

Blessing of a Marriage

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Notes for Guidance

Blessing of a Marriage is for use with a couple whose marriage has already been solemnised, and may be used only if the officiating cleric is satisfied that their marriage is not contrary to Canon 31: Of the Solemnisation of Holy Matrimony. While a marriage solemnised by a civil authority is full and complete, and no religious ceremony is required by the Church in order for it to be recognised as such, the present rite is nevertheless available at the request of married couples who wish to make an act of thanksgiving and to affirm their promises before God and the Church. The rite may also be used for the re-affirmation of promises by couples previously married in church (for example, on an anniversary of the marriage).

Hymns

Hymns or songs could be sung at the following places in the Liturgy.

- before Section 1, Greeting.
- after Section 2, Introduction.
- Between, or after, the readings in Section 3.
- Before Section 7, Thanksgiving and Blessing.
- Before Section 8, Conclusion.

Sections 1 and 2: Greeting and Introduction

The Greeting and Introduction may take place near the entrance of the Church, and be followed by a hymn, during which the

presiding celebrant may lead the couple to the Sanctuary or Chancel for the Liturgy of the Word.

Section 3: Liturgy of the Word

Readings are selected from one of the sets of readings, which are arranged by theme.

Non-scriptural readings may be included, in addition to at least one of the scriptural readings provided.

If the Eucharist is to be celebrated, one of the readings must be from the Gospels.

Between the reading(s) and the prayer, a hymn, psalm or song may be sung or a sermon may be preached, but the prayer at the end of this section should lead immediately into Section 4: The Promises.

Sections 4 and 5: The Promises and The Giving and Receiving of Rings

It is very desirable that the couple turn and face each other to take each other by the hand during the Promises and the Giving and Receiving of Rings.

Section 5: The Giving and Receiving of Rings

The giving and receiving of rings may be omitted, especially if rings have already been given and received at the civil ceremony. But rings can be blessed on the hand.

If a specific blessing of the rings is desired, the presiding celebrant says,

Either

N. and N., may God bless your giving and receiving of these rings. May your hearts and minds be strengthened by wonder in creation, patience in suffering, and generosity in love. **Amen.**

Or

Heavenly Father, by your blessing, let these rings be to N. and N. a symbol of unending love and faithfulness, to remind them of the vow and covenant which they have made this day through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

If desired, the couple may exchange gifts, other than rings, which carry comparable symbolic significance.

Section 6: The Peace

The presiding celebrant may introduce the Peace with appropriate explanatory words.

Section 7: The Prayer of Thanksgiving and Blessing

The presiding celebrant may introduce the Prayer of Thanksgiving and Blessing with explanatory words.

God's blessing is the divine response to our thanksgiving. Here we are giving thanks for the married couple, and God responds in blessing them. The litany form (7A or 7B) allows for the active participation of all the people in the Prayer of Thanksgiving and Blessing. Like all litanies it requires lively expression, with no pauses between the petitions.

When the Eucharist is celebrated, the Eucharistic Prayer (in 7D) includes intercession for the married couple, and concludes with their Blessing.

We give thanks (the meaning of Eucharist) for bread and wine, for the people of God, for all life, and for the married couple. God responds in blessing everything for which we give thanks.

In 7D (Eucharistic form) the presiding celebrant should leave the altar at the end of the Eucharistic Prayer, stand before the couple for the Blessing of the Married Couple, and return to the altar for the Breaking of the Bread.

Structure

Without a Celebration of the Eucharist

Section numbers at left.

Possible places for hymns marked [].

[Hymn]

- 1 Greeting.
- 2 Introduction A or B

[Hymn]

- 3 Liturgy of the Word A, B, C, D, E, F, or G ending with one of the concluding prayers, and leading directly into:
- 4 The Promises.
- 5 [The Giving and Receiving of Rings. For optional blessing of rings, see Notes for Guidance above on Section 5; then A, B or C.]
- 6 [The Peace.]

[Hymn]

- 7 The Prayer of Thanksgiving and Blessing A, B or C.

[Hymn]

- 8 The Conclusion.

