



A Celebration of the Sacrament of Marriage.

P: ²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, ²⁷ and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹ After all, no one ever hated their own body, but they feed and care for their body, just as Christ does the church— ³⁰ for we are members of his body. ³¹ "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh."³² This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church. ³³ However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

Dearly beloved in Christ; Christian marriage is instituted by God and therefore it is holy. Through this service let us renew our faith in the Sacrament of marriage.

Opening Hymn

Be glad in the Lord, and rejoice,
All ye that are upright in heart;
And ye that have made Him your choice,
Bid sadness and sorrow depart.

Rejoice, rejoice,
Be glad in the Lord and rejoice;
Rejoice, rejoice,
Be glad in the Lord and rejoice.

Be joyful, for He is the Lord
On earth and in Heaven supreme;
He fashions and rules by His word—
The "Mighty" and "Strong" to redeem.

Though darkness surround you by day,
Your sky by the night be o'ercast,
Let nothing your spirit dismay,
But trust till the danger is past.

Be glad in the Lord, and rejoice,
His praises proclaiming in song;
With harp and with organ and voice,

The loud hallelujahs prolong!

Mary E. Servoss Music- James McGranahan

Kauma

P. †Glory be to the Father our Creator, to the Son our Redeemer and to the Holy Spirit who sanctifies us.

C. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

P. Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory, Hosanna in the highest.

C. Blessed is He that has come and is to come again in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

P. Holy art thou, O God.

C. Holy art thou, Almighty Lord.

P. Holy art thou, Immortal Lord.

C. O Lord, the Messiah who was crucified for us † have mercy on us. **(To be repeated thrice)**

P. O Lord, have mercy on us.

C. O Lord, have mercy on us and bless us.

P. O Lord, accept our prayers and worship and have mercy on us.

C. Glory be to you, O God.

P. Glory be to you, O Creator.

C. Glory be to you, O King the Messiah; who has mercy on us sinners. Bless us, O Lord.

(Let us sing together the prayer that Jesus taught us)

***All: Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name,
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, On earth as it is done in heaven.***

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, Forever. Amen.

(Cong. to be seated)

Lesson 1 Genesis 2:18-25

Lesson 2 Hebrews 13:1-6

Meditation

L: The Best Marriage Advice I've Ever Heard

You hear a lot of advice before you get married.

"Keep a date night."

"Never go to bed angry."

"Make your relationship the first priority."

"Don't walk out during an argument."

Veteran couples further down the road look back on young newlyweds and offer insight for the challenges ahead. Of all the counsel my husband and I received leading up to our wedding day, one thought has proven to be the most challenging and transformative, and it came from my father-in-law. He looked directly at us as he simply said, "**Forgive quickly.**"

I was recently struck by the explanation of 'forgive' in our son's word game; it said, "When you forgive someone, you stop feeling angry." To my surprise, the Webster definition also gives a

similar explanation—a far cry from the biblical depiction. In Scripture we find that forgiveness is an action made in the midst of negative feelings, making it a beautiful expression of love.

When we only forgive in the absence of painful emotions, its meaning is lost. If we wait to stop feeling angry, we rob forgiveness of its value. In contrast, when we say with vulnerable honesty, "I am hurt, I love you, and I forgive you," our relationships grow in depth and strength.

Choosing to **quickly forgive** shouldn't be mistaken with pretending we aren't disappointed or upset. It is not an excuse to ignore problems or to refuse to take responsibility for unhealthy patterns within our marriages. Instead, it provides a space to work things out and it refuses to let the issue infect the rest of the relationship. Choosing to quickly forgive recognizes the point at which it is time to move forward. It means that we do not withhold affection or kindness from our spouses as a form of resentment. We do not sulk or complain to our friends. It means that even if sorting through a problem takes months of hard work, we will continue to love each other well in the midst of that work. We will not wait until we "feel like it" before we choose to extend grace. It means that in the heat of the moment, we breathe deeply and remember how we have been forgiven through the Cross.

Cara Joyner

<http://www.todayschristianwoman.com/articles/2014/march/best-marriage-advice-ive-ever-heard.html>

Hymn

O perfect Love, all human thought transcending,
Lowly we kneel in prayer before thy throne,
That theirs may be the love which knows no ending,
Whom thou forevermore dost join in one.

O perfect Life, be thou their full assurance,
Of tender charity and steadfast faith,
Of patient hope and quiet, brave endurance,
With childlike trust that fears not pain nor death.

Grant them the joy which brightens earthly sorrow;
Grant them the peace which calms all earthly strife,
And to life's day the glorious unknown morrow
That dawns upon eternal love and life.

Words: Dorothy F. Gurney, 1883: Music: Perfect Love, Joseph Barnby, 1890

L: Marriage is not beautiful

Marriage is ugly, I'm sure those who are married here will agree.

You see the absolute worst in someone.

