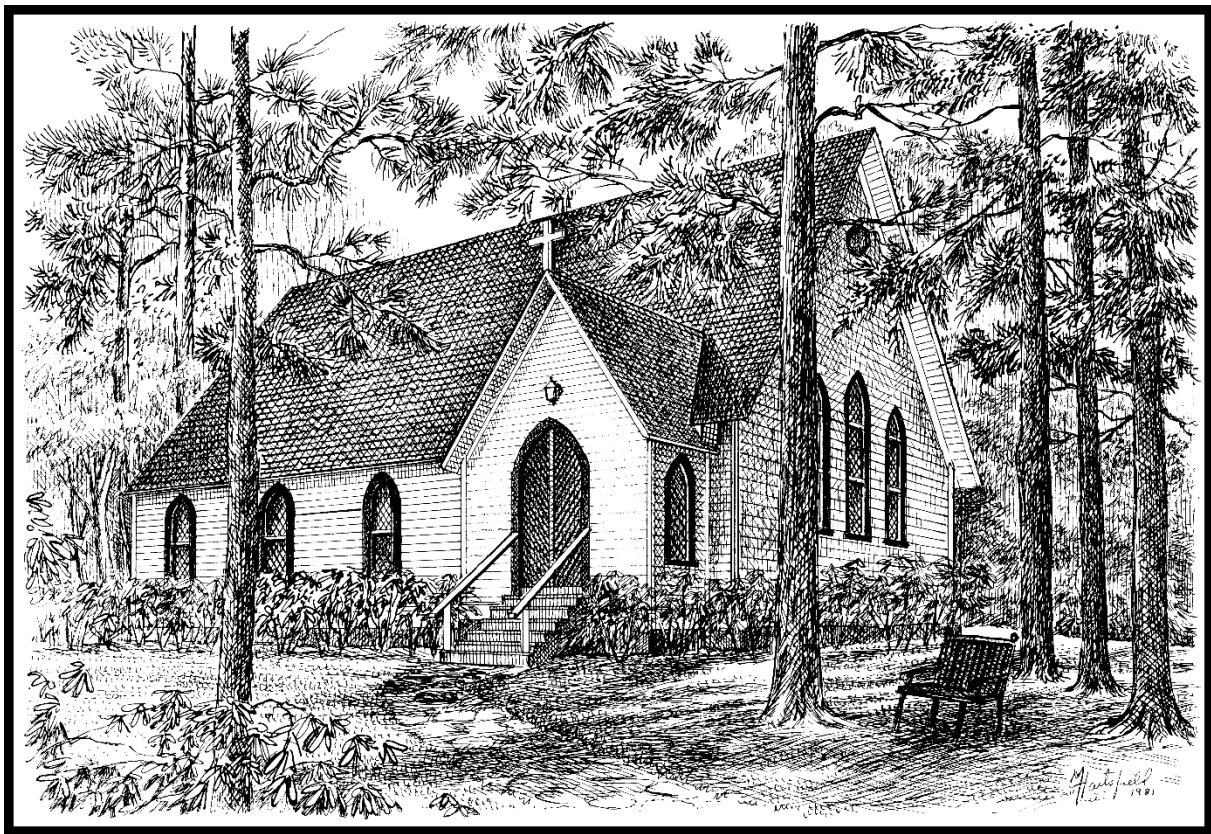


Wedding Customary



*The Church of the Good Shepherd
Cashiers, North Carolina*

The Church of the Good Shepherd Cashiers, North Carolina

Wedding Guide

Prayer for the couple:

O gracious God, look mercifully on this couple. Grant them your blessing, assist them with your grace, that with true fidelity and steadfast love they may honor and keep their promises and vows on the day of their marriage. Amen.

