

## **Acknowledgements**

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**FORMAT:**

1. ENTRANCE HYMN → Options found from pages
2. INTRODUCTORY RITES
  - signing of the cross
  - greeting
  - Gloria
3. COLLECT → Options found on pages
4. LITURGY OF THE WORD
  - First Reading → Options found on pages
  - Responsorial Psalm → Options found on pages
  - Second Reading → Options found on pages
  - Gospel Acclamation → Options found on pages
  - Gospel → Options found on pages
5. RITE OF MARRIAGE
  - Blessing of the Rings → Options found on pages
6. GENERAL INTERCESSIONS
7. LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST
  - Offertory hymn → Options found on pages
  - Prayer over the Offerings → Options found on pages
  - Preface → Options found on pages
  - Sanctus
  - Eucharistic Prayer
  - Communion Rite
8. NUPTIAL BLESSING → Options found on pages
9. *continuation to the* LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST
  - sign of peace
  - Lamb of God
10. COMMUNION HYMN → Options found on pages
11. POST-COMMUNION HYMN → Options found on pages
12. PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION → Options found on pages
13. CONCLUDING RITE
14. SOLEMN BLESSING → Options found on pages
15. HYMN DURING SIGNING → Options found on pages
16. RECESSIONAL HYMN → Options found on pages

ENTRANCE HYMN – see Appendix at the back

## INTRODUCTORY RITES

### SIGN OF THE CROSS

**Priest:** In the name of the Father, and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

**All:** Amen

### GREETING

**Priest:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**All:** And with your spirit.

### THE GLORIA

**Priest:** Glory to God in the highest,  
**All:** And on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you,  
we bless you,  
we adore you,  
we glorify you,  
we give you thanks for your great glory,  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,  
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us;  
you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,  
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the most High,  
Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father.  
Amen.

## OPTIONS FOR THE COLLECT

### COLLECT (FORM A)

**Priest:** Let us pray.  
 Be attentive to our prayers, O Lord,  
 and in your kindness uphold what you have established  
 for the increase of the human race,  
 so that the union you have created  
 may be kept safe by your assistance.  
 Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
 who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
 one God, for ever and ever.

**All:** Amen.

**Or:**

**Priest:** Let us pray.  
 O God, who in creating the human race willed  
 that man and wife should be one,  
 join, we pray, in a bond of inseparable love  
 these your servants who are to be united in the covenant of  
 Marriage, so that,  
 as you make their love fruitful, they may become,  
 by your grace, witnesses to charity itself.  
 Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with  
 you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

**All:** Amen.

### COLLECT (FORM B)

**Priest:** Let us pray.  
 Be attentive to our prayers, O Lord,  
 and in your kindness pour out your grace on these your servants  
 (N. and N.), that, coming together before your altar  
 they may be confirmed in love for one another.  
 Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
 who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
 one God, for ever and ever.

**All:** Amen.

**Or:**

**Priest:** Let us pray.  
 O God, who consecrated the bond of Marriage by so great a mystery  
 that in the wedding covenant  
 you foreshadow the Sacrament of Christ and his Church,  
 grant, we pray, to these your servants,  
 that what they receive in faith they may live out in deeds.  
 Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
 who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
 one God, for ever and ever.

**All:** Amen.

**COLLECT (FORM C)**

**Priest:** Let us pray.  
Grant, we pray, almighty God, that these your servants,  
now to be joined by the Sacrament of Matrimony,  
may grow in the faith they profess and enrich your Church with  
faithful offspring.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.

**All:** Amen.

**Or:**

**Priest:** Let us pray.  
O God, who since the beginning of the world have blessed the  
increase of offspring,  
show favour to our supplications and pour forth the help of your  
blessing on these your servants (**N.** and **N.**),  
so that in the union of Marriage they may be bound together in  
mutual affection, in likeness of mind, and in shared holiness.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.

**All:** Amen.

## **LITURGY OF THE WORD**

### **OPTIONS FOR FIRST READING**

#### **FIRST READING (A)**

A reading from the book of Genesis

1:26-28, 31a

God said, “Let us make man in our own image, in the likeness of ourselves, and let them be masters of the fish of the sea, the birds of heaven, the cattle, all the wild beasts and all the reptiles that crawl upon the earth.”

God created man in the image of himself,  
in the image of God he created him, male and female he created them.

God blessed them, saying to them, “Be fruitful, multiply,  
fill the earth and conquer it.  
Be masters of the fish of the sea,  
the birds of heaven and all living animals on the earth.”

God saw all he had made, and indeed it was very good.

The Word of the Lord.

**Or:**

#### **FIRST READING (B)**

A reading from the book of Genesis

2:18-24

The Lord God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone.  
I will make him a helpmate.”

So from the soil the Lord God fashioned all the wild beasts  
and all the birds of heaven.

These he brought to the man to see what he would call them;  
each one was to bear the name the man would give it.

The man gave names to all the cattle,  
all the birds of heaven and all the wild beasts.

