

Priest: Have you, ___ a good, free and unconstrained will and a firm intention to take unto yourself to your wife this woman, ___, whom you see here before you?

Groom: I have.

Priest: Have you, ___ a good, free and unconstrained will and a firm intention to take unto yourself to husband this man, whom you see here before you?

Bride: I have.

The Service of Betrothal

Priest: Blessed is our God, always, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

Deacon: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For the peace from above and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For the peace of the whole world, for the good estate of the holy churches of God, and for the union of all men, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For this holy house and for those who with faith, reverence, and the fear of God enter therein, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For our father and Metropolitan ___, and for our father and Bishop ___, for the venerable priesthood, the diaconate in Christ, for all the clergy and the people, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For the servant of God ___, and for the handmaid of God ___ who now

plight each other their troth, and for their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: That He will send down upon them perfect and peaceful love, and His help, let us pray to the Lord.

Priest: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: That He will preserve them in oneness of mind, and in steadfastness of faith, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: That He will bless them with a blameless life, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: That the Lord our God will grant to them an honorable marriage, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For our deliverance from all tribulation, wrath, danger and necessity, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by Thy grace.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Calling to remembrance our all-holy, immaculate, most blessed and glorious Lady Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and each other, and all our life unto Christ our God.

Choir: To Thee, O Lord.

Priest: For unto Thee are due all glory, honor, and worship: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

Priest: O eternal God, who hast brought into unity those who were sundered, and hast ordained for them an indissoluble bond of love, who

didst bless Isaac and Rebecca, and didst make them heirs of Thy promise:
Bless also these Thy servants, and guiding them unto every good work.

For Thou art a merciful God who lovest mankind, and unto Thee
we ascribe glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now
and ever and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

Priest: Peace be to all.

Choir: And to thy spirit.

Deacon: Let us bow our heads unto the Lord.

Choir: To Thee, O Lord.

Priest: O Lord our God, who hast espoused the Church as a pure virgin from
among the Gentiles: Bless this betrothal, and unite and preserve these Thy
servants in peace and oneness of mind.

For unto Thee are due all glory, honor, and worship: to the Father, and to
the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

*Then taking the rings, the priest blesses the bridal pair thrice, making the sign of the cross with the ring of
the bride over the bridegroom, and with that of the bridegroom over the bride, saying to the man:*

Priest: The servant of God, ____, is betrothed to the handmaid of God, ____, in
the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Choir: Amen.

And to the woman:

Priest: The handmaid of God, ____, is betrothed to the servant of God, ____, in
the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Choir: Amen.

*And when he has said this to each of them three times, he places the rings on their right hands. Then the
bridal pair exchanges the rings, and the priest says the following prayer:*

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: O Lord our God, bless the betrothal of these Thy servants, ___ and ___, and confirm the word which they have. Establish them in the holy union which is from Thee. For Thou in the beginning didst make them male and female, and by Thee the woman is joined unto the man as helpmeet. Therefore, O Lord our God, who hast sent forth Thy truth upon Thine inheritance, and Thy covenant unto Thy servants our fathers, even Thine elect from generation to generation: Look upon Thy servant, ___, and Thy handmaid, ___, and establish their betrothal, in faith and in oneness of mind, in truth and in love. And, O Lord our God, do Thou now bless now this putting-on of rings with Thy heavenly benediction, and let Thine angel go before them all the days of their life.

For Thou art He that blesses and sanctifies all things, and unto Thee do we ascribe glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

The Service of Crowning

Refrain: Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!

Priest: Blessed are all they that fear the Lord and walk in his ways.

Thou shall eat of the fruit of thy labors: O blessed art thou and happy shall thou be.

Thy wife shall be as a fruitful vine upon the walls of thy house; thy children like a newly planted olive orchard round about thy table.

Lo, thus shall the man be blessed who fears the Lord. The Lord in Zion shall so bless thee that thou may see the good things of Jerusalem all the days of your life.

Yea, that thou shall see thy children's children, and peace upon Israel.

Priest: Blessed is the Kingdom of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

Deacon: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For the peace from above and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For the peace of the whole world, for the good estate of the holy churches of God, and for the union of all men, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For this holy house and for those who with faith, reverence, and the fear of God enter therein, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For our father and Metropolitan ____, and for our father and Bishop ____, for the venerable priesthood, the diaconate in Christ, for all the clergy and the people, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For the servants of God, ____ and ____, who are now being united to each other in the community of marriage, and for their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: That He will bless this marriage as He blessed that in Cana of Galilee, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: That He will make them glad with the sight of sons and daughters, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: That He will grant to them and to us, all our petitions which are unto salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: That He will deliver them and us from all tribulation, wrath, danger, and necessity, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by Thy grace.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Calling to remembrance our all-holy, immaculate, most blessed and glorious Lady Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and each other, and all our life unto Christ our God.

