

Anglican Diocese of Eastern  
Newfoundland and Labrador

An Order for

**THE CELEBRATION AND  
BLESSING OF A MARRIAGE**

(without or with the Holy Eucharist)

Adapted from:

*The Book of Alternative Services*

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*This rite has been authorized by*

*The Rt. Rev. Dr. Geoffrey Peddle*

*for use by all couples seeking marriage in the  
Anglican Diocese of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador  
effective September 28, 2019*



# **THE CELEBRATION AND BLESSING OF A MARRIAGE**

Adapted from:

*The Book of Alternative Services*

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# The Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage

*This service will be used when there is to be no celebration of the eucharist.*

## The Gathering of the Community

*The people stand. The persons to be married stand before the celebrant.*

*Celebrant* The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
and the love of God,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,  
be with you all.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant* Dear friends, we have come together in the presence of God to witness the marriage of *N* and *N*, and to rejoice with them.

Marriage is a gift of God and a means of his grace, in which two people become one flesh. It is God's purpose that, as two people give themselves to each other in love, they shall grow together and be united in that love, as Christ is united with his Church.

The union of two people in heart, body, and mind is intended for their mutual comfort and help, that they may know each other with delight and tenderness in acts of love [and that they may be blessed in the procreation, care, and upbringing of children].

In marriage, two people give themselves to each other, to care for each other in good times and in bad. They are linked to each other's families, and they begin a new life together in the community.

It is a way of life that all should reverence, and none should lightly undertake.

If anyone present knows a reason why *N* and *N* may not lawfully marry, they must declare it now.

*N* and *N*, if either of you knows a reason why you may not lawfully marry, you must declare it now.

*N* and *N* have come to enter this holy state. They have complied with Civil and Canon Law and have been duly prepared to enter into marriage. They will each give their consent to the other; they will exchange solemn vows, and in token of this, they will (each) give and receive a ring.

We pray with them that by God's help they may fulfil his purpose for the whole of their earthly life together.

Let us pray.

God our Father,  
you have taught us through your Son  
that love is the fulfilling of the law.  
Grant to these your servants  
that loving one another  
they may continue in your love  
until their lives' end;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People     **Amen.**

### **The Proclamation of the Word**

*One or more readings, including a Gospel reading, shall normally be read. Members of the family and friends of the couple may read lessons. A psalm, canticle, hymn, anthem, or period of silence may follow the lessons. Suggested readings may be found on p. 549 of The Book of Alternative Services. The readings and the response shall be selected in consultation with the couple.*

*At the conclusion of readings from the Old Testament and the New Testament writings other than the Gospels, the reader says,*

The word of the Lord.  
*People*     **Thanks be to God.**

*Silence may be kept. A psalm, canticle, hymn, or anthem may follow.*

*All stand for the Gospel.*

*Reader*     The Lord be with you.  
*People*     **And also with you.**

*Reader*     The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to...  
*People*     **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

*At the conclusion of the Gospel, the reader says,*

The Gospel of Christ.  
*People*     **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

*A sermon may follow.*

## **The Wedding**

*The people stand. The celebrant says to one member of the couple, then to the other,*

*N will you give yourself to N to be his/her/their wife/husband/spouse: to love him/her/them, comfort him/her/them, honour and protect him/her/them; and forsaking all others, to be faithful to him/her/them so long as you both shall live?*

*Answer*     **I will.**

*The celebrant may address the following question to the families of the couple.*

Do you, members of the families of N and N, give your blessing to this marriage?

*Answer*     **We do.**

*The celebrant addresses the following to all present.*

You are the witnesses to these vows now being made. Will you do all in your power to support and uphold this marriage?

*Answer*    **We will.**

*The couple faces each other and joins hands.*

*One member of the couple says the following vows, then the other,*

I *N* take you *N* to be my spouse/husband/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  
for the rest of our lives,  
according to God's holy law.  
This is my solemn vow.

*They loose hands. The celebrant receives the ring(s) and addresses the congregation in these or similar words.*

Dear friends in Christ,  
let us ask God to bless *this ring*,  
that *it* may be a symbol of the vow and covenant  
*N* and *N* have made this day.

*The community may pray silently. The celebrant then says,*

Blessed are you,  
God of steadfast love,  
source of our joy and end of our hope.  
Bless *this ring* given and received  
that *it* may be a symbol of the vow and covenant  
*N* and *N* have made this day,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*People*    **Amen.**



*One member of the couple (and then the other in their turn) 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.  
With all that I am and all that I have,  
I honour you in the name of God.*

*The couple join right hands.*

*Celebrant N and N have joined themselves to each other by solemn vows, signified by the joining of hands and the giving and receiving of a ring. I declare that they are wed to one another, 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 register may be signed at this time or at the end of the service.*

## **The Prayers of the People**

*The Prayers of the People may be led by a friend or member of a family of the couple, or by the celebrant or another minister.*

*Leader*     Let us pray.