But no helpmate suitable for man was found for him.  
So the Lord God made the man fall into a deep sleep.  
And while he slept, he took one of his ribs and enclosed it in flesh.  
The Lord God built the rib he had taken from the man into a woman,  
and brought her to the man. The man exclaimed:

“This at last is bone from my bones,  
and flesh from my flesh!  
This is to be called woman,  
For this was taken from man.”

This is why a man leaves his father and mother and joins himself to his wife,  
and they become one body.

The Word of the Lord.

Or:

### **FIRST READING (C)**

A reading from the book of Genesis

24:48-51. 58-67

Abraham's servant said to Laban,  
'I blessed the Lord, God of my master Abraham,  
who had so graciously led me to choose the daughter of my master's brother for  
his son. Now tell me whether you are prepared to show kindness and goodness to  
my master; if not, say so, and I shall know what to do.'

Laban and Bethuel replied, 'This is from the Lord;  
it is not in our power to say yes or no to you. Rebekah is there before you.  
Take her and go; and let her become the wife of your master's son,  
as the Lord has decreed.' They called Rebekah and asked her, 'Do you want to  
leave with this man?' 'I do,' she replied.

Accordingly they let their sister Rebekah go, with her nurse, and Abraham's  
servant and his men. They blessed Rebekah in these words:

'Sister of ours, increase  
to thousands and tens of thousands!  
May your descendants gain possession  
of the gates of their enemies!'

Rebekah and her servants stood up, mounted the camels, and followed the man.  
The servant took Rebekah and departed.

Isaac, who lived in the Negeb, had meanwhile come into the wilderness of the well  
of Lahai Roi. Now Isaac went walking in the fields as evening fell, and looking up  
saw camels approaching. And Rebecca looked up and saw Isaac. She jumped  
down from her camel, and asked the servant 'Who is that man walking through the  
fields to meet us? The servant replied, 'That is my master'; then she took her veil  
and hid her face. The servant told Isaac the whole story, and Isaac led Rebecca to  
his tent and made her his wife; and he loved her. And so Isaac was consoled for  
the loss of his mother.

The Word of the Lord.

Or:

### **FIRST READING (D)**

A reading from the Song of Songs

2:8-10.14.16; 8:6-7

I hear my Beloved.  
See how he comes  
leaping on the mountains,  
bounding over the hills.

My Beloved is like a gazelle,  
like a young stag.  
See where he stands  
behind our wall.

He looks in at the window,  
he peers through the lattice.  
My Beloved lifts up his voice,  
he says to me,  
'Come then, my love,  
my lovely one, come.

My dove, hiding in the clefts of the rock.  
In the coverts of the cliff,  
show me your face,  
let me hear your voice;  
for your voice is sweet  
and your face is beautiful.'

My beloved is mine and I am his.

Set me like a seal on your heart,  
like a seal on your arm.  
For love is strong as Death,  
jealousy relentless as Sheol.

The flash of it is a flash of fire,  
a flame of the Lord himself.  
Love no flood can quench,  
no torrents drown.

The Word of the Lord.

Or:

### **FIRST READING (E)**

A reading from the Prophet Jeremiah

31:31-34

See, the days are coming - it is the Lord who speaks –  
when I will make a new covenant with the House of Israel and the House of Judah,  
but not a covenant like the one I made with their ancestors on the day I took them  
by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt.  
No, this is the covenant I will make with the House of Israel when those days  
arrive - it is the Lord who speaks.  
Deep within them I will plant my Law, writing it on their hearts.  
Then I will be their God and they shall be my people.  
There will be no further need for neighbour to try to teach neighbour,  
or brother to say to brother, 'Learn to know the Lord!'  
No, they will all know me,  
the least no less than the greatest it is the Lord who speaks.

The Word of the Lord.

## **OPTIONS FOR RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

### **RESPONSORIAL PSALM (A)**

**Response:** The Lord fills the earth with his love.

**Psalm 32**

1. They are happy, whose God is the Lord,  
the people he has chosen as his own.  
The Lord looks on those who revere him,  
on those who hope in his love. (R)
2. Our soul is waiting for the Lord.  
The Lord is our help and our shield.  
In him do our hearts find joy.  
We trust in his holy name. (R)
3. May your love be upon us, O Lord,  
as we place all our hope in you. (R)

**Or:**

### **RESPONSORIAL PSALM (B)**

**Response:** Praise the name of the Lord.

**Psalm 128**

1. Praise the Lord from the heavens,  
praise him in the heights.  
Praise him, all his angels,  
praise him, all his host. (R)
2. Praise him, sun and moon,  
praise him, shining stars.  
Praise him, highest heavens  
and the waters above the heavens. (R)
3. All mountains and hills,  
all fruit trees and cedars,  
beasts, wild and tame,  
reptiles and birds on the wing. (R)
4. All earth's kings and peoples,  
earth's princes and rulers:  
young men and maidens,  
old men together with children. (R)
5. Let them praise the name of the Lord  
for he alone is exalted.  
The splendour of his name  
reaches beyond heaven and earth. (R)