The Covenant of Christian Marriage

Christian marriage includes not only a legal contract but also a spiritual covenant established and sealed by a sacramental rite of the Church. In Holy Matrimony, “The union of husband and wife in heart, body and soul is intended by God for their mutual joy, for the help and comfort given one another in prosperity and adversity.” (*Book of Common Prayer*, page 423)

Wedding Overview

A marriage service is first and foremost a service of worship. The service is an outward and visible sign of inward and spiritual grace of God’s blessing, and the words and actions of the manifest the grace of God that has brought the couple together—and that will hold the couple together. All aspects of the service, words, music and floral arrangements should support and enhance the spiritual nature of the ceremony and of marriage itself.

Concerning the ceremony and clergy

As in all worship services of the Church, the rector is charged by canon law with the responsibility for determining appropriateness of details and arrangement. Therefore, a wedding at Church of the Good Shepherd must be an Episcopal service with an Episcopal priest officiating. If it is desired that another Episcopal priest officiate, or clergy of other denominations assist, permission from the rector of Good Shepherd must be obtained in advance.

Concerning the Service

The service for The Celebration and blessing of a Marriage can be found in *The Book of Common a Prayer*, pages 423-432. The service offers several choices of readings, prayers and blessings. Suggestions for appropriate places to insert psalms, hymns or other instrumental music are included. The couple is encouraged to select readings and hymns which are particularly significant. All choices are to be discussed with and approved by the clergy prior to the draft bulletin being printed.

The couple and/or a member of their family must meet with the rector and the wedding coordinator to discuss details of the ceremony and become familiar with the physical layout of the church and grounds.

Outside wedding consultants are not needed (or permitted). We have a great wedding guild to help you.

The Holy Eucharist may be a part of the service if desired. If preferred, a pre-nuptial Eucharist attended by family and members of the wedding party can be scheduled either prior to or following rehearsal.

A service bulletin is recommended. Good Shepherd has a bulletin template that we are happy to share. A proof must be submitted to the officiating priest at least 3 weeks prior to the wedding. Generally, the bulletin is the responsibility of the couple, but Good Shepherd's parish administrator can assist with a simple bulletin for a fee of \$50. Bulletins are to be brought to the rehearsal.

The church seating capacity is one hundred and twenty-five. **Please adhere to the 125 number when inviting guests.** Due to fire regulations, no extra chairs may be placed in the church. Additional seating in Hines Hall is an option. The service can be streamed live into Hines Hall for overflow seating and also to the church's YouTube channel upon request.

Due to the limited space, **the bride's attendants are limited to a total number of five**; this includes bride's maid/matron and honor attendants. **The groom's attendants are limited to a total number of five**; this includes the groomsmen and the best man.

Family members and friends can be asked to read a lesson and/or read the prayers for the couple. After the service, an appointed family member or friend can toll the church bell in celebration of the marriage. Groomsmen can serve as ushers, or other appointed ushers can help to seat guests. The couple may choose a crucifer, who must be familiar with the Episcopal service, or the church will provide one.

The participation of children in the service must be discussed with the officiating priest.

Marriage and Remarriage Policy

At least one party of the proposed marriage:

- must be a baptized Christian. (Arrangements for baptism can be made.)
- have a pastoral relationship with the Good Shepherd, or
- have relatives who have a pastoral relationship with the church. (A pastoral relationship is defined as attending worship services and supporting the work of the Lord through Good Shepherd by the giving of time, talents and money) or
- in consultation with Good Shepherd's rector, it may be determined that one or the other of the applicant couple has an active pastoral relationship with another

Episcopal Church. Clergy of Good Shepherd and one's home church will communicate to confirm activity and eligibility.

- Exceptions to these requirements are explained in the accompanying fee schedule.

Remarriage: If either person is divorced, the couple must inform the officiating clergy at the time of application. The officiating clergy will have a conversation with the couple about the reasons that led to divorce, the care of any children from the previous marriage, and the dynamics of remarriage. This information, by canon law, is passed on to the bishop in written form for the bishop's approval to proceed. Note: the divorce must have been final for a year. Legal documents such as divorce decrees must be submitted to the officiating clergy and bishop ninety days prior to the proposed wedding date. Permission for a third marriage will undergo more thorough evaluation by the officiating clergy and the bishop.

