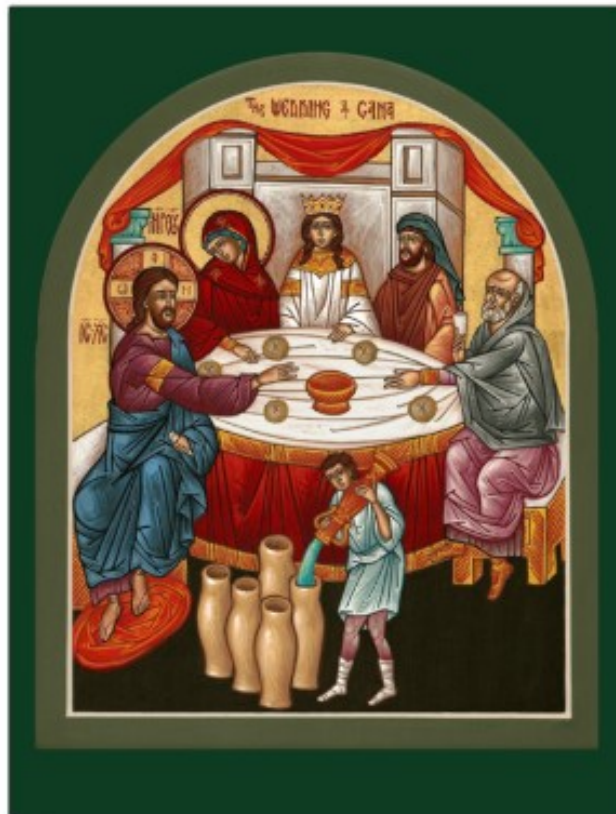


# THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY MARRIAGE

*HUSBAND*  
*and*  
*WIFE*



*Revision Date: 051918*  
*Service Book*

## THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY MATRIMONY

### THE BETROTHAL SERVICE

Priest: Have you, **HUSBAND**, a good, free, and unconstrained will and a firm intention to take **WIFE**, (whom you see before you) as your wife?

Groom: I have.

Priest: Have you, **WIFE**, a good, free, and unconstrained will and a firm intention to take **HUSBAND** (whom you see before you) as your husband?

Bride: I have.

*The Priest takes up a CANDLE, lights it, makes the sign of the Cross before the GROOM and hands it to him. The Priest takes up the OTHER CANDLE and, in the same manner, hands it to the BRIDE. Then, facing the Holy Altar, the Priest says:*

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

People: Amen.

Deacon: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

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

People: 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.

People: Lord, have mercy.

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For our Father and Metropolitan JOSEPH, and for our Bishop XXX,

for the venerable Priesthood, the Diaconate in Christ, for all the clergy and the people, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For the servant of God, **HUSBAND**, and for the handmaid of God, **WIFE**, who now solemnly pledge their fidelity to each other, and for their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: That the Lord our God will grant to them an honorable marriage (and a marital bed undefiled), let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

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

People: 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.

People: 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.

People: Amen.

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: O eternal God, Who brought into unity those who were divided, and ordained for them an unbreakable bond of love; Who blessed Isaac and Rebecca, and made them heirs of Thy promise: Also bless these Thy servants, guiding them to every good work. For Thou art a merciful God, Who loves mankind, and to Thee we ascribe glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

Priest: Peace be to all +.

People: And to thy spirit.

Deacon: Let us bow our heads unto the Lord.

People: To Thee, O Lord.

Priest: O Lord our God, Who chose the Church as a pure Virgin from among the Gentiles: Bless this Betrothal, and unite and preserve these Thy servants **HUSBAND & WIFE** 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.

People: Amen.

*The Priest takes the RING OF THE BRIDE, AND BLESSES THE GROOM, making with it the sign of the Cross over him three times, touching the head of the Bride with it each time, and saying:*

Priest: The servant of God, **HUSBAND**, is betrothed to the handmaid of God, **WIFE**, in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. (*Thrice*)

People: Amen.