Almighty God, in whom we live and move and have our being, look graciously upon the world which you have made and for which your Son gave his life, and especially on all whom you make to be one flesh in holy marriage. May their lives together be a sacrament of your love to this broken world, so that unity may overcome estrangement, forgiveness heal guilt, and joy overcome despair.

*People*     Lord, in your mercy,  
**Hear our prayer.**

*Leader*     May *N* and *N* so live together that the strength of their love may enrich our common life and become a sign of your faithfulness.

*People* Lord, in your mercy,  
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[*Leader* May they receive the gift and heritage of children and the grace to bring them up to know and love you.

*People* Lord, in your mercy,  
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*Leader* May their home be a place of truth, security, and love; and their lives an example of concern for others.

*People* Lord, in your mercy,  
**Hear our prayer.**

*Leader* May those who have witnessed these vows find their lives strengthened and their loyalties confirmed.

*People* Lord, in your mercy,  
**Hear our prayer.**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

*Celebrant* Gathering our prayers and praises into one, let us pray as our Saviour taught us,

**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.**

**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,  
the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen**

## The Blessing of the Marriage

*The people remain standing. The couple kneels, and the celebrant 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 two people in his name. By the power of your Holy Spirit, pour out the abundance of your blessing upon *N* and *N*. 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*

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, honour, 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 couple still kneeling, the celebrant adds this blessing.*

God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit, bless, preserve, and keep you; the Lord mercifully with his favour 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

*Celebrant* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*The newly married couple may greet each other.*

**THE CELEBRATION AND  
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MARRIAGE**  
(WITH THE HOLY EUCHARIST)

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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, honour, 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 couple still kneeling, the celebrant adds this blessing.*

God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit, bless, preserve, and keep you; the Lord mercifully with his favour 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**

*Celebrant* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*The newly married couple may greet each other.*

*A hymn may be sung while the altar is being prepared.*

## **Prayer over the Gifts**

God of the covenant, hear our prayer, and accept all we offer you this day. You have made *N* and *N* one in the sacrament of marriage. May the mystery of Christ's unselfish love, which we celebrate in this eucharist, increase their love for you and for each other; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **The Great Thanksgiving**

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.

*People* **We lift them to the Lord.**

*Celebrant* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People* **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*Celebrant* Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of heaven and earth; we give you thanks and praise in the assembly of your people. You made us in your image. In love 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.

Therefore we raise our voices, with all who have served you in every age, to proclaim the glory of your name.

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

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

*Celebrant* We give thanks to you, Lord our God, for the goodness and love you have made known to us in creation; in calling Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus your Son.

For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Saviour and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, a death he freely accepted, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: this is my body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, Father, according to his command,

*All*            **we remember his death,  
we proclaim his resurrection,  
we await his coming in glory;**

*Celebrant* and we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you,  
Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread  
and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon  
these gifts, that they may be the sacrament of the body of  
Christ and his blood of the new covenant. Unite us to your Son  
in his sacrifice, that we, made acceptable in him, may be  
sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

In the fullness of time, reconcile all things in Christ, and make  
them new, and bring us to that city of light where you dwell  
with all your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our  
Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and  
the author of our salvation;

by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the  
Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, almighty Father,  
now and for ever.

*People*       **Amen.**

*Celebrant* Gathering our prayers and praises into one, let us pray as our  
Saviour 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 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,  
the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

*Silence*

*Celebrant* We break the bread of life,  
and that life is the light of the world.

*All* **God here among us,  
light in the midst of us,  
bring us to light and life.**

## **The Communion**

*Celebrant* The gifts of God for the People of God.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

*The celebrant receives the sacrament first and then delivers it to the couple, and to such of the congregation as wish to receive communion.*

## **Prayer after Communion**

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

*Standing, the community prays in silence. The celebrant then says,*

Gracious God,  
may *N* and *N*, who have been bound together  
in these holy mysteries,  
become one in heart and soul.  
May they live in fidelity and peace  
and obtain those eternal joys  
prepared for all who love you;  
through your Son, Jesus Christ the Lord.

*People* **Amen.**

*Celebrant* Glory to God,

*All* **whose power, working in us,  
can do infinitely more  
than we can ask or imagine.  
Glory to God from generation to generation,  
in the Church and in Christ Jesus,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

## The Dismissal

*The celebrant may bless the people.*

*Celebrant* Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

*From Easter Day through the Day of Pentecost, **Alleluia** may be added to the dismissal and the people's response.*