**Or:**

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM (C)****Response:** How good is the Lord to all.**Psalm 144**

1. The Lord is kind and full of compassion,  
slow to anger, bounding in love.  
How good is the Lord to all,  
Compassionate to all his creatures. (R)
2. All your creatures shall thank you, O Lord,  
and your friends shall repeat their blessing.  
The eyes of all creatures look to you  
and you give them their food in due time. (R)
3. The Lord is just in all his ways  
and loving in all his deeds.  
He is close to all who call him,  
Who call on him from their hearts. (R)

**Or:****RESPONSORIAL PSALM (D)****Response:** O blessed are those who fear the Lord!**Psalm 127**

1. O blessed are those who fear the Lord  
and walk in his ways!  
By the labour of your hands you shall eat.  
You will be happy and prosper. (R)
2. Your wife will be like a fruitful vine  
in the heart of your house;  
your children like shoots of the olive,  
around your table. (R)
3. Indeed thus shall be blessed  
the man who fears the Lord.  
May the Lord bless you from Zion  
all the days of your life! (R)

**Or:****RESPONSORIAL PSALM (E)****Response:** Happy the man who takes delight in the Lord's commands. **Psalm 111**

1. Happy the man who fears the Lord,  
who takes delight in his commands.  
His sons will be powerful on earth; .  
the children of the upright are blessed. (R)
2. Riches and wealth are in his house;

- his justice stands firm for ever.  
He is a light in the darkness for the upright:  
he is generous, merciful and just. (R)
3. The good man takes pity and lends,  
he conducts his affairs with honour.  
The just man will never waver:  
he will be remembered for ever. (R)
4. He has no fear of evil news;  
with a firm heart he trusts in the Lord.  
With a steadfast heart he will not fear;  
he will see the downfall of his foes. (R)

## **OPTIONS FOR SECOND READING**

### **SECOND READING (A)**

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

12:1-2. 9-18

Think of God's mercy, my brothers, and worship him, I beg you,  
in a way that is worthy of thinking beings,  
by offering your living bodies as a holy sacrifice, truly pleasing to God.  
Do not model yourselves on the behaviour of the world around you,  
but let your behaviour change, modelled by your new mind.  
This is the only way to discover the will of God and know what is good,  
what it is that God wants, what is the perfect thing to do.

Do not let your love be a pretence, but sincerely prefer good to evil.  
Love each other as much as brothers should,  
and have a profound respect for each other.

Work for the Lord with untiring effort and with great earnestness of spirit.  
If you have hope, this will make you cheerful. Do not give up if trials come;  
and keep on praying. If any of the saints are in need you must share with them;  
and you should make hospitality your special care.

Bless those who persecute you: never curse them, bless them.  
Rejoice with those who rejoice and be sad with those in sorrow.  
Treat everyone with equal kindness; never be condescending but make real  
friends with the poor. Do not allow yourself to become self-satisfied.  
Never repay evil with evil but let everyone see that you are interested only in the  
highest ideals. Do all you can to live at peace with everyone.

The Word of the Lord.

**SECOND READING (B)**

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

12:31 – 13:8

Be ambitious for the higher gifts.

And I am going to show you a way that is better than any of them.

If I have all the eloquence of men or of angels, but speak without love,  
I am simply a gong booming or a cymbal clashing.

If I have the gift of prophecy, understanding all the mysteries there are,  
and knowing everything, and if I have faith in all its fullness, to move mountains,  
but without love, then I am nothing at all.

If I give away all that I possess, piece by piece,  
and if I even let them take my body to burn it, but am without love,  
it will do me no good whatever.

Love is always patient and kind; it is never jealous;  
love is never boastful or conceited; it is never rude or selfish;  
it does not take offence, and is not resentful.

Love takes no pleasure in other people's sins but delights in the truth;  
it is always ready to excuse, to trust, to hope, and to endure whatever comes.  
Love does not come to an end.

The Word of the Lord.

**SECOND READING (C)**

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

6:13-15. 17-20

The body is not meant for fornication; it is for the Lord, and the Lord for the body.  
God, who raised the Lord from the dead, will by his power raise us up too.  
You know, surely, that your bodies are members making up the body of Christ.  
But anyone who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with him.

Keep away from fornication. All the other sins are committed outside the body;  
but to fornicate is to sin against your own body.

Your body, you know, is the temple of the Holy Spirit,  
who is in you since you received him from God.

You are not your own property; you have been bought and paid for.  
That is why you should use your body for the glory of God.

The Word of the Lord.

**SECOND READING (D)**

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

5:2. 21-33

Follow Christ by loving as he loved you, giving himself up in our place.  
Give way to one another in obedience to Christ.