Application and Scheduling

The Application for Marriage, the signed Declaration of Intention (at the end of this document), and the \$500 down payment should be returned as soon as possible and at least ninety days prior to the ceremony. The application will be reviewed by the clergy and the wedding committee and the couple will be notified within a short period of time. Note: Do not make definite plans for the service until the rector gives final approval.

By tradition, marriages are not solemnized on certain Holy Days and during certain seasons of the Church year: Advent, Christmas Day, the Season of Lent, Palm Sunday through Easter Day. Church of the Good Shepherd can accommodate one wedding on any given day, and the service must not conflict with services of the parish.

After the application has been approved, one of the wedding coordinators will discuss the details of the wedding. One of the wedding coordinators will be at the rehearsal, along with members of the wedding guild, and will assist on the day of the wedding.

Scheduling pre-marital counseling and a consultation with the musician (per following details) should be done within two weeks of the application approval.

Pre-marital Counseling

The Church requires that a couple receive counseling prior to being married. A minimum of four sessions are recommended. Counseling may be done by the rector, a professional counselor, or another priest or counselor as distance from Good Shepherd may dictate. Options are to be discussed and agreed upon with the rector. If the rector does not do the counseling, written recommendation by the priest or counselor must be given to the rector at least sixty days prior to the ceremony.

Music

Good Shepherd's organist, Dr. Lyn Ellen Burkett, provides music for weddings unless other arrangements are approved well in advance. Please schedule a meeting with her as soon as possible to be held three to four months prior to the wedding. A list of wedding music is available for you to choose from, and hymns from the 1982 Episcopal hymnal are appropriate choices as well. If you wish to include any selections other than those found on the list or in the hymnal, they must be approved by both the officiating priest and the organist. No recorded music is allowed. Vocal or instrumental soloists may perform during the prelude, postlude, at certain points of the service or during communion. The church has a list of soloists available upon request. If one or more soloists will be performing at your wedding, there will be an additional fee (\$50) for rehearsal time; please consult with the officiating priest and the organist. Due to the lack of space in the church, large harps such as pedal harps are not permitted.

The Marriage License

For a wedding at Good Shepherd, the license may be obtained in any North Carolina county. The license is valid for sixty days from issue date. A fee is required, as is a valid driver's license or picture I.D. and proof of social security number. **The license must be brought to the rehearsal. Without a license the marriage ceremony cannot take place.** For further information, contact the Register of Deeds in any of the following: Sylva- 828-586-7530; Franklin- 828-349-2095; Brevard- 828-884-3162

The Rehearsal

The rehearsal is usually held in the early evening the day before the wedding. If Holy Eucharist will not be a part of the ceremony, this is the time for a pre-nuptial Eucharist, if desired.

All members of the wedding party are expected to attend the rehearsal and are urged to be on time. A timely rehearsal means you get to the rehearsal dinner in time. The bride and groom will participate fully in the rehearsal.

The parish register is signed by the bride and groom and witnesses at the rehearsal. It's a great picture opportunity!

Bring marriage license and wedding bulletins to the rehearsal. (Two less things to do on the wedding day!)

Photography

Please have the photographer speak to the clergy so that he or she can be familiar with Good Shepherd wedding customs. In particular, **no pictures are permitted during the ceremony. Please make sure that the photographer and all guests are aware of this rule.** In addition, one flash photograph is allowed as the couple processes down the aisle after the ceremony. Videotaping of the ceremony is permitted from an unobtrusive stationary position using natural light. It is recommended that the photographer be scheduled one or two hours prior to the ceremony. Photographs may be taken until thirty minutes before the ceremony and after the ceremony.

Our church is equipped to stream services live to our YouTube channel. If you would like to have the service streamed then a link can be sent to you prior to the service for you to distribute to any friends or family not able to attend the service in person.

