

PRELUDE MUSIC

PROCESSIONAL

BRIDE ENTERANCE

THE GIVING OF THE BRIDE: "Who gives this woman to be married to this man?"

GREETING:

Dear friends: We have come together in the presence of God to witness the marriage of Justin and Mary, glorifying and thanking God for bringing both of them together in union.

The scriptures teach us that the bond and covenant of marriage is a gift of God in which a man and a woman are joined as one, an image of the union of Christ and the Church. Just as Christ has chosen and preordained His bride, the Church, wearing white robes of righteousness purified through Christ's blood and washed in the Word, Justin has called and chosen Mary to be his wife. As Justin and Mary make their promises to each other today, we remember that Jesus promised His bride that He would come again one day to take His bride, the Church and call her out among all the others to meet the Lord in the air, so shall we ever be with the Lord.

Let us enter into this celebration confident that, through the Holy Spirit, Christ is present with us now also. We pray that this couple may fulfill God's purpose for the whole of their lives.

DECLARATION OF INTENTION:

"To Justin, Mary is a particular, special, and specific bride prepared by God for you. On this day, Justin, you are choosing to protect and give your life for Mary, just as Christ has given His life to love and protect the Church.

Will you, Justin, love her, comfort her, honor and keep her, in sickness and in health, and, forsaking all others, be faithful to her as long as you both shall live?"

"For Mary, Justin has called you to his safety, to live with him in his protection and care, a special, specific and particular husband prepared by God for you. On this day, Mary, you are choosing to submit to his protection and be a true and faithful wife according to God's word. Will you love him, comfort him, honor and keep him, in sickness and in health, and, forsaking all others, be faithful to him as long as you both shall live?"

Wedding Prayer

Dear Father, we would ask that you would bless Justin. Bless him as a provider of nourishment and raiment and sustain him in all the expectations and pressures of his daily battles. May Justin's strength be Mary's protection, his character her boast and her pride, and may Justin so live that Mary will find in him the haven for which the heart of a woman truly longs.

And dear heavenly Father, we would ask you to bless Mary. Give her tenderness that will make her great, a deep sense of understanding and great faith in You. Give her inner beauty of soul that never fades, that eternal youth that is found in holding fast the things that never age.

Teach Justin and Mary that marriage is not living merely for each other, it is two uniting and joining hands to serve You. Give them a great spiritual purpose in life. May they seek the kingdom of God and Your righteousness and the other things shall certainly be added unto them. Loving You best, they shall love each other the more, and faithful unto You, faithful unto each other they will be. May they not expect that perfection of each other, for that belongs to You alone. May they minimize each other's weaknesses, be swift to praise and magnify each other's points of comeliness and strength, and see each other through a lover's kind and patient eyes. Now make such assignments to Justin and Mary on the scroll of Your Will as will bless them and develop their characters as they walk together.

Give them a little something to forgive every day that they may grow in the grace of longsuffering. Give them enough tears to keep them tender, enough hurts to keep them human, enough failures to keep their hands clenched tightly in Yours, and enough success to make them sure they walk with You. May they never take each other's love for granted but always experience that breathless wonder that exclaims, "out of all this world, you have chosen me."

When life is done and the sun is setting, may they be found then as now, hand in hand still thanking God for each other. May they serve You happily, faithfully together until at last one shall lay the other into the arms of Jesus. This we ask through Jesus Christ, the great Lover of our souls.

Amen."

Scripture Readings:

Song of Solomon 8:6-7

Psalm 127: 1-5

Ephesians 5:25-33

John 15:9-12

Exchange of Vows:

JUSTIN: *Mary*, I love you. As we stand before both God and man, making public our unity and love, I wish to make it known that I recognize that He has blessed me and entrusted me with your life as a very special gift that I have not earned. In recognition of these things,

I *Justin*, in faith, honesty, protection and love, take you, *Mary*, to be my wedded wife, to share with you God's plan for our lives Together where we will be vessels for His service. Like God, I promise to be your rock in the midst of anything that shakes you or moves you, so you can find rest in me. I promise to be a strong leader for us in our life, for better, for worse, in sickness and in health, in joys and in sorrows, until death do we part. I give you all that I have of myself and my love.

MARY: *Justin*, I love you. As we stand before both God and man, making public our unity and love, I wish to make it known that I recognize that He has blessed me and entrusted me with your life as a very special gift that I have not earned. In recognition of these things,

I, *Mary*, in faith, honesty and love, take you, *Justin* to be my wedded husband, to share with you God's plan for our lives together where we will be vessels for His service. Like The Church, I promise to submit myself under your guidance, protection and care, for better, for worse, in sickness and in health, in joys and in sorrows, until death do we part. I give you all that I have of myself and my love.

GIVING OF RINGS:

“Wedding rings are symbols of a couple's journey taken together, a completion of one story and beginning of another. They are a symbol of the love for each other granted to them by God, who has tested and tried their hearts in the fiery furnace of His Word, so that we may come out purified. As Job says,

“But he knows the way that I take; when he has tried me, I shall come out as gold”
- Job 23:10

As I hold these rings, may they be Blessed, and may they carry God’s eternal love with them.

Please repeat after me then place the ring on your spouse’s finger.”

EACH PARTNER REPEATS THE PROMISE & PLACES THE RING ON THE OTHER'S HAND.

OFFICIANT TO JUSTIN:

“I, Justin, present you, Mary, with this ring as a symbol of our enduring and everlasting love. With this ring, I pledge my love and life to you.”

OFFICIANT TO MARY:

“I, Mary, present you, Justin, with this ring as a symbol of our enduring and everlasting love. With this ring, I pledge my love and life to you.”

Proclamation

Introduction of the Couple

Recessional