You see them when they're mad, sad, being stubborn and when they are so unlovable they make you scream.

But that is all so worth it.

Because you also get to see them when they are laughing so hard that tears run down their face, when they can't help but make those weird snorting noises they make only in front of you.

It's also the getting stressed out about silly little things that are not important.

You get to see the side of them that no one else does, and it's not always pretty.

It's the strange faces they pull only at you, it's the tears when it feels like it's all crashing down.

It's the bad breath and the gas, and more gas.

It's the sniffing off the top lip, the silly walks and the random dances.

It's the anger that's not directed at you, but feels SO like it is.

It's the joy in the happy memory making.

Marriage isn't a beautiful thing, but it is amazing.
It's knowing that someone loves you so much, and won't leave you no matter how nasty you are to them.

It's having someone have your back, no matter what.
It's fights over silly things, like almost everything!!!
But it's also those nights when you fall asleep in each other's arms, feeling like you'd never want to be anywhere else.
It's the dirtiest, hardest, most rewarding job there is.
Because at the end of the day, you get to climb into bed, not only with your best friend, but with the weirdest, most annoying, loyal, moodiest, loving, silliest but perfect person you know.
Marriage is not beautiful, but it's one mad and exciting rollercoaster of a ride, that we want to stay on forever. Marriage is not beautiful, but it's one heaven of a ride.
By Steve and Jemma
<http://www.engagedandready.com/marriage-is-ugly/>

Cong to stand.

Prayer of Confession

Kyrie Elieson, Kyrie Elieson, Kyrie Elieson
Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy

P: When we seek God's mercy, we draw close to the mystery of faith: love that cannot be undone by our sin. Trusting that God is grace, let us offer to God the truth of our lives, first in silent prayer.

*SILENT PRAYER

P: Holy God, we come before You in humility,
For we do not live as we ought.

C: We do not love You with our whole heart and mind and strength.
We do not love our neighbor as ourselves.
So we pray, in all humility,
That You will change our hearts and minds,
That You will show us again how to love others the way You love us,
That You will put power and courage in our hearts to do your will.
This we pray in Jesus' name and for His sake. Amen.

Kyrie Elieson, Kyrie Elieson, Kyrie Elieson
Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy

Intercessory Prayers-

L: Loving Father, we thank you for the great gift of togetherness, of bonding and of family. We thank you for the Church and its unifying and combining force in helping families grow stronger. Father, your greatest command was to love You and love each other. You've given us marriage as a holy relationship that reflects our relationship with You. Show us how to follow your example and set aside our selfishness and pride and humbly serve each other. Help us to be of one spirit and of one mind and value each other above ourselves, looking out for each other's interests. In the midst of our busy lives, help us take time to love each other deeply from the heart, as you have loved us.

C: to be sung

God, in the planning and purpose of life,
hallowed the union of husband and wife:
this we embody where love is displayed,
rings are presented and promises made.

L: Dear Lord be merciful upon couples and all who have marriage difficulties. Please help those whose marriages are faltering because of illness, unemployment and stress. Please help those whose marriages are failing due to lack of communication, financial worries or due to other relationships. We ask Your powerful help for these couples and their families. Please send Your Holy Spirit to help them resolve their issues. Please help families to flourish in love and unity and with gospel values.

Heal those families suffering as a consequence of marriage break-up. Please bless them with healing, courage and comfort. Guide us as a Church to reach out to them; not to criticise, not to be judgemental and to gossip, but to be able to help genuinely.

C: Jesus was found, at a similar feast,
taking the roles of both waiter and priest,
turning the worldly towards the divine,
tears into laughter and water to wine.

L: We pray for the many parents who worry about their children's future, especially their wedding plans. We pray that you will bless them with the faith that You are there to support them in choosing the right alliance, putting together the required finances and making all the necessary arrangements.

We pray O Lord for the many individuals who are looking to be married soon. Bless them as they plan their wedding and their future. We pray that you will guide them in selecting their life partners. While they make their elaborate plans and shape their dreams, help them to realise that a wedding is not just for a day, but a marriage for a lifetime.

C: Therefore we pray that his spirit preside
over the wedding of bridegroom and bride,
fulfilling all that they've hoped will come true,
lighting with love all they dream of and do.

L: We pray for all those who have decided to remain single. Keep them from loneliness and doubt, be their companion in times of solitude and sickness.

We pray especially for those who have lost their partners, dear Lord, strengthen them as they overcome the loss and reminisce about their loved ones. Give them the fortitude to get over their great grief. Bless them with your grace so that their faith is not tested, and give them the power to face life, not alone, but with You. Amen.

C: Praise then the Maker, the Spirit, the Son,
source of the love through which two are made one.
God's is the glory, the goodness and grace
seen in this bonding and known in this place.

Words: John L. Bell and Graham Maule © 1989 WGRG, Glasgow, Scotland

Gospel Reading

P: †Peace be with you all.