Decorations

The Church of the Good Shepherd is uniquely beautiful and requires no elaborate decorations. Altar appointments and church furnishings may not be removed. Only church-owned furnishings (vases, candlesticks, candelabra, etc.) may be used. Candles are furnished by the church. All floral decorations and arrangements must be discussed with the wedding guild coordinator well in advance of the wedding.

The wedding guild chairperson will discuss the specific floral guidelines, which include:

- Flowers near the altar are limited to one arrangement on each side.
- There is a shelf under the windows at the back of the church where an arrangement may be placed.
- Small, appropriate floral arrangements may be used on each pew.
- No real or artificial flowers or rose petals may be strewn on the carpet.
- Bird seed may be thrown outside the church; rice or confetti or flower petals are not allowed.
- If a garland is used on the exterior, it must be confined to the door. No garland or other objects may be placed on the railings. During the summer when bees are pollinating, it is strongly advised that simple greens and ribbons be used.
- Unity candles are not part of the Episcopal service.
- Aisle runners are not permitted.
- Due to space limitations, a guest registry is not permitted at the entrance of the church.

Hines Hall, Our Parish Hall

The parish hall may be used prior to the service as a waiting area and place of preparation (like the bride's room). It's a great place for simple refreshments for the wedding party and immediate family. Smoking and alcohol are not permitted. Please designate someone to remove all personal belongings promptly following the service.

When available Hines Hall may be used for the reception. (See the parish hall fee schedule below.)

Fee Schedule –

We are thankful to have a beautiful, historic church in which people may make their wedding vows and begin their new life together. These fees help us care for the church and to share the gospel with generations to come. If you have questions or concerns, you may speak to the rector about the fees.

Fee	Amount	Personal worksheet
1. Use of Church for Parishioners (due at time of application)	\$100	\$
2. Use of Church for persons directly related to parishioners (due at time of application)	\$500	\$
3. Use of Church for Episcopalians active in other Episcopal Churches (due at time of application)	\$1,500	\$
4. Use of Hines Hall for receptions (<i>\$100 per hour, including setup and clean up</i>)	\$100 per hour	\$
5. Additional donation / thank offering	<i>At your discretion</i>	\$
6. Good Shepherd Organist (<i>includes rehearsal; paid directly to organist</i>)	\$400 <i>(\$50 - rehearsal per soloist)</i>	\$
7. Crucifer (if desired from Good Shepherd, paid directly to crucifer)	\$25 cash	\$
8. Bulletin made by parish administrator	\$50	\$
9. Honorarium for clergy (<i>optional but customary; given directly to clergy</i>)		
10. Flowers (paid directly to florist)		
Total		

Your Wedding Checklist

As soon as possible:

- ___ Complete and return wedding application, declaration of intent (back page), and appropriate payment to the church office as soon as possible to finalize the reservation and date.
- ___ Discuss and create a premarital counseling plan with the clergy. When counseling is completed by outside counsel, email or mail a letter of recommendation 60 days prior to the ceremony.
- ___ Arrange meeting with the officiating clergy and the Wedding Guild coordinator to meet person-to-person (or on Zoom),
- ___ Contact the florist, photographer, caterer. (Suggestions provided below)
- ___ schedule a meeting with the organist to be held three to four months prior to the wedding discuss music and any additional musicians desired.

3-6 months prior to Wedding date:

- ___ Get wedding service booklet from the clergy, and finalize service options related to readings, prayers, and Holy Eucharist.
- ___ Consult with officiating clergy and parish administrator about the bulletin. Send a proof of the bulletin to the clergy and musician at least three weeks prior to the ceremony.
- ___ meet with the organist to discuss music and any additional musicians desired.

1 month prior to Wedding date:

- ___ Payments to the church for the use of Hines Hall (if applicable) are due at least 10 days prior to the reception. Send to the attention of Ellen Albright.
- ___ Obtain marriage license from any county in North Carolina.
- ___ Communicate to the wedding party all pertinent dates and times.

Week of Wedding:

- ___ Bring marriage license and bulletins to the rehearsal.
- ___ Bring payments for the organist, crucifer, musicians, clergy on the wedding day.