With a Celebration of the Eucharist

Section numbers at left.

Possible places for hymns marked [].

[Hymn]

1 Greeting.

2 Introduction A or B.

[Hymn]

3 Liturgy of the Word A, B, C, D, E, F, or G, with one of the readings being from the Gospels. Section ends with one of the concluding prayers, leading directly into:

4 The Promises

5 [The Giving and Receiving of Rings. For optional blessing of rings, see Notes for Guidance above on Section 5; then A, B or C.]

6 The Peace.

[Hymn]

7 The Prayer of Thanksgiving and Blessing

- Scottish Liturgy 1982, Section 6 Offering
- Marriage Liturgy 2007, Section 7D, Eucharistic Prayer
- Blessing of the Married Couple
- Scottish Liturgy 1982, Sections 19–21, Breaking of the Bread, Lord's Prayer, Communion

[Hymn]

8 The Conclusion.

Blessing of Married Persons

1 Greeting

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

2 Introduction

The Presiding Celebrant says

We have come together in the presence of God to bless the marriage of N. and N., to share their joy and to promise them our support and our love.

Marriage is a gift of God and a sign of God's grace. In the life-long union of marriage, we can know the love of God, who made us in the divine image.

Marriage finds its origin in God's own being. God is Love, and so in giving themselves to one another in love throughout their lives, the married couple reflects the very being of God.

Marriage cannot exist on its own. God's call to live faithfully together, to love one another with respect, tenderness and delight, is part of the call to love all people. This love empowers them to care for others (and to nurture children). By this love human dignity will flourish and deepen.

This is the life-long union that N. and N. have already begun, and in which we will support and strengthen them. We pray that God's presence may surround and enfold them, today and in the years to come.

God, most gracious,
in Christ you reveal your love,
your power and your joy:
may that love draw us closer to you,
that power strengthen us in service,
and that joy pervade our whole being;
through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Alternative Service Book, 1980

Or

God, our creator and redeemer,
your love draws us together:
through the love that we have for one another,
may we also grow in love for you;
and walking with Christ
as our companion on the way,
may we come to share the joy
which you have prepared for all who love you;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

New Zealand, adapted

3 The Liturgy of the Word

Readings are selected from one of the following sets of readings, which are arranged by theme.

Between the reading(s) and the prayer, a hymn, psalm or song may be sung or a sermon may be preached, but the prayer at the end of this section should lead immediately into the Promises.

3. A Journey

Ruth 1.16-18	Where you go, I will go
Tobit 8.5b-8	May we grow old together
Ephesians 3.14-19	May Christ dwell in your hearts
Luke 12.22-31	Do not worry about your life
Luke 12.32-34	Simple treasure

The married couple stands in front of the presiding celebrant, who says the following prayer, leading directly into the Promises.

God, bountiful and generous,
may we journey always along your way,
touched by your love,
humbled by your constancy,
and gladdened in heart by Christ's indwelling,
our richest, abiding treasure;
for his sake. **Amen.**

Go to Section 4: The Promises.

3. B Love

Song of Songs 2.8–14	My love, my fair one
Song of Songs 8.6–7	Many waters cannot quench love
1 Cor. 12.31–13.13	The greatest is love
Col. 3.12–17	The love which binds together
1 John 4.7–16	Love is from God
Luke 7.36–48	Love and gratitude

The married couple stands in front of the presiding celebrant, who says one of the following prayers, which leads directly into the Promises.

Either God of all mercy and forgiveness,
grant that N. and N.,
their families, and all who care for them,
may accept your generous love;
heal their memories,
comfort them,
and send them from here renewed
and hopeful;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

New Zealand, adapted

Or

God, creator of all that is,
before the world was brought into being,
your love reached out to establish it;
before you made us
in your image and likeness,
you humbled yourself to make room for us:
open our eyes to glimpse your beauty
in all whom you give us to love,
and guide our love to find its perfection
in reflecting your compassion,
your forgiveness;
through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Go to Section 4: The Promises.

3. C Joy

Sirach 26.1–4	A good wife
Philippians 4.4–9	Joyful in God
John 2.1–11	A wedding feast

The married couple stands in front of the presiding celebrant, who says one of the following prayers, which leads directly into the Promises.