Wives should regard their husbands as they regard the Lord,  
since as Christ is head of the Church and saves the whole body,  
so is a husband the head of his wife;  
and as the Church submits to Christ, so should wives to their husbands,  
in everything.

Husbands should love their wives just as Christ loved the Church and sacrificed  
himself for her to make her holy.  
He made her clean by washing her in water with a form of words,  
so that when he took her to himself she would be glorious,  
with no speck or wrinkle or anything like that, but holy and faultless.

In the same-way, husbands must love their wives as they love their own bodies;  
for a man to love his wife is for him to love himself.  
A man never hates his own body, but he feeds it and looks after it;  
and that is the way Christ treats the Church, because it is his body –  
and we are its living parts.

For this reason, a man must leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife,  
and the two will become one body. This mystery has many implications;  
but I am saying it applies to Christ and the Church.  
To sum up; you too, each one of you, must love his wife as he loves himself;  
and let every wife respect her husband.

The Word of the Lord.

**SECOND READING (E)**

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians

3:12-17

You are God's chosen race, his saints; he loves you,  
and you should be clothed in sincere compassion, in kindness and humility,  
gentleness and patience.

Bear with one another; forgive each other as soon as a quarrel begins.  
The Lord has forgiven you; now you must do the same.  
Over all these clothes, to keep them together and complete them, put on love.  
And may the peace of Christ reign in your hearts,  
because it is for this that you were called together as parts of one body.  
Always be thankful.

Let the message of Christ, in all its richness, find a home with you.  
Teach each other, and advise each other, in all wisdom.  
With gratitude in your hearts sing psalms and hymns and inspired songs to God  
and never say or do anything except in the name of the Lord Jesus,  
giving thanks to God the Father through him.

The Word of the Lord.

## **SECOND READING (F)**

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

3:1-9

**Wives should be obedient to their husbands.**

**Then, if there are some husbands who have not yet obeyed the word, they may find themselves won over, without a word spoken, by the way their wives behave, when they see how faithful and conscientious they are.**

**Do not dress up for show: doing up your hair, wearing gold bracelets and fine clothes; all this should be inside, in a person's heart, imperishable: the ornament of a sweet and gentle disposition – this is what is precious in the sight of God.**

**That was how the holy women of the past dressed themselves attractively – they hoped in God and were tender and obedient to their husbands; like Sarah, who was obedient to Abraham, and called him her lord. You are now her children, as long as you live good lives and do not give way to fear or worry.**

**In the same way, husbands must always treat their wives with consideration in their life together, respecting a woman as one who, though she may be the weaker partner, is equally an heir to the life of grace. This will stop anything from coming in the way of your prayers.**

**Finally: you should all agree among yourselves and be sympathetic; love the brothers, have compassion and be self-effacing. Never pay back one wrong with another one; instead, pay back with a blessing. That is what you are called to do, so that you inherit a blessing yourself.**

The Word of the Lord.

## **SECOND READING (G)**

A reading from the first letter of St John

3:18-24

**My children, our love is not to be just words or mere talk, but something real and active; only by this can we be certain that we are children of the truth and be able to quieten our conscience in his presence, whatever accusations it may raise against us, because God is greater than our conscience and he knows everything.**

**My dear people, if we cannot be condemned by our own conscience, we need not be afraid in God's presence, and whatever we ask him, we shall receive, because we keep his commandments and live the kind of life that he wants.**

His commandments are these:  
 that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ  
 and that we love one another as he told us to.  
 Whoever keeps his commandments lives in God, and God lives in him.  
 We know that he lives in us by the Spirit that he has given us.

The Word of the Lord.

## **SECOND READING (H)**

A reading from the first letter of St John

4:7-12

My dear people, let us love one another since love comes from God  
 and everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God.

Anyone who fails to love can never have known God, because God is love.  
 God's love for us was revealed when God sent into the world his only Son  
 so that we could have life through him; this is the love I mean:  
 not our love for God,  
 but God's love for us when he sent his Son to be the sacrifice that takes our sins  
 away.

My dear people, since God has loved us so much,  
 we too should love one another.  
 No one has ever seen God;  
 but as long as we love one another  
 God will live in us and his love will be complete in us.

The Word of the Lord.

## **SECOND READING (I)**

A reading from the book of the Apocalypse

19:1. 5-9

I, John, seemed to hear the great sound of a huge crowd in heaven, singing,  
 'Alleluia! Victory and glory and power to our God!'  
 Then a voice came from the throne; it said,  
 'Praise our God, you servants of his and all who, great or small, revere him'.

And I seemed to hear the voices of a huge crowd,  
 like the sound of the ocean or the great roar of thunder, answering, 'Alleluia!  
 The reign of the Lord our God Almighty has begun;  
 let us be glad and joyful and give praise to God,  
 because this is the time for the marriage of the Lamb.  
 His bride is ready, and she has been able to dress herself in dazzling white linen,  
 because her linen is made of the good deeds of the saints.'

The angel said, 'Write this:  
 Happy are those who are invited to the wedding feast of the Lamb.'