*The PRIEST PLACES THE RING ON THE FOURTH FINGER OF THE GROOM. The Priest TAKES THE RING OF THE GROOM, AND BLESSES THE BRIDE, making with it the sign of the Cross over her three times, touching the head of the Groom with it each time, and saying:*

Priest: The handmaid of God, **WIFE**, is betrothed to the servant of God, **HUSBAND**, in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. (*Thrice*)

People: Amen.

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

*The Priest places the ring on the FOURTH FINGER OF THE BRIDE.*

Priest: O Lord our God, bless the betrothal of these Thy servants, **HUSBAND & WIFE**, and confirm the words which they have spoken. Establish them in the Holy union which is from Thee. For Thou, in the beginning, made them male and female, and by Thee is the woman joined to the man as a helpmate. Wherefore, O Lord our God, Who sent forth Thy truth upon Thine inheritance, and Thy covenant unto Thy servants our fathers, even Thine Chosen, from generation to generation: Look upon Thy servant, **HUSBAND**, and upon Thy handmaid, **WIFE**, and establish their betrothal in faith and in oneness of mind, in truth and in love.

*Bride & Groom Exchange Rings*

Priest: And, O Lord our God, bless this putting-on of rings with Thy heavenly blessing and let Thine Angel go before them all the days of their life. For Thou art He Who 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.

People: Amen.

THE MARRIAGE SERVICE  
(THE ORDER OF CROWNING)

*The Priest censens around the table, the Icons on the Iconostasis, The Bride and Groom and all the people as he chants:*

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

People: Glory to Thee, our God; glory to Thee.

Priest: 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.

People: Glory to Thee, our God; glory to Thee.

Priest: Lo, in this way shall the man be blessed that fears the Lord: The Lord in Zion shall bless you in this way, that you shall see the good things of Jerusalem all the days of your life.

People: Glory to Thee, our God; glory to Thee.

Priest: Yes, that you shall see your children's children, and peace upon Israel.

People: Glory to Thee, our God; glory to Thee.

*Moving to stand in front of the Bride and Groom, facing the Holy Altar, the Priest takes up the GOSPEL BOOK and, making the sign of the Cross + with it, says:*

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.

People: Amen.

Deacon: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For our Father and Metropolitan PHILIP, and for our Bishop JOSEPH, for the venerable Priesthood, the Diaconate in Christ, for all the clergy and the people, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

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

People: 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.

People: 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.

People: Amen.

## A PRAYER

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: Blessed art Thou, O Lord our God, the Priest of mystical and pure marriage, and the 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 made man and set him to be a King over Thy creation, and said: *it is not good for man to be alone on the earth; let us make a helpmate for him;* and (taking one of Adam's ribs) fashioned Woman, which when Adam beheld, he said: "*This is now bone of my bone, and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman (because she was taken out of her man); for this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cling to this wife, and the two shall be one flesh; and those who God has joined together, let no man separate.*" Do Thou now also O Master, our Lord and our God, send down Thy heavenly grace upon these Thy servants, **HUSBAND & WIFE**; and grant that this Thy handmaid **WIFE** may, in all things, be pleasing to her husband **HUSBAND**, and that this Thy servant **HUSBAND** may love and cherish his wife **WIFE**; that they may live according to Thy will.

Bless them, O Lord our God, as Thou blessed Abraham and Sarah  
+;

People: Amen.

Priest: Bless them, O Lord our God, as Thou blessed Isaac and Rebecca  
+;

People: Amen.

Priest: Bless them, O Lord our God, as Thou blessed Joachim and Anna  
+;

People: Amen.

Priest: Bless them, O Lord our God, as Thou blessed Zacharias and Elizabeth  
+;

People: Amen.

Priest: Preserve them, O Lord our God, as Thou preserved Noah in the Ark: Preserve them, O Lord our God, as Thou preserved 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 remembered 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 couple, who share in this joy; remember, O Lord our God, Thy servant **HUSBAND**, and Thy handmaid, **WIFE**, and bless them. +

People: Amen.