Either

God of faithful love:
be to N. and N. a strong consolation,
an ever-present help,
and give them your joy in its fullness;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

New Every Morning, adapted

Or

God of love,
in the joy of intimate companionship
we sense your presence and your faithfulness:
help us to rejoice in all that you have given,
and to welcome what you still
have in store for us;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Go to Section 4: The Promises.

3. D Companionship

Genesis 2.4–9,15–24	Man and woman
Ecclesiastes 4.9–12	Two have a good reward
Romans 12.4–13	Sharing in love
Ephesians 4.1–6	The bond of peace
Mark 10.6–9,13–16	The new home

The married couple stands in front of the presiding celebrant, who says one of the following prayers, which leads directly into the Promises.

Either

Creator Spirit,
you made us and you change us:
let your loving wisdom work with N. and N.,
deepening and developing their desire,
moulding and freeing their generosity;
may they achieve stability
and sweetness in their daily lives
until their earthly course shall end;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

New Zealand, adapted

Or

God of peace and of unity,
you have made us for one another
and for you:
as you draw us closer together in love,
so make us more truly ourselves;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Go to Section 4: The Promises.

3. E God

Genesis 1.26–29a, 31a	Made in God’s image
Jeremiah 31.31–34	I their God, they my people
Ephesians 5.1–2, 21–33	Love as Christ loved
Philippians 1.9–11	Love that overflows
John 15.1–8	Bearing fruit

The married couple stands in front of the presiding celebrant, who says one of the following prayers, which leads directly into the Promises.

Either

Look on your servants N. and N.,
and teach them to care for one another;
for you alone, our God,
are love’s source and secret;
we ask this for Jesus’ sake. **Amen.**

New Zealand, adapted

Or

God of life,
giving yourself without limit,
enter our hearts and set us free to love
as you have loved us,
and be fruitful as you have commanded;
through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Go to Section 4: The Promises.

3. F Faith

Ecclesiastes 3.1–8	A time for everything
1 John 3.18–24	Love in truth and action
Revelation 19.6–9	The celebratory feast
Matthew 5.2–11	The truly blessed
Matthew 7.21, 24–27	Hearing and doing

The married couple stands in front of the presiding celebrant, who says one of the following prayers, which leads directly into the Promises.

Either

God our Father,
you call us to ventures
of which we cannot see the ending
and by paths as yet untrodden:
give N. and N. faith
to go out always with good courage,
knowing that in your power alone
they are made strong
and that your love will never fail them;
we ask this in Christ's name. **Amen.**

New Every Morning, adapted

Or

God of all truth,
you assign to everything its time:
help us so to live the good news of your love
that in our hour of affliction
we may raise our eyes
and see beyond the Cross of suffering
the joy of the Resurrection feast;
in the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Go to Section 4: The Promises.

3. G Family

Genesis 12.1–3	The families of the earth
Eph. 3.14–19(20)	Every family in heaven and on earth
Col. 3.12–20	Bear with one another
Mk 10.6–9(10–12)13–16	What God has joined together

The married couple stands in front of the presiding celebrant, who says one of the following prayers, which leads directly into the Promises.

Either

Heavenly Father, tender and compassionate:
create in N. and N. a love so deep and true,
that in this broken world
they may be a sign of unity;
may they nurture, support, and inspire
the children with whom you may entrust them
to enjoy your blessing and to serve your world;
through our Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

New Zealand, adapted

Or

God of all patience and compassion,
your blessing brings strength from frailty:
give us such a measure of the love of Christ
that we may bear with one another in humility;
through the children whom you set in our midst
may we discover the secret of your kingdom
and learn what it means to trust;
in the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Go to Section 4: The Promises.

4 Reaffirming the Promises

N. and N. face each other.

One of them takes the other's right hand and says,

Before God and our friends,
having given myself to you
in loving and lifelong marriage,
I promise to be with you,
in sorrow and in joy,
in need and in plenty,
in frailty and in strength.

God keep me always true to this promise.

