloved, we are assembled here in the presence of God to join this man and this woman in holy marriage; which is instituted of God, regulated by his commandments, blessed by our Lord Jesus Christ, and to be held in honor among all. Let us therefore reverently remember that God has established and sanctified marriage for the welfare and happiness of the world. Our Faith declares that for this a woman and a man shall leave their parents and cleave to each other. By his apostles our Lord has instructed those who enter into this relationship to cherish a mutual esteem and love; to bear with each other's infirmities and weaknesses and share in each other's struggle to mature; to comfort each other in sickness, trouble, and sorrow; in honesty and industry to provide for each other, and for their household, in temporal things; to pray for and encourage each other in things pertaining to God; and to live together as the heirs of the grace of life.

3. PRAYER: O Living Lord, whose goodness and mercy endures to all generations, teaching us to have faith, hope, and love, and forever showing us that the greatest of these is love--in this holy festival of love unite us all, and especially these two of your children, in that love of yours which is very patient, very kind, knowing no jealousy, making no parade, never hurtful, never selfish, never irritated, never resentful, never gladdened by the misfortune of others, always gladdened by truth and goodness, always eager to believe the best, always patient, never disappearing. You who art every-appearing Love in the Fellowship of Love, your Church, appear now and evermore in this union of love. Amen.

4. GIVINGS: Who give this man to be married to this woman? [Groom's parents:] *We do.*
Who give this woman to be married to this man? [Bride's parents:] *We do.*
[Bride and groom join hands and kneel.]

[Alternative form: Only the groom's mother, who says "His father and I do"; and only the bride's father, who says "Her mother and I do."] [Alternative posture: B&G may stand for the vows.]

5. VOWS: _____ and _____, the Holy Scriptures set before you the love of Christ for his Church as an example for your devotion to God and to each other. As his disciples you are well aware that a union embodying this highest of all ideals is to be entered into reverently, discreetly, advisedly, soberly, and in the fear of God, in whose name you are now to vow your mutual vows: _____, will you have this woman to be your wife in love, honor, duty, service, faith, and tenderness, and in the love of Christ? [Groom:] *I will.* _____, will you have this man to be your husband in...? [Bride:] *I will.* [The couple face each other, and speak thus to each other:]

GROOM TO BRIDE: *In the presence of the Lord / and before these friends / I, _____, take you,*

_____, / to be my wife, / promising, with divine assistance, / to be to you a loving and faithful husband / as long as we both shall live. [The diagonals are for memorization and pacing.]

BRIDE TO GROOM: *In the presence of the Lord /...to be my husband, /...wife /....*

[Alternative vows: (a, BCP:) *I, _____, take thee, _____, 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, as long as we both shall live, according to God's holy ordinance; and thereto I plight thee my troth....I...husband....* (b, recent RCC-approved:) _____, do you want to be my wife? [Bride:] *Yes. And you, _____, do you want to be my husband?* [Groom:] *Yes, I want to.* _____, I receive you as wife, and I give myself to love you faithfully all through our life. [Bride:] _____, I receive you as husband, and I give myself to love you faithfully all through our life.

6. RING CEREMONY: [Best man gives ring to groom, who places it on the fourth finger of the bride's left hand and says:] *As token and pledge / of my constant faith / and abiding love, / I give you this ring.* [Maid or matron of honor gives ring to bride, who places it on the fourth finger of the groom's left hand and says:] *As....*

7. HOLY COMMUNION: [If parents are to commune with the couple, they should here come forward and kneel or stand (depending on whether the couple at this point are standing or kneeling). Liturgist goes to and faces altar for the singing of the Lord's Prayer^e by soloist or the wedding party [any music but Malotte!]; or all my say the Lord's Prayer ["sins, as we forgive those who sin against us"], congregation and party or just party....This may be followed by a reading approved by the liturgist....For the ritual, see the reverse of this sheet.]

8. THE FIRST BLESSING: Bless, O Lord, these your servants whom we have this day united in your love and ours. Bestow you parental benediction upon them, giving them grace to fulfil, with pure and steadfast affection, the vow and covenant between them made. Grant them together, in the way of righteousness and peace, that, loving and serving you and your whole creation with one heart and mind all the days of their life, they may be abundantly enriched with the tokens of your eternal grace and favor; in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

9. DECLARATION: [See over.]

10. THE SECOND BLESSING: [See over.]

OVER

9. DECLARATION: By the authority committed to me as a minister of the Church of Jesus Christ, I declare that _____ and _____ are now husband and wife according to the ordinance of God and the law of the State of _____.

10. THE SECOND BLESSING: [Said either with hands on both heads, or first this with hand on bride's head:] 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 both now and in the life everlasting. [Said with hand on groom's head:] The Peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, remain with you always. Amen.*

11. POSTLUDE: On instrument note, the couple rise, kiss, and recess, followed by the rest of the party.

12. RECEPTION: Favorite wedding songs inappropriate to worship and therefore to the wedding service proper (because they center elsewhere than in God) are appropriate to the Reception.

*Alternative second blessing: Go forth into the world in peace; be of good courage; hold fast what is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor all; love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. [Here, hand on the other, whether bride or groom.] And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you forever. Amen.

_____ continued from #7 on reverse of this sheet:

7a. ANTECOMMUNION: Dearly beloved, our Holy Faith teaches that it is the purpose and plan of God to sum up all things unto himself through the communion of all his creatures with him and with one another. So has he sent our Lord Jesus Christ, who upon departing this life did not break communion with his own, but rather established it on a permanent basis through the Sacrament of the Break and the Wine....It is therefore highly fitting that these two who now come before God and us to establish a new communion, a Christian home, on a basis permanent for this world, should partake together of that uniting Sacrament of the Body and Blood of our Lord, in token and pledge of their love of and relation to him, and in deepest bond to one another. [And the following, if parents participating:] And it is equally fitting that those who brought them into this world, their parents, should participate in this Eucharist with them. Let us pray:

7b. PRAYER: O Loving Lord, causing us to dwell in families and creating your Church as the Family of Families, through this Sacrament of eternal union most highly now unite this man and this woman who now undertake this life's completest and therefore hardest union. [And the following, if parents participating:] And grant that their parents here participating with them be and remain an unmeddling and constant support for this new home. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

7c. THE BREAD: Against the blackness of his betrayal and in warning that you betray neither one another nor him, Christ your Lord offers you his body, saying, "Take, eat, this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." [If the wine is to be drunk, the wafer/bread is consumed here. If communion is to be by intinction (dipping), both retain the bread here.]

7d. THE WINE: In highest symbol that life gives itself to us only through our willingness to sacrifice, to God and to one another, to the Church and to our fellow creatures, Christ your Lord offers you his blood, saying, "Drink of this; for it is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins; do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." [Both/all drink, or intinct and retain until after the following:] The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, which were given and shed for you, preserve your body and soul unto everlasting life. Commune with him and with one another, with thanksgiving. Amen.