C: May the Lord make us all worthy to listen to His Word.

P: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, which proclaims life and salvation to the world as recorded by Matthew 19:1-12

C: Blessed is He that has come and will come again. Praise to the Father who sent him for our Salvation. May His blessings be ever upon us.

P: In the days of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour, the Word of life, God incarnate of the blessed Virgin Mary, it happened in this way.

C: So we believe and affirm.

(After reading the Gospel, the priest says, †'Peace be with you all')

C: We thank you, Lord, that you have given us your gospel which is indeed the light of the world, that we may be drawn closer to you through the living words from your gospel which we have now heard.

The Nicene Creed

We believe in the one true God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

We believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all world; Light of Light, very God of very God; begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made, who, for us men and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary, and was made man. He was crucified also for us in the days of Pontius Pilate; suffered and died and was buried. The third day He rose again, by His Father's holy will, ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of the Father. He will come again, with glory, to judge both the living and the dead and of His kingdom there will be no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of Life; who proceeds from the Father; who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets and the apostles.

We believe in one Holy Catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and look forward to the resurrection of the dead, and the new life of the world to come. Amen.

(Cong. to be seated)

Birthday, Wedding Anniversary & Thanksgiving

Blest be the tie that binds
Our hearts in Christian love;
The fellowship of kindred minds
Is like to that above.

Before our Father's throne
We pour our ardent prayers;
Our fears, our hopes, our alms, are one,
Our comforts and our cares.

We share our mutual woes,
Our mutual burdens bear,
And often for each other flows
The sympathizing tear.

When we asunder part,
It gives us inward pain;
But we shall still be joined in heart,
And hope to meet again.

This glorious hope revives
Our courage by the way,
While each in expectation lives
And longs to see the day.

From sorrow, toil, and pain,
And sin we shall be free
And perfect love and friendship reign
Through all eternity.

by John Fawcett, 1772, alt.
Composer: Lowell Mason, 1832

Offertory

"Great is Thy faithfulness," O God my Father,
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not
As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.

"Great is Thy faithfulness!" "Great is Thy faithfulness!"
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided—
"Great is Thy faithfulness," Lord, unto me!

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above,
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

Written by Thomas Chisholm (1866–1960) with music by William M. Runyan (1870–1957)

MESSAGE

Closing Prayer

P: We thank you, O God, for the Love you have implanted in our hearts.

C: May it always inspire us to be kind in our words,
considerate of feelings, and concerned for each other's needs and wishes.
Help us to be understanding and forgiving of human weaknesses and feelings.
Increase our Faith and Trust in You and may Your grace guide our life and love.
Bless our families, O God, with Peace and Happiness, and make our Love Fruitful for Your Glory
and our Joy both here and in eternity. Amen

Benediction

P: ⁴ Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral. ⁵ Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said,

“Never will I leave you;
never will I forsake you.”

⁶ So we say with confidence,

“The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid.

What can mere mortals do to me?” Hebrews 13:4-6

May the Lord, who delights in human life, be pleased with your lives and bless you. May the right hand of blessing be on you and protect you from all troubles. May the Angel of peace be with you and keep you from all jealousies that lead to destruction.

May the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit take away all sorrows and fill you with joy. Amen

Doxology and Kiss of Peace

Yehovaye bhayapettu avante

Vazhikalhil nadakunna evanum bhaagyavaan;

Ninte kaikalhude adhwaanabhalam neethinum;

Nee bhaagyavaan; ninakku nanma varum.

Ninte bhaarya ninte veettinakaththu

Bhalappadam-aaya munthiri-vallhi-poleyum;

Ninte makkalh ninte meshakku chutthum;

Olivu-thaikalh poleyum irikkum.

Yehova bhakthan-aaya purushan

Ingane anugrahikkapettavan-aakum;

Yehova seeyonil ninnum;

Ninne anugrahikkum.

Ninte aayushkaalam-okkeyum nee

Yerrushaleminte nanmaye kaanhum;

Ninte makkalhude makkalheyum nee kaanhum;

Issrayelinmel samaadhaanam undaakatte.

Pithavinum, puthranum, parishudhathmavum

Mahatwam undakadte.

Aadhinkelum, ippozhum, ennekum ullaprakaram thane. Amen

.....

Let me not to the marriage of true minds

- Poem by William Shakespeare

Let me not to the marriage of true minds

Admit impediments. Love is not love

Which alters when it alteration finds,

Or bends with the remover to remove:

O no! it is an ever-fixed mark

That looks on tempests and is never shaken;

It is the star to every wandering bark,

Whose worth's unknown, although his height be taken.

Love's not Time's fool, though rosy lips and cheeks

Within his bending sickle's compass come:

Love alters not with his brief hours and weeks,

But bears it out even to the edge of doom.

If this be error and upon me proved,

I never writ, nor no man ever loved.

Primrose Mar Thoma Church Choir- August 2017