They loose hands. The other takes the first's right hand and says,

Before God and our friends,
having given myself to you
in loving and lifelong marriage,
I promise to be with you,
in sorrow and in joy,
in need and in plenty,
in frailty and in strength.

God keep me always true to this promise.

They loose hands.

5 The Giving and Receiving of Rings

Please see the Notes for Guidance.

5. A

N. and N. face each other and, in silence, each in turn places a ring on the other's finger.

Or

5. B

N. and N. face each other. One of them places a ring on the other's finger, saying

N., I give you this ring
as I give you myself,
all that I have,
and all that I am.

The other places a ring on the first's finger, saying

N., I give you this ring
as I give you myself,
all that I have,
and all that I am.

Or

5. C

N. and N. face each other. One of them places a ring on the other's finger saying

N., I give you this ring
as a sign of our marriage.
With my body I honour you,
all that I am I give to you,
and all that I have I share with you,
within the love of God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

The other places a ring on the first's finger, saying

N., I give you this ring
as a sign of our marriage.
With my body I honour you,
all that I am I give to you,
and all that I have I share with you,
within the love of God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Or, if only one ring is given, the one who receives it says,

N., I receive this ring
as a sign of our marriage.
With my body I honour you,
all that I am I give to you,
and all that I have I share with you,
within the love of God
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

6 The Peace

The presiding celebrant says to the congregation

We meet in Christ's name.

The congregation responds

Let us share his peace.

All may exchange a sign of peace.

(Hymn)

7 The Prayer of Thanksgiving and Blessing

When the Eucharist is celebrated Section 7D (Eucharistic form) is used.

When the Eucharist is not celebrated one of the forms 7A (full form), 7B (shorter form), or 7C (simple form) is used.

If others join in leading the petitions in 7A and 7B, the presiding celebrant should say the final blessing.

After the Blessing in 7A, 7B and 7C the Lord's Prayer is said.

7A (full form)

Give thanks to our gracious God:
whose mercy endures for ever.

God, holy and constant,
the First, the Last, the Living One:
To you we give worship and praise.

God, mysterious and eternal,
hidden, yet everywhere present:
To you we give worship and praise.

God, source of all life,
creation's goal and protector:
To you we give worship and praise.

In your love you formed N. and N.,
a gracious gift to their families,
whose love in turn has nurtured them,
releasing them to love one another:

we offer them now to your care.

In the journey that is each of our lives,
you have brought us all to this point,
sharing with N. and N. their hopes,
and committing all our futures to your love:

we offer them now to your care.

In the love they have declared to one another
you show us what it means to trust,
exulting and delighting in each other
with the joy which was yours when you made us:

we offer them now to your care.

Lord of the ages, we bless you,
for you formed us human beings:

Lord of the ages, we bless you.

Lord of the ages, we bless you,
for you cause us to rejoice in our children:
[or: to rejoice in one another]

Lord of the ages, we bless you.

Lord of the ages, we bless you,
For you give joy to N. and to N.:

Lord of the ages, we bless you.

May N. and N., in their marriage,
be upheld in your faithful love:

Lord of all kindness, guard them.

May your peace enfold them for ever
and their home be free from all evil:

Lord of all kindness, guard them.

May your wisdom and understanding surround them

and sustain them in sickness and in sorrow:

Lord of all kindness, guard them.

May they learn, throughout their life together,
the power of your promise, 'You are blest:'

Lord of all kindness, guard them.

May they, and all in their household,
be a living temple of your glory:

Lord of all kindness, guard them.

[May their children be guided in your way
and know that your blessing is upon them:

Lord of all kindness, guard them.]

Give thanks to our gracious God:

Whose mercy endures for ever.

