

## ¶ Conclusion

*A hymn or song may be sung.*

### **The Dismissal**

*The couple may pray together*

Heavenly Father,  
we offer you our souls and bodies,  
our thoughts and words and deeds,  
our love for one another.  
Unite our wills in your will,  
that we may grow together  
in love and peace  
all the days of our life;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All* **Amen.**

*The minister blesses the couple and the congregation, saying*

God the Holy Trinity make *you* strong in faith and love,  
defend *you* on every side,  
and guide *you* in truth and peace;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among *you* and remain with *you* always.

*All* **Amen.**

## Thanksgiving for Marriage

### ¶ Introduction

#### **The Welcome**

*The minister welcomes the people, introduces the service informally and invites those present to pray.*

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the love of God,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit  
be with you

*All* **and also with you.**

*This sentence may be used*

God is love, and those who live in love live in God  
and God lives in them. *1 John 4.16*

#### **Prayer of Preparation**

God our Father,  
you have taught us through your Son  
that love is the fulfilling of the law;  
grant to your servants *N* and *N*  
that, loving one another,  
they may continue in your love until their lives' end;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All* **Amen.**

*A hymn or song may be sung.*

Almighty God, our heavenly Father,  
we lift up our hearts to you  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Through him you have made a covenant of grace with  
your people by the outpouring of your Holy Spirit.

We praise you for the gift of marriage  
in which the love of husband and wife is brought together  
and reflects your plan of love for the world.

We thank you today for *N* and *N*,  
and for leading them to each other  
in friendship and love, commitment and trust,  
and for bringing them here  
for the blessing of their marriage.

Living God,  
by the presence of your Holy Spirit,  
may they know the risen Christ to be with them now,  
as they celebrate this covenant together.  
May their lives be a witness to your saving love  
in this troubled world.

As you pour out your love,  
may they grow together in your sight,  
and each be to the other a companion in joy,  
a comfort in sorrow and a strength in need.

As you blessed the earthly home at Nazareth  
with the presence of your Son,  
may their home be a place of security and peace.  
[Bless this couple with the gift and care of children,  
that they may grow up to know and love you in your Son.]

And bring us all at the last  
to that great marriage banquet of your Son  
in our home in heaven,  
where, with all your saints and angels,  
in the glory of your presence,  
we will for ever praise you;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All* **Amen.**

## ¶ *Renewal of Vows*

*The minister says to the couple(s)*

I invite you now to recall the vows that you made at your  
wedding.

*Husband and wife face each other and hold hands.*

*The husband says*

I, *N*, took you, *N*, to be my wife;

*The wife says*

I, *N*, took you, *N*, to be my husband;

*The couple say together*

to have and to hold from that 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 law,  
and this was our solemn vow.

Today, in the presence of our family and friends,  
we affirm our continuing commitment to this vow.

*The minister says to the congregation*

Will you, the family and friends of *N* and *N*,  
continue to support and uphold them  
in their marriage now and in the years to come?

*All* **We will.**