Contact information

Rector

The Rev. Robert Wood

Office 828-743-2359, rwood.gs@gmail.com

Assistant Rector

The Rev. Alison Schultz

Office 828-743-2359, aschultz.gs@gmail.com

Wedding Coordinator

Sandra Swartzfager

Home 828-743-9340, sanjoh@frontier.com

Organist

Michael Yannette

561-632-3781, michaelyannette@aol.com

Parish Administrator

Ellen Albright

828-743-2359, goodshepadmin@frontier.com

Mailing Address

The Church of the Good Shepherd
P.O. Box 32, Cashiers, NC 28717

Physical Address (GPS)

1448 Highway 107 South
Cashiers, NC 28717

Local Florists

Fiddlehead Designs
OakLeaf

828-743-5362, fiddleheaddesigns@live.com
828-526-8000, kirk@oakleafstyle.com

Photographer

Sposa & Bella
www.sposabellaphotography.com

Craig & Lindsey Mahaffey, 864-903-1269

Caterers

The Kitchen

828-526-2110, thekitchenofhighlands@gmail.com

**Application for Marriage at
Church of the Good Shepherd
Cashiers, North Carolina**

Your application will be reviewed and you will receive a reply within a short period of time. Further marriage plans should not be made until you receive a reply. At least ninety days notice should be given to the rector prior to the wedding date.

Bride's biographical information

Full name _____

Name called _____

Address _____

Telephone numbers: Home _____ Office _____ cell _____

Email: _____

Birth date _____ Age on Wedding Day _____

Father's full name _____

Mother's full name _____

Are you baptized? _____ In what denomination? _____

Are you confirmed? _____ In what denomination? _____

Do you presently attend church? _____

If so, where? _____

Do you or other members of your family have a pastoral relationship with Good Shepherd? Please explain.

Why do you want to be married at Good Shepherd?

Signature _____

Groom's information

Full name _____

Name called _____

Address _____

Telephone numbers: Home _____ Office _____ Cell _____

Email: _____

Birth date _____ Age on Wedding Day _____

Father's full name _____

Mother's full name _____

Are you baptized? _____ In what denomination? _____

Are you confirmed? _____ In what denomination? _____

Do you presently attend church? _____

If so, where? _____

Do you or other members of your family have a pastoral relationship with Good Shepherd? Please explain.

Why do you want to be married at Good Shepherd?

Signature _____

Section II

Desired Wedding Rehearsal Date _____ Time _____

Desired Wedding Date _____ Time _____

Has either of you previously been married? Bride _____ Groom _____

If divorced, on what date was divorce final?

Bride _____ Groom _____

If yes, do you have children? Please give ages. Bride _____ Groom _____

Comments _____

Please mail or email this completed application and Declaration of Intention (below) to:

The Church of the Good Shepherd
P.O. Box 32, Cashiers, NC 28717
goodshepadmin@frontier.com
If you have questions, please call 828-743-2359

Declaration of Intention

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 is set forth in the *Book of Common Prayer*.

We believe that the union of husband and wife, 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.

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

(signature)

(signature)

(date)

The Marriage Service *with scripture texts*

The Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage

(from the Book of Common Prayer, page 423)

At the time appointed, the persons to be married, with their witnesses, assemble in the church or some other appropriate place.

During their entrance, a hymn, psalm, or anthem may be sung, or instrumental music may be played.

Then the Celebrant, facing the people and the persons to be married, with the woman to the right and the man to the left, addresses the congregation and says

Dearly beloved: We have come together in the presence of God to witness and bless the joining together of this man and this woman 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.

The union of husband and wife 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 N.N.. and N.N.. 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.

Then the Celebrant says to the persons to be married

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 the woman

N., will you have this man to be your husband; to live together in the covenant of marriage? Will you love him, comfort him, honor and keep him, in sickness and in health; and, forsaking all others, be faithful to him as long as you both shall live?

The Woman answers

I will.