Choir: To Thee, O Lord.

Priest: For unto Thee are due all glory, honor, and worship, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Then the priest recites aloud the following prayer:

Priest:

Blessed art Thou, O Lord our God, the Priest of mystical and pure marriage, and Ordainer of the law of the marriage of the body; the preserver of immortality, and the provider of good things; Do Thou the same master who in the beginning didst make man and set him to be a king over Thy creation, and didst say: "It is not good for man to be alone up on the earth. Let us make a helpmeet for him." And didst fashion woman; which when Adam beheld he said: "This is now bone of my bone and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman;" For this cause a man shall leave his father and mother and cleave unto his wife, and the two shall become one flesh; and those whom God has joined together, let no man put asunder. Do Thou now also, O Master, our Lord and our God, send down Thy heavenly grace upon these Thy servants, ___ and ___ and grant that this Thy handmaid may be in all things pleasing unto her husband; and that this Thy servant may love and cherish his wife; that they may live according to Thy will.

Bless them, O Lord our God, as Thou didst bless Abraham and Sarah. Bless them, O Lord our God, as Thou didst bless Isaac and Rebecca. Bless them, O Lord our God, as Thou didst bless Joachim and Anna. Bless them, O Lord our God, as Thou didst bless Zechariah and Elizabeth.

Preserve them, O Lord our God, as Thou didst preserve Noah in the ark. Preserve them, O Lord our God, as Thou didst preserve Jonah in the belly of the whale. Preserve them, O Lord our God, as Thou didst preserve the three holy children from the fire; and let that

gladness come upon them which the blessed Helena had when she found the precious cross. Remember them, O Lord our God, as Thou didst remember Thy forty holy martyrs, sending down upon them crowns from heaven. Remember them, O Lord our God and the parents who have nurtured them, for the prayers of parents make firm the foundations of houses. Remember, O Lord our God, Thy servants, the attendants of the bridal pair, who share in this joy. Remember, O Lord our God, Thy servant, ____, and Thy handmaid, ____, and bless them. Grant them fair children and concord of soul and body. Exalt them like the cedars of Lebanon, like a luxuriant vine, that having sufficiency in all things they may abound in every work that is good and acceptable unto Thee. And let them behold their children's children round about their table, like a newly planted olive orchard, that, finding favor in Thy sight, they may shine like the stars of heaven, in Thee our Lord and God:

For unto Thee are due all glory, honor, and worship: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

And again the priest prays aloud:

Priest:

O holy God, who didst create man out of the dust, and didst fashion his wife and didst join her unto him as a helpmeet, for it seemed good to Thy majesty that man should not be alone upon the earth: Do Thou, the same Lord, extend Thy hand from Thy holy dwelling-place, and unite this Thy servant, ____, and this Thy handmaid, ____; for by Thee is the husband united unto the wife. Unite them in one mind and one flesh, and grant unto them fair children for education in Thy faith and fear:

For Thine is the Majesty, and Thine is the Kingdom and the power and the glory: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

The priest takes the crowns and crowns the bridegroom thrice, saying:

Priest: The servant of God, ____, is crowned unto the handmaid of God, ____, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Choir: Amen.

So also he crowns the bride thrice, saying:

Priest: The handmaid of God, ____, is crowned unto the servant of God, ____, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Choir: Amen.

Then he exchanges the crowns three times, saying each time:

Priest: O Lord our God, crown them with glory and honor.

The Epistle

Deacon: Let us attend.

Reader: The Prokeimenon in the eighth tone. (Psalm 21):

Thou hast set upon their heads crowns of precious stones; they asked life of Thee, and Thou gavest it them.

Verse: For Thou will give them Thy blessing forever and ever: Thou wilt make them to rejoice with gladness through Thy presence.

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The reading from the Epistle of the holy Apostle Paul to the Ephesians (5:20-33):

Deacon: Let us attend.

Reader:

Brethren: Give thanks always for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God the Father. Be subject to one another out of reverence for Christ. Wives, be subject to your husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, His body, and is Himself its Savior. As the church is subject to Christ, so let wives also be subject in everything to their husbands. Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her, that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, that the church might be presented before Him in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. Even so husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no man ever hates his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, as Christ does the church, because we are members of His body. "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one." This is a great mystery, and I take it to mean Christ and the church; however, let each one of you love his wife as himself and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

Priest: Peace be to thee the reader.

Choir: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

The Gospel

Priest: Wisdom attend, let us hear the Holy Gospel. Peace be unto all.

Choir: And to your spirit.

Priest: The reading from the Holy Gospel according to Saint John. (2:1-11)

Choir: Glory to Thee, O Lord, glory to Thee.

