

Lutheran Theme (outside of the Church)

Parents stand behind the couple

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

A Let us pray.

Eternal God, our creator and redeemer, as you gladdened the wedding at Cana in Galilee by the presence of you Son, so by his presence now bring your joy to this wedding. Look in favor upon _____ and _____ and grant that they, rejoicing in all your gifts, may at length celebrate with Christ the marriage feast which has no end.

C Amen

Reading

1 Corinthians 13:1-13 (New International Version)

Love

If I speak in the tongues^[a] of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. ²If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. ³If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames,^[b] but have not love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. ⁹For we know in part and we prophesy in part, ¹⁰but when perfection comes, the imperfect disappears. ¹¹When I was a child, I talked like a child; I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me. ¹²Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

SERMON

M: Dear friends: When God in love created the world, he made man and woman in his own image and bonded them together in marriage and by the gift of marriage founded human community in a joy that begins now and is brought to perfection in the life to come.

Love is forgiving and enduring. Love shows itself in truth and faithfulness, in thoughtfulness and understanding, in patience and kindness. Marriage furnishes a unique opportunity to put this love into practice. Because of sin, our age-old rebellion, the gladness of marriage can be overcast and the gift of the family can become a burden.

You have come here to be united in marriage, which consists in your mutual consent, sincerely and freely given. You are now invited to declare this intent in the presence of God and these witnesses.

Intent

_____ and _____, if it is your intention to share with each other your joys and sorrows and all that the years will bring, with your promises bind yourselves to each other as husband and wife.

Vows:

The bride and groom face each other and join hands. Each, in turn, promises faithfulness to the other in these or similar words:

I take you, _____, 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.

Rings

The bride and groom exchange rings with these words:

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

Pronouncement

The bride and groom join hands, and the minister announces their marriage by saying:

_____ And _____, by their promises before God and in the presence of this congregation, have bound themselves to one another as husband and wife.

C: Blessed be the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit now and forever.

O: Those whom God has joined together let no one put asunder.

C Amen

O: The Lord God, who created our first parents and established them in marriage, establish and sustain you, that you may find delight in each other and grow in holy love until your life's end.

C Amen

The parents may add their blessing with these or similar words; the wedding party may join them.(optional)

May you dwell in God's presence forever; may true and constant love preserve you.

A Let us bless God for all the gifts in which we rejoice today.

O: Lord God, constant in mercy, great in faithfulness: With high praise we recall your acts of unfailing love for the human family, for the house of Israel, and for your people the Church.

We bless you for the joy which your servants, _____ and _____, have found in each other, and pray that you give to us such a sense of your constant love that we may employ all our strength in a life of praise of you, whose work alone holds true and endures forever.

C Amen

A Let us pray for _____ and _____ in their life together.

O Faithful Lord, source of love, pour down your grace upon _____ and _____, that they may fulfill the vows they have made this day and reflect your steadfast love in their life-long faithfulness to each other. As members with them of the body of Christ, use us to support their life together; and from your great store of strength give them power and patience, affection and understanding, courage, and love toward you, toward each other, and toward the world, that they may continue together in mutual growth according to your will in Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen

(Other intercessions may be offered)

A Let us pray for all families throughout the world.

O Gracious Father, you bless the family and renew your people. Enrich husbands and wives, parents and children more and more with your grace, that, strengthening and supporting each other, they may serve those in need and be a sign of the fulfillment of your perfect kingdom, where, with your Son Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit, you live and reign, one God through all ages of ages.

C Amen

When there is no Communion, the service continues with the Lord's Prayer.

Lord's Prayer

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

○ Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, keep you in his light and truth and love now and forever.

C Amen

Kiss

Introduction

Recessional