The Word of the Lord.

**GOSPEL****OPTIONS FOR GOSPEL ACCLAMATION & GOSPEL TEXT****GOSPEL ACCLAMATION & GOSPEL TEXT (A)**

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Happy the pure in heart:

they shall see God.

Alleluia!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

5:1-12

Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up the hill. There he sat down and was joined by his disciples. Then he began to speak. This is what he taught them:

'How happy are the poor in spirit;

theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Happy the gentle:

they shall have the earth for their heritage.

Happy those who mourn:

they shall be comforted.

Happy those who hunger and thirst for what is right:

they shall be satisfied.

Happy the merciful:

they shall have mercy shown them.

Happy the pure in heart:

they shall see God.

Happy the peacemakers:

they shall be called sons of God.

Happy those who are persecuted in the cause of right:

theirs is the kingdom of heaven.'

'Happy are you when people abuse you and persecute you and speak all kinds of calumny against you on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be

great in heaven.'

### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION & GOSPEL TEXT (B)**

Alleluia! Alleluia!

You are the salt of the earth and the light of the world;

Your light must shine in the sight of men.

Alleluia!

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

5:13-16

Jesus said to his disciples: 'You are the salt of the earth. But if salt becomes tasteless, what can make it salty again? It is good for nothing, and can only be thrown out to be trampled underfoot by men.'

'You are the light of the world. A city built on a hilltop cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp to put it under a tub; they put it on the lamp-stand where it shines for everyone in the house. In the same way your light must shine in the sight of men, so that, seeing your good works, they may give the praise to your Father in heaven.'

### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION & GOSPEL TEXT (C)**

Alleluia! Alleluia!

He who enters the kingdom of heaven

does the will of my Father in heaven.

Alleluia!

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

7:21. 24-29

Jesus said to his disciples:

'It is not those who say to me, "Lord, Lord", who will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the person who does the will of my Father in heaven.

'Therefore, everyone who listens to these words of mine and acts on them will be like a sensible man who built his house on rock. Rain came down, floods rose, gales blew and hurled themselves against the house, and it did not fall: it was founded on rock. But everyone who listens to these words of mine and does not

act on them will be like a stupid man who built his house on sand. Rain came down, floods rose, gales blew and struck that house, and it fell; and what a fall it had!

Jesus had now finished what he wanted to say, and his teaching made a deep impression on the people because he taught them with authority, and not like their own scribes.

### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION & GOSPEL TEXT (D)**

Alleluia! Alleluia!

As long as we love one another

God will live in us, and his love will be complete in us.

Alleluia!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew. 22:35-40

A lawyer, to disconcert Jesus, put a question, 'Master, which is the greatest commandment of the Law?'

Jesus said, 'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second resembles it: You must love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments hang the whole Law, and the Prophets also.'

### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION & GOSPEL TEXT (E)**

Alleluia! Alleluia!

What God has united,

man must not divide.

Alleluia!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark. 10:6-9

Jesus said, 'From the beginning of creation God made them male and female. This is why a man must leave father and mother, and the two become one body. They are no longer two, therefore, but one body. So then, what God has united, man must not divide.'

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION & GOSPEL TEXT (F)**

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Anyone who lives in love lives in God,  
and God lives in him.

Alleluia!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

2:1-11

There was a wedding at Cana in Galilee. The mother of Jesus was there, and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited. When they ran out of wine, since the wine provided for the wedding was all finished, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.' Jesus said, 'Woman why turn to me? My hour has not come yet.' His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.' There were six stone water jars standing there, meant for the ablutions that are customary among the Jews: each could hold twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to the servants, 'Fill the jars with water,' and they filled them to the brim. 'Draw some out now,' he told them, 'and take it to the steward.' They did this; the steward tasted the water, and it had turned into wine. Having no idea where it came from - only the servants who had drawn the water knew - the steward called the bridegroom and said, 'People generally serve the best wine first, and keep the cheaper sort till the guests have had plenty to drink, but you have kept the best wine till now.' This was the first of the signs given by Jesus: it was given at Cana in Galilee. He let his glory be seen, and his disciples believed in him.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION & GOSPEL TEXT (G)**

Alleluia! Alleluia!

This is my commandment:  
love one another, as I loved you.

Alleluia!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

15:9-12

Jesus said to his disciples:  
'As the Father has loved me,  
so I have loved you. Remain in my love.

If you keep my commandments  
 you will remain in my love,  
 just as I have kept my Father's commandments  
 and remain in his love.

I have told you this  
 so that my own joy may be in you  
 and your joy be complete.

This is my commandment:  
 love one another,  
 as I loved you.'

### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION & GOSPEL TEXT (H)**

Alleluia! Alleluia!

A man can have no greater love  
 than to lay down his life for his friends.

Alleluia!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

15:12-16

Jesus said to his disciples:

'This is my commandment:  
 love one another,  
 as I have loved you.