Deacon: Let us attend.

Priest:

At that time there was a marriage at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there; Jesus also was invited to the marriage, with His disciples. When the wine gave out the mother of Jesus said to Him, "They have no wine." And Jesus said to her, "O woman, what have I to do with you? My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever He tells you." Now six stone jars were standing there, for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the steward of the feast." So they took it. When the steward of the feast tasted the water now become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward of the feast called the bridegroom and said to him, "Every man serves the good wine first; and when men have drunk freely, then the poor wine; but you have kept the good wine until now." This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested His glory, and His disciples believed in Him.

Choir: Glory to Thee, O Lord, glory to Thee.

Deacon: Let us all say with all our soul and with all our mind, let us say.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: O Lord almighty, the God of our Fathers, we pray Thee, hearken and have mercy.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Have mercy on us, O God, according to Thy great goodness, we pray
Thee, hearken and have mercy.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (3)

Deacon: Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, and visitation for
the servants of God ___ and ___, and their parents and their attendants and
all here present, and for the pardon and remission of their sins.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (3)

Priest: O Lord our God, who in Thy saving providence didst vouchsafe by Thy
presence in Cana of Galilee to declare marriage honorable: Do Thou, the
same Lord, now also maintain in peace and concord Thy servants ___ and
___, and grant them to lead an upright and blameless life, even to a ripe
old age, walking in Thy commandments with a pure heart:

For Thou art a merciful God, and lovest mankind, and unto Thee we
ascribe glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now
and ever and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

Priest: And vouchsafe O Lord, that with boldness and without condemnation, we
may dare to call upon Thee, the heavenly God as Father and to say:

People: 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.

Priest: For Thine is the Kingdom and the power and the glory, of the Father and
of the Son and of the Holy Spirit: now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

Priest: Peace be unto all.

Choir: And to thy spirit.

Deacon: Let us bow our heads unto the Lord.

Choir: To Thee, O Lord.

Then the common cup is brought and the priest blesses it.

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: O God, who hast created all things by Thy might, and hast made fast the round world, and adorns the crown of all things which Thou hast made: Bless now, with Thy spiritual blessing, this common cup, which Thou dost give to those who are now united in the community of marriage:

For blessed is Thy name, and glorified is Thy Kingdom, of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

Then, taking the cup, the priest gives the newly-wedded pair to drink thrice, first to the bridegroom and then to the bride. Then immediately the priest leads them in a circle three times around the analogion as he sings.

O Isaiah, dance thy joy! For a virgin was with child; and has borne a Son, Emmanuel: both God and man; and Orient is His name; whom magnifying we call the Virgin blessed.

Ye holy martyrs, who fought the good fight and have received your crowns: Entreat ye the Lord that He will have mercy on our souls.

Glory to Thee, O Christ our God, the Apostles' boast, the martyrs' joy. Whose preaching was the consubstantial Trinity.

Then, taking the crown off the bridegroom, the priest says.

Priest: Be thou exalted O Bridegroom like Abraham, and be thou blessed like unto Isaac, and do thou multiply like unto Jacob, walking in peace, and keeping the commandments of God in righteousness.

Then, taking the crown off the bride, he says.

Priest: And thou O Bride: be thou exalted like unto Sarah, and exult thou like unto Rebecca, and do thou multiply unto Rachel; and rejoice thou in thy husband, fulfilling the conditions of the law, for so it is well pleasing to God.

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: O God, our God, who didst come to Cana of Galilee, and didst bless there the marriage feast: Bless also these Thy servants, who through Thy good providence now are united together in wedlock. Bless their goings out and their comings in. Replenish their life with good things. Receive their

crowns into Thy Kingdom, preserving them spotless, blameless, and without reproach, unto ages of ages. Amen.

Priest: May the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, the all-holy, consubstantial, and life-giving Trinity, one Godhead and one Kingdom, bless you; and grant you length of days, fair children, prosperity of life and faith; and fill you with abundance of all earthly good things, and make you worthy to obtain the blessings of the promise; through the prayers of the holy Theotokos and of all the saints. Amen.

Priest: Glory to Thee, O Christ our God and our hope, glory to Thee.

Choir: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Father, bless.

Priest: May He who by His presence in Cana of Galilee did declare marriage to be an honorable estate, Christ our true God, through the prayers of His all-holy mother; of the holy, glorious, and all-laudable apostles; of the holy, God-crowned kings and saints, equal to the Apostles, Constantine and Helena, equal to the apostles; of the holy great martyr Procopios; and of all the saints: have mercy on us and save us, forasmuch as He is good and lovest mankind.

Priest: Through the prayers of our holy fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy upon us and save us.

Choir: Amen.