The Celebrant says to the man

N., will you have this woman to be your wife; to live together in the covenant of marriage? Will you love her, comfort her, honor and keep her, in sickness and in health; and, forsaking all others, be faithful to her as long as you both shall live?

The Man answers

I will.

The Celebrant then addresses the congregation, saying

Will all of you witnessing these promises do all in your power to uphold these two persons in their marriage?

People **We Will.**

If there is to be a presentation or a giving in marriage, it takes place at this time. See [page 437](#).

A hymn, psalm, or anthem may follow.

The Ministry of the Word

The Celebrant then says to the people

The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Let us pray.

O gracious and everliving God, you have created us male and female in your image: Look mercifully upon this man and this woman 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.

Then one or more of the following passages from Holy Scripture is read. If there is to be a Communion, a passage from the Gospel always concludes the Readings.

FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT

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)

1 Corinthians 13:1-13 (Love is patient and kind)
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)

*Between the Readings, a Psalm, hymn, or anthem may be sung or said.
Appropriate Psalms are 67, 127, and 128.*

When a passage from the Gospel is to be read, all stand, and the Deacon or Minister appointed says

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

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

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)
John 15:9-12 (Love one another as I have loved you)

After the Gospel, the Reader says

The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

A homily or other response to the Readings may follow.

The Marriage

The Man, facing the woman and taking her right hand in his, says

In the Name of God, I, N., 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, until we are parted by death. This is my solemn vow.

Then they loose their hands, and the Woman, still facing the man, takes his right hand in hers, and says

In the Name of God, I, N., take you, N., to be my 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 may ask God's blessing on a ring or rings as follows

Bless, O Lord, *this ring* to be a sign of the vows by which this man and this woman 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

N., 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 (or in the Name of God).

Then the Celebrant joins the right hands of husband and wife and says

Now that N. and N. have given themselves to each other by solemn vows, with the joining of hands and the giving and receiving of *a ring*, 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.

People Amen.

The Prayers

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.

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.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.

If Communion is to follow, the Lord's Prayer may be omitted here.

The Deacon or other person appointed reads the following prayers, to which the People respond, saying, Amen.

If there is not to be a Communion, one or more of the prayers may be omitted.

Let us pray.

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 this man and this woman whom you make one flesh in Holy Matrimony. Amen.

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. Amen.

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. *Amen.*

Give them grace, when they hurt each other, to recognize and acknowledge their fault, and to seek each other's forgiveness and yours. *Amen.*

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. *Amen.*

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. *Amen.*

Give them such fulfillment of their mutual affection that they may reach out in love and concern for others. *Amen.*

Grant that all married persons who have witnessed these vows may find their lives strengthened and their loyalties confirmed. *Amen.*

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.*

The Blessing of the Marriage

The people remain standing. The husband and wife kneel, and the Priest says one of the following prayers

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 man and woman in his Name. By the power of your Holy Spirit, pour out the abundance of your blessing upon this man and this woman. 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. Finally, in your mercy, bring them to that table where your saints feast for ever in your heavenly home; through Jesus

Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

or this

O God, you have so consecrated the covenant of marriage that in it is represented the spiritual unity between Christ and his Church: Send therefore your blessing upon these your servants, that they may so love, honor, and cherish each other in faithfulness and patience, in wisdom and true godliness, that their home may be a haven of blessing and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The husband and wife still kneeling, the Priest adds this blessing

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 Peace

The Celebrant may say to the people

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

The newly married couple then greet each other, after which greetings may be exchanged throughout the congregation.

When Communion is not to follow, the wedding party leaves the church. A hymn, psalm, or anthem may be sung, or instrumental music may be played.

At the Eucharist

The liturgy then continues with the Offertory, at which the newly married couple may present the offerings of bread and wine.

Preface of Marriage

At the Communion, it is appropriate that the newly married couple receive Communion first, after the ministers.

In place of the usual postcommunion prayer, the following is said

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, N. and N., 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.

As the wedding party leaves the church, a hymn, psalm, or anthem may be sung, or instrumental music may be played.