A man can have no greater love  
 than to lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends,  
 if you do what I command you.

I shall not call you servants any more, because a servant does not know  
 his master's business;

I call you friends,

because I have made known to you everything I have learnt from my Father. You  
 did not choose me,

no, I chose you;

and I commissioned you  
 to go out and to bear fruit,  
 fruit that will last;

and then the Father will give you anything you ask him in my name.'

### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION & GOSPEL TEXT (I)**

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Father, may they be one in us,  
as you are in me and I am in you.

Alleluia!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

17:20-26

Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said:

'Holy Father, I pray not only for these, but for those also who through their words will believe in me.

May they all be one.

Father, may they be one in us, as you are in me and I am in you, so that the world may believe it was you who sent me.

I have given them the glory you gave to me, that they may be one as we are one.

With me in them and you in me, may they be so completely one that the world will realise that it was you who sent me and that I have loved them as much as you loved me.

Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, so that they may always see the glory you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.

Father, Righteous One, the world has not known you, but I have known you, and these have known that you have sent me.

I have made your name known to them and will continue to make it known, so that the love with which you loved me may be in them, and so that I may be in them.'

**Priest:** The Gospel of the Lord.

**All:** Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

**HOMILY**

## RITE OF MARRIAGE

### PREPATORY DIALOGUE

**Priest:** My dear friends, you have come together in this church so that the Lord may seal and strengthen your love in the presence of the Church's minister and this community. Christ abundantly blesses this love. He has already consecrated you in baptism and now he enriches and strengthens you by a special sacrament so that you may assume the duties of marriage in mutual and lasting fidelity. And so, in the presence of the Church, I ask you to state your intentions.

### STATEMENT OF INTENTIONS

**Priest:** **N.** and **N.**, have you come here freely and without reservation to give yourselves to each other in marriage?

**Response:** I have.

**Priest:** Will you love and honour each other as man and wife for the rest of your lives?

**Response:** I will.

**Priest:** Will you accept children lovingly from God, and bring them up according to the law of Christ and his Church?

**Response:** I will.

### DECLARATION OF CONSENT

**Priest:** Since it is your intention to enter into marriage, join your right hands, and declare your consent before God and his Church.

**Bridegroom:** I, \_\_\_\_, take you, \_\_\_\_, to be my wife.  
I promise to be true to you in good times and in bad,  
in sickness and in health.  
I will love you and honour you all the days of my life.

**Bride:** I, \_\_\_\_, take you, \_\_\_\_, to be my husband.  
I promise to be true to you in good times and in bad,  
in sickness and in health.  
I will love you and honour you all the days of my life.

**Priest:** You have declared your consent before the Church. May the Lord in His goodness strengthen your consent and fill you both with his blessings. What God has joined, men must not divide.

**All:** Amen

## BLESSING OF THE RINGS

**Priest:** May the Lord bless † these rings which you give to each other as the sign of your love and fidelity.

**All:** Amen.

**Or:**

**Priest:** Lord, bless † these rings which we bless in your name. Grant that those who wear them may always have a deep faith in each other. May they do your will and always live together in peace, good will and love.

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**Or:**

**Priest:** Lord, bless † and consecrate **N.** and **N.** in their love for each other. May these rings be a symbol of true faith in each other, and always remind them of their love. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

## EXCHANGE OF RINGS

**Bridegroom:** **N.**, take this ring as a sign of my love and fidelity. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Bride:** **N.**, take this ring as a sign of my love and fidelity. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

## GENERAL INTERCESSIONS

**Priest:** Let us pray to God, the Father who has called this couple to a new state of life:

1. That **N.** and **N.** (they) may persevere in love, maintain their resolve to support each other and come together to an ever greater knowledge of God: let us pray.

**Response:** Lord, hear our prayer.

2. For all married couples present here, that they may renew their commitment to love and to share with the world the mystery of God's friendship: let us pray. (R)
3. For God's holy people, that through this celebration we all may grow in our desire to serve and love the world: let us pray. (R)
4. That the world we live in and are called to serve may be enlivened by the presence of God shown forth in the love of men and women: let us pray. (R)

5. For ourselves united here in God's name, that the Word of God may sustain us all in our vocation to love: let us pray. (R)

**Priest:** Let us pray. O God, from whom all love derives, help **N.** and **N.** in their responsibility of building up a new Christian family. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**All:** Amen.

## **LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST**

**OFFERTORY HYMN – see Appendix at the back**

*If there is no singing, the following may be followed.*

**Priest:** Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation,  
for through your goodness we have received the bread we offer you:  
fruit of the earth and work of human hands,  
it will become for us the bread of life.

**All:** Blessed be God for ever.

**Priest:** Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation,  
for through your goodness we have received the wine we offer you:  
fruit of the vine and work of human hands,  
it will become our spiritual drink.

**All:** Blessed be God for ever.

## **ORATE, FRATES**

**Priest:** Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters),  
that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God,  
the almighty Father.