Priest: 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 to Thee. And let them behold their children's children round about their table, like a newly-planted olive orchard, that, obtaining 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, Who is from everlasting, and to the Son, and to Thy Life-giving Spirit: now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

#### A PRAYER

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: O Holy God, Who created man out of the dust and from his rib fashioned his wife and joined her to him as a helpmate 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 join this Thy servant **HUSBAND**, and this Thy handmaid **WIFE**, for by Thee is the husband united to the wife.

*Unite the hands of the Bride (Rt) & Groom (Lt) and place the Stole over the joined hands and bless them +*

Unite them in one mind and one flesh, and grant to 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.

People: Amen.

### THE CROWNING

*The Priest takes the crown of the Groom, and blesses the Groom, making with it the sign of the Cross over him three times, touching the head of the Bride with it each time, and saying:*

Priest: The servant of God, **HUSBAND** is crowned to the handmaid of God, **WIFE**, in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. (*Thrice*)

People: Amen. (*Thrice*)

*The Priest places the crown on the Groom. The Priest takes the other crown, and blesses the Bride, making with it the sign of the Cross over her three times, touching the head of the Groom with it each time, and saying:*

Priest: The handmaid of God, **WIFE**, is crowned to the servant of God **HUSBAND**, in the name of the Father, and of the Holy Spirit. (*Thrice*)

People: Amen. (*Thrice*)

*The Priest takes the Groom's crown in his right hand and the Bride's crown in his left hand and exchanges them three times, singing:*

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

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

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

### THE EPISTLE

Deacon: Let us attend!

Reader: Thou has set upon their heads crowns of precious stones; they asked life of Thee, and Thou gave it them. For Thou will give them Thy blessing forever and ever: Thou will make them to rejoice with gladness through Thy presence.

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The lesson from the Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Ephesians (5:20-33).

Deacon: Let us attend!

*When the Epistle Reading has begun, the Priest takes up the censer and censens the Icons on the Iconostasis, the west of the Church, the clergy, the people, the Icon of*

*Christ and the Icon of the Theotokos on the Iconostasis and gives up the censer.*

Reader: Brethren: Give thanks always for all things to God and the Father, in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ; submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God. Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the Church: and he is the Saviour of the body. Therefore as the Church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the Church, and gave Himself for it; that he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, that he might present it to Himself a glorious Church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be Holy and without blemish. So should men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loves his wife loves himself. For no man ever hated his own flesh; but nourishes and cherishes it, even as the Lord the Church: for we are members of His body, of His flesh, and of His bones. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined to his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the Church. Nevertheless let everyone of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband.

Priest: Peace be to you O Reader. +

People: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

### THE GOSPEL

Deacon: Wisdom! Stand upright! Let us hear the Holy Gospel.

Priest: Peace be to all. +

People: And to thy spirit.

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

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

Deacon: Let us attend!

Priest: And on the third day there was a marriage in Cana of Galilee; and the mother of Jesus was there: and both Jesus was called and His disciples to the marriage. And when they wanted wine, the mother of Jesus said to Him, "They have no wine." Jesus said to her, "Woman, what have I to do with you? My hour is not yet come." His mother said to the servants, "Whatsoever he says to you, do it." And there were set there six water pots of stone, after the manner of the purifying of the Jews, containing twenty or thirty gallons apiece. Jesus said to them, "Fill the water pots with water." And they filled them up to the brim. And he said to them, "Draw some out now, and take it to the master of the feast." And they took it. When the master of the feast tasted the water that was made wine, and did not know where it came from (but the servants which had drawn the water knew) the master of the feast called the bridegroom, and said to him, "Every man at the beginning sets out the good wine; and when men have well drunk, then that which is worse: but you have kept the good wine until now." This beginning of miracles did Jesus in Cana of Galilee, and He manifested His glory; and His disciples believed in Him.