N. and N.,

the Lord bless you and keep you;

the Lord make his face to shine upon you

and be gracious to you;

the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you
peace. **Amen.**

Numbers 6.24–26, NRSV

Or

N. and N.,

God the Holy Trinity

bless, preserve and keep you;

grant you such riches of grace

that you may please God in Body and soul,

live faithfully together in love,

and receive the blessings of eternal life. **Amen.**

Alternative Service Book 1980, adapted

Or

N. and N.,
the blessing of God be upon you,
that good may come to you;
the blessing of Christ be upon you,
that good be done to you;
the blessing of the Holy Spirit be yours,
that good may be the course of your life,
each day of your arising,
each night of your lying down,
for evermore. **Amen.**

From the Gaelic

Either

As our Saviour has taught us,
so we pray:

**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.
Do not bring us
to the time of trial
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever.
Amen.**

Or

As our Saviour Christ has
commanded and taught us,
we are bold to say:

**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.**

Go to Section 8: Conclusion.

7B (shorter form)

Give thanks to our gracious God:
Whose mercy endures for ever.

God, holy and constant,
the First, the Last, the Living One:
To you we give worship and praise.

In your love you formed N. and N.,
a gracious gift to their families:
we offer them now to your care.

In the journey that is each of our lives,
you have brought us all to this point:
we offer them now to your care.

In the love they have declared to one another
you show us what it means to trust:
we offer them now to your care.

Lord of the ages, we bless you,
for you formed us human beings:
Lord of the ages, we bless you.

Lord of the ages, we bless you,
for you cause us to rejoice in our children:
[or: to rejoice in one another]
Lord of the ages, we bless you.

Lord of the ages, we bless you,
For you give joy to N. and to N.:
Lord of the ages, we bless you.
May N. and N., in their marriage,

be upheld in your faithful love:
Lord of all kindness, guard them.

May your peace enfold them for ever
and their home be free from all evil:
Lord of all kindness, guard them.

May your wisdom and understanding surround them
and sustain them in sickness and in sorrow:
Lord of all kindness, guard them.

Give thanks to our gracious God:
Whose mercy endures for ever.

N. and N.,
the Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make his face to shine upon you
and be gracious to you;
the Lord lift up his countenance upon you
and give you peace. **Amen.**

Numbers 6.24–26, NRSV

Or

N. and N.,
God the Holy Trinity
bless, preserve and keep you;
grant you such riches of grace
that you may please God in Body and soul,
live faithfully together in love,
and receive the blessings of eternal life. **Amen.**

Alternative Service Book 1980, adapted

Or N. and N., the blessing of God be upon you,
that good may come to you;
the blessing of Christ be upon you,
that good be done to you;
the blessing of the Holy Spirit be yours,
that good may be the course of your life,
each day of your arising,
each night of your lying down,
for evermore. **Amen.**

From the Gaelic

Either

As our Saviour has taught us,
so we pray:

**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.
Do not bring us
to the time of trial
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever.
Amen.**

Or

As our Saviour Christ has
commanded and taught us,
we are bold to say:

**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.**

Go to Section 8: Conclusion.

7C (simple form)

God of love and faithfulness,
you give joy to N. and N.:
uphold them in their marriage
and enfold them in your peace;
give them wisdom and understanding
and sustain them in sickness and sorrow;
teach them, throughout their life together,
the power of your promise, 'You are blest.'

Then one of the following blessings is added

N. and N.,
the Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make his face to shine upon you
and be gracious to you;
the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you
peace. **Amen.**

Numbers 6.24-26, NRSV

Or

N. and N.,
God the Holy Trinity
bless, preserve and keep you;
grant you such riches of grace
that you may please God in Body and soul,
live faithfully together in love,
and receive the blessings of eternal life. **Amen.**

Alternative Service Book 1980, adapted

Or

N. and N., the blessing of God be upon you,
that good may come to you;
the blessing of Christ be upon you,
that good be done to you;
the blessing of the Holy Spirit be yours,
that good may be the course of your life,
each day of your arising,
each night of your lying down,
for evermore. **Amen.**

From the Gaelic

Either

As our Saviour has taught us,
so we pray:

**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.
Do not bring us
to the time of trial
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever.
Amen.**

Or

As our Saviour Christ has
commanded and taught us,
we are bold to say:

**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.**

Go to Section 8: Conclusion.

7D (Eucharistic form)

Bread and wine are placed on the altar.

Section 6 of Scottish Liturgy 1982 may be used.

Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

God, holy and constant,
the First, the Last, the Living One,
to you we give worship and praise.

Out of your very self,
you brought forth our human race,
fashioning us in your likeness,
imaging your nature in ours.

Out of your very self,
expressed in a man from Nazareth,
you own our joys and our sorrows
and take them to yourself in sacrifice.

Out of your very self,
your creative, renewing breath
brings life to things that were dead,

showing promise beyond all our hopes.
Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer,
one God whose power is compassion,
you invite us to share your own life,
for love is your nature and your name.
As children of your redeeming purpose,
with N. and N. and their loved ones,
we offer you our praise,
with angels and archangels
and the whole company of heaven,
singing the hymn of your unending glory:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God 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.**

Receive our praise and thanksgiving
for Jesus Christ, your Son.

In him your eternal Word took flesh
and lived among us.

Your love poured out in him
hallows our love and our longing.

His is the life lived for others,
the sign of your reconciling power.

On the night when he was given up to death,
knowing that his hour had come,
having loved his own, he loved them to the end.
At supper with his disciples
he took bread and offered you thanks.

He broke the bread,
and gave it to them, saying:

'Take, eat.
This is my Body: it is broken for you.'

After supper, he took the cup,
he offered you thanks,
and gave it to them, saying:

'Drink this, all of you.
This is my Blood of the new covenant;
it is poured out for you, and for all,
that sins may be forgiven.
Do this in remembrance of me.'

We now obey your Son's command.
We recall his blessed passion and death,
his glorious resurrection and ascension;
and we look for the coming of his Kingdom.
Made one with him, we offer you these gifts
and with them ourselves,
a single, holy, living sacrifice.

Hear us, most merciful Father,
and send your Holy Spirit upon us
and upon this bread and this wine,
that, overshadowed by
the Spirit's life-giving power,
they may be the Body and Blood of your Son,
and we may be kindled with the fire of your love and renewed
for the service of your Kingdom.

May N. and N. in their marriage
be upheld in your faithful love.
May your peace enfold them for ever
and their home be free from all evil.
May your wisdom and understanding
surround them and sustain them
in sickness and in sorrow.
May they learn, throughout their life together,
the power of your promise, 'You are blest.'

Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory be to you,
Lord of all ages,
world without end.

Amen.

The presiding celebrant leaves the altar to stand before the couple for the Marriage Blessing, and then returns to the altar for the Fraction and Lord's Prayer.

Blessing of the Married Couple

The presiding celebrant says one of the following blessings.

N. and N.,
the Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make his face to shine upon you
and be gracious to you;
the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.
Amen.

Numbers 6.24–26, NRSV

Or

N. and N.,
God the Holy Trinity
bless, preserve and keep you;
grant you such riches of grace
that you may please God in Body and soul,
live faithfully together in love,
and receive the blessings of eternal life. **Amen.**

Alternative Service Book 1980, adapted

Or

N. and N.,
the blessing of God be upon you,
that good may come to you;
the blessing of Christ be upon you,
that good be done to you;
the blessing of the Holy Spirit be yours,
that good may be the course of your life,
each day of your arising,
each night of your lying down,
for evermore. **Amen.**

From the Gaelic

The service continues with Scottish Liturgy 1982, Section 19, the Breaking of the Bread, Section 20, Lord's Prayer, and Section 21, Communion.

After Communion

We give thanks to you, Lord, for you are gracious:
and your mercy endures for ever.

8 Conclusion

The presiding celebrant says

God of all the world,
as you have called together N. and N.,
so we have come together in your love.

As in your presence,
N. and N. have promised to love each other,
so we have promised to support them.

Either

N. and N. say,

N. As we have declared
our love for each other,

N. May we declare your love
for all the world.

Or

The presiding celebrant says,

As N. and N. have declared their love for each other, may
they declare your love for all the world.

The presiding celebrant continues,

As you have blessed
N. and N. in their marriage,
bless us now in our lives.
Make us, like them,
a blessing to one another and to you.

Christ go before us to guide our steps
Christ be within us to kindle our vision
Christ shine from us to give joy to the world.

The married couple leads the congregation from the church.

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