**All:** May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands,  
for the praise and glory of his name,  
for our good, and the good of all his holy Church.

## **OPTIONS FOR PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

### **PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS (Form A)**

**Priest:** Receive, we pray, O Lord, the offering made on the occasion of this sealing of the sacred bond of Marriage, and, just as your goodness is its origin, may your providence guide its course.  
Through Christ our Lord.

**All:** Amen.

### **PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS (Form B)**

**Priest:** Receive in your kindness, Lord, the offerings we bring in gladness before you, and in your fatherly love watch over those you have joined in a sacramental covenant.  
Through Christ our Lord.

**All:** Amen.

## **PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS (Form C)**

**Priest:** Show favour to our supplications, O Lord, and receive with a kindly countenance the oblation we offer for these your servants, joined now in a holy covenant, that through these mysteries they may be strengthened in love for one another and for you.  
Through Christ our Lord.

**All:** Amen.

## **PREFACE DIALOGUE**

**Priest:** The Lord be with you.

**All:** And with your spirit.

**Priest:** Lift up your hearts.

**All:** We lift them up to the Lord.

**Priest:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All:** It is right and just.

## **OPTIONS FOR PREFACE**

### **PREFACE (Form A)**

*The dignity of the marriage covenant.*

**Priest:** It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For you have forged the covenant of marriage as a sweet yoke of harmony and an unbreakable bond of peace, so that the chaste and fruitful love of holy Matrimony may serve to increase the children you adopt as your own.

By your providence and grace, O Lord, you accomplish the wonder of this twofold design: that, while the birth of children brings beauty to the world, their rebirth in Baptism gives increase to the Church, through Christ our Lord.

Through him, with the Angels and all the Saints, we sing the hymn of your praise, as without end we acclaim:

### **PREFACE (Form B)**

*The great Sacrament of Matrimony.*

**Priest:** It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Christ our Lord.

For in him you have made a new covenant with your people,  
so that, as you have redeemed man and woman  
by the mystery of Christ's Death and Resurrection,  
so in Christ you might make them partakers of divine nature  
and joint heirs with him of heavenly glory.

In the union of husband and wife  
you give a sign of Christ's loving gift of grace,  
so that the Sacrament we celebrate might draw us back more deeply  
into the wondrous design of your love.

And so, with the Angels and all the Saints,  
we praise you, and without end we acclaim:

### **PREFACE (Form C)**

*Matrimony as a sign of divine love.*

**Priest:** It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,  
always and everywhere to give you thanks,  
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For you willed that the human race, created by the gift of your  
goodness, should be raised to such high dignity that in the union of  
husband and wife you might bestow a true image of your love.

For those you created out of charity you call to the law of charity  
without ceasing and grant them a share in your eternal charity.

And so, the Sacrament of holy Matrimony, as the abiding sign of  
your own love, consecrates the love of man and woman, through  
Christ our Lord.

Through him, with the Angels and all the Saints,  
we sing the hymn of your praise, as without end we acclaim:

### **SANCTUS**

**All:** Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of hosts.  
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.

### **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER II**

**Priest:** You are indeed Holy, O Lord, the fount of all holiness.  
Make holy, therefore, these gifts, we pray,  
by sending down your Spirit upon them like the dewfall,  
so that they may become for us the Body and † Blood  
of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
At the time he was betrayed  
and entered willingly into his Passion,  
he took bread and, giving thanks, broke it,  
and gave it to his disciples, saying:

TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND EAT OF IT,  
FOR THIS IS MY BODY, WHICH WILL BE GIVEN UP FOR YOU.

In a similar way, when supper was ended, he took the chalice and, once more giving thanks, he gave it to his disciples, saying:

TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND DRINK FROM IT,  
FOR THIS IS THE CHALICE OF MY BLOOD,  
THE BLOOD OF THE NEW AND ETERNAL COVENANT,  
WHICH WILL BE Poured OUT FOR YOU  
AND FOR MANY FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS.  
DO THIS IN MEMORY OF ME.

**Priest:** The mystery of faith:

**All:** We proclaim your death, O Lord,  
and profess your resurrection,  
until you come again.

**Priest:** Therefore, as we celebrate the memorial of his Death and Resurrection, we offer you, Lord, the Bread of life and the Chalice of salvation, giving thanks that you have held us worthy to be in your presence and minister to you. Humbly we pray that, partaking of the Body and Blood of Christ, we may be gathered into one by the Holy Spirit. Remember, Lord, your Church, spread throughout the world, and bring her to the fullness of charity, together with Benedict our Pope and Nicholas our Bishop and all the clergy.

\*Be mindful also, Lord, of **N.** and **N.**,  
whom you have brought to their wedding day,  
so that by your grace they may abide in mutual love and in peace.