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

### EKTENIA

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

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

People: Lord, have mercy. (*Thrice*)

Deacon: Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation and visitation for the servants of God **HUSBAND & WIFE**, and their parents, and their attendants, and all here present.

People: Lord, have mercy. (*Thrice*)

Priest: O Lord our God, Who in Thy saving providence graciously granted by Thy presence in Cana of Galilee declared marriage honorable: Do Thou, the same Lord, now also maintain in peace and concord Thy servants, **HUSBAND & WIFE**, 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 Who loves 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.

People: Amen.

Priest: And graciously grant, 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 the Evil One.

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.

People: Amen.

### THE COMMON CUP

Priest: Peace be to all. +

People: And to thy spirit.

Deacon: Let us bow our heads unto the Lord.

People: To Thee, O Lord.

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

*The Priest takes the Common Cup and blesses it +, saying:*

Priest: O God, Who has created all things by Thy might, and has made fast the round world, and adorns the crown of all things which Thou have made: Bless now, with Thy spiritual blessing, this Common Cup, which Thou 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.

People: Amen.

*The Priest takes the Common Cup and offers it to the Groom, who takes three sips. Then, the Priest offers it to the Bride, who does the same as the people sing:*

Priest: **(Tone 1)** I will take the cup of salvation and call upon the Name of the Lord.

*The Priest replaces the Common Cup on the analogion, takes up the censer (and Gospel) and censers around the analogion three times while the Bride, Groom, Best Man and Maid of Honor stay opposite him, and the people sing:*

Priest: **(Tone 5)** O Isaiah, dance thy joy: for a Virgin was with Child and hath borne a Son, Emmanuel, both God and man: and Orient is His Name; whom magnifying we call the Virgin blessed.

**(Tone 7)** 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.

**(Tone 7)** Glory to Thee, O Christ our God: the Apostle's boast, the Martyrs joy, whose preaching was the consubstantial Trinity.

**-----WORD TO THE BRIDAL COUPLE-----**

Priest: Let us pray to the Lord

People: Lord have Mercy

*The Priest removes the crowns, saying:*

Priest: **HUSBAND** be exalted, like Abraham; and be blessed, like Isaac; and multiply like Jacob, walking in peace, and keeping the commandments of God righteousness.

People: Amen

And **WIFE** be exalted like Sarah; and exalt like Rebecca; and multiply like Rachel: and rejoice in your husband, fulfilling the conditions of the law: for this is well-pleasing to God.

People: Amen

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: O God, our God, Who came to Cana of Galilee, and blessed the marriage feast: Bless, also, these Thy servants **HUSBAND & WIFE**, who through Thy good providence are now united together in wedlock. Bless their goings out and their coming in: replenish their life with good things: receive their crowns into Thy Kingdom, preserving them spotless, blameless, and without reproach, unto ages of ages.

People: 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 to 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 intercessions of the Holy Theotokos, and of all the Saints.

### ***Bride & Groom Kiss the Cross***

People: Amen.

Priest: May Christ our True God, Who, by His presence at the marriage feast in Cana of Galilee, did declare marriage to be an honorable institution, through the intercessions of His all-Holy Mother; at the supplications of the Holy, glorious and all-laudable Apostles; of the Holy, God-crowned Kings and Saints-equal-to-the-Apostles Constantine and Helena: of the Holy Great Martyr Procopius; and of all the Saints, have mercy upon us and save us: forasmuch as He is good, and loves mankind.

*Priest takes the Gospel Book and breaks the handhold of the couple saying:*

Priest: Therefore, what God has joined together, let not man separate.

People: Amen.

Priest: Through the prayers of our Holy Master, O Lord, Jesus Christ our God, have mercy upon us and save us.

People: Amen.

• *KISS THE BRIDE*

• *PRESENT COUPLE: RING BELLS*

Priest: Grant O Lord, to the servants of God **HUSBAND & WIFE**, mercy, life peace, health, salvation, visitation and all things that are good and profitable for their souls and may God Grant Them Many Years.

People: God Grant Them Many Years (3X)