

THE FORM OF
THE SOLEMNIZATION OF
MATRIMONY



¶ The Laws respecting Matrimony, whether by publishing the Banns in Churches or by License, being different in the several States, every Minister is left to the direction of those Laws, in everything that regards the civil contract between the Parties.

¶ At the day and time appointed for Solemnization of Matrimony, the Persons to be married shall come into the body of the Church, or shall be ready in some proper house, with their friends and neighbors; and there standing together, the Man on the right hand, and the Woman on his left, the Minister shall say,

DEARLY beloved, we are gathered together here in the sight of God, and in the face of this company, to join together this Man and this Woman in holy Matrimony; which is an honorable estate, instituted of God in the time of man's innocency, signifying unto us the mystical union that is betwixt Christ and his Church: which holy estate Christ adorned and beautified with his presence and first miracle that he wrought in Cana of Galilee, and is commended of Saint Paul to be honorable among all men; and therefore is not by any to be entered into unadvisedly or lightly; but reverently, discreetly, advisedly, soberly, and in the fear of God. Into this holy estate these two persons present come now to be joined. If any man can show just cause why they may not lawfully be joined together, let him now speak, or else hereafter for ever hold his peace.

¶ Then speaking unto the Persons who are to be married, he shall say,

I REQUIRE and charge you both [as ye will answer at the dreadful day of judgment, when the secrets of all hearts shall be disclosed], that if either of you know any impediment, why ye may not be lawfully joined together in Matrimony, ye do now confess it. For be ye well assured, that if any persons are joined together otherwise than as God's Word doth allow, their marriage is not lawful.

¶ If no impediment be alleged, then shall the Minister say to the Man,

M. WILT thou have this Woman to thy wedded Wife, to live together after God's ordinance, in the holy estate of Matrimony? Wilt thou love her, comfort her, honor, and keep her, in sickness and in health; and, forsaking all others, keep thee only unto her, so long as ye both shall live?

Answer. I will.

¶ Then shall the Minister say unto the Woman,

N. WILT thou have this Man to thy wedded Husband, to live together after God's ordinance, in the holy estate of Matrimony? Wilt thou love him, comfort him, honor, and keep him, in sickness and in health; and, forsaking all others, keep thee only unto him, so long as ye both shall live?

Answer. I will.

¶ At the discretion of the Minister, for the words "love him, comfort him," may be substituted the words *obey him, and serve him, love.*

¶ Then may the Minister say,

Who giveth this Woman to be married to this Man?

¶ Then shall they give their Troth to each other in this manner: The Minister, receiving the Woman at her father's or friend's hands, shall cause the Man with his right hand to take the Woman by her right hand, and to say after him,

I *M.* take thee *N.* to my wedded 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, till death us do part, according to God's holy ordinance; and thereto I plight thee my Troth.

¶ Then shall they loose their hands; and the Woman, with her right hand taking the Man by his right hand, shall likewise say after the Minister,

I *N.* take thee *M.* to my wedded Husband, 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, till death us do part, according to God's holy ordinance; and thereto I give thee my Troth.

¶ At the discretion of the Minister, for the words "love and to cherish," may be substituted the words *love, cherish, and obey.*

¶ Then shall the Man place upon the fourth finger of the Woman's left hand a Ring, and holding it there, repeat after the Minister,

WITH this Ring I thee wed: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

Minister. Let us pray,—saying:

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

O ETERNAL God, Creator and Preserver of all mankind, Giver of all spiritual grace, the Author of everlasting life; Send thy blessing upon these thy servants, this man and this woman, whom we bless in thy Name; That they may surely perform and keep the vow and covenant betwixt them made (whereof this Ring given and received is a token and pledge), and may ever remain in perfect love and peace together, and live according to thy laws; through Jesus Christ our LORD. *Amen.*

¶ Then shall the Minister join their right hands together, and say,

Those whom God hath joined together, let no man put asunder.

¶ Then shall the Minister say,

FORASMUCH as *M.* and *N.* have consented together in holy wedlock, and have witnessed the same before God and this company, and thereto have given and pledged their troth, each to the other, and have declared the same (by giving and receiving a Ring, and) by joining hands; I pronounce that they are Husband and Wife; In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. *Amen.*

¶ Then the Minister shall add this BLESSING:

GOD the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Ghost, bless, preserve, and keep you; The LORD mercifully with his favor look upon you, and fill you with all spiritual benediction and grace; that ye may so live together in this life, that in the world to come ye may have life everlasting. *Amen.*