Remember also our brothers and sisters who have fallen asleep in the hope of the resurrection, and all who have died in your mercy: welcome them into the light of your face. Have mercy on us all, we pray, that with the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, with the blessed Apostles, and all the Saints who have pleased you throughout the ages, we may merit to be coheirs to eternal life, and may praise and glorify you through your Son, Jesus Christ.

**DOXOLOGY**

**Priest:** Through him, and with him, and in him,  
O God, almighty Father,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all glory and honour is yours,  
for ever and ever.

**All:** Amen.

## **COMMUNION RITE**

**Priest:** At the Saviour's command  
and formed by divine teaching,  
we dare to say:

**All:** 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.

## **OPTIONS FOR NUPTIAL BLESSING**

### **NUPTIAL BLESSING (Form A)**

**Priest:** O God, who by your mighty power created all things out of nothing,  
and, when you had set in place the beginnings of the universe,  
formed man and woman in your own image,  
making the woman an inseparable helpmate to the man,  
that they might no longer be two, but one flesh,  
and taught that what you were pleased to make one  
must never be divided;

O God, who consecrated the bond of Marriage by so great a mystery  
that in the wedding covenant you foreshadowed the Sacrament of  
Christ and his Church;

O God, by whom woman is joined to man  
and the companionship they had in the beginning  
is endowed with the one blessing not forfeited by original sin  
nor washed away by the flood.

Look now with favour on these your servants,  
joined together in Marriage,  
who ask to be strengthened by your blessing.  
Send down on them the grace of the Holy Spirit  
and pour your love into their hearts,  
that they may remain faithful in the Marriage covenant.

May the grace of love and peace abide in your daughter **N.**,  
and let her always follow the example of those holy women  
whose praises are sung in the Scriptures.  
May her husband entrust his heart to her, so that,  
acknowledging her as his equal and his joint heir to the life of grace,  
and cherish her always with the love that Christ has for his Church.

And now, Lord, we implore you: may these your servants hold fast  
to the faith and keep your commandments; made one in the flesh,  
may they be blameless in all they do;  
and with the strength that comes from the Gospel,  
may they bear true witness to Christ before all;  
(may they be blessed with children, and prove themselves virtuous  
parents, who live to see their children's children).

And grant that, reaching at last together in fullness of years for  
which they hope,  
they may come to the life of the blessed in the Kingdom of Heaven.  
Through Christ our Lord.

**All:** Amen.

### **NUPTIAL BLESSING (Form B)**

**Priest:** Let us pray to the Lord for this bride and groom,  
who come to the altar as they begin their married life,  
that (by partaking of the Body and Blood of Christ)  
they may always be bound together by love for one another.

Holy Father, who formed man in your own image,  
male and female you created them, so that as husband and wife,  
united in body and heart, they might fulfil their calling in the world;

O God, who, to reveal the great design you formed in your love,  
willed that the love of spouses for each other should foreshadow the  
covenant you graciously made with your people,  
so that, by fulfilment of the sacramental sign,  
the mystical marriage of Christ with his Church  
might become manifest in the union of husband and wife  
among your faithful;

Graciously stretch out your right hand over these your servants (**N.**  
and **N.**), we pray, and pour into their hearts the power of the Holy  
Spirit.

Grant, O Lord, that, as they enter upon this sacramental union,  
they may share with one another the gifts of your love and,  
by being for each other a sign of your presence,  
become one heart and one mind.

May they also sustain, O Lord, by their deeds  
the home they are forming (and prepare their children to become  
members of your heavenly household by raising them in the way of  
the Gospel).

Graciously crown with your blessings your daughter **N.**, so that, by being a good wife (and mother), she may bring warmth to her home with a love that is pure and adorn it with welcoming graciousness.

Bestow a heavenly blessing also, O Lord, on **N.**, your servant, that he may be a worthy, good and faithful husband (and a provident father).

Grant, holy Father, that, desiring to approach your table as a couple joined in Marriage in your presence, they may one day have the joy of taking part in your great banquet in heaven. Through Christ our Lord.

**All:** Amen.

### **NUPTIAL BLESSING (Form C)**

**Priest:** Let us humbly invoke by our prayers, dear brothers and sisters, God's blessing upon this bride and groom, that in his kindness he may favour with his help those on whom he has bestowed the Sacrament of Matrimony.

Holy Father, maker of the whole world, who created man and woman in your own image and willed that their union be crowned with your blessing, we humbly beseech you for these your servants, who are joined today in the Sacrament of Matrimony.

May your abundant blessing, Lord, come down upon this bride, **N.**, and upon **N.**, her companion for life, and may the power of your Holy Spirit set their hearts aflame from on high, so that, living out together the gift of Matrimony, they may (adorn their family with children and) enrich the Church.

In happiness may they praise you, O Lord, in sorrow may they seek you out; may they have the joy of your presence to assist them in their toil and know that you are near to comfort them in their need; let them pray to you in the holy assembly and bear witness to you in the world, and after a happy old age, together with the circle of friends that surrounds them, may they come to the Kingdom of Heaven. Through Christ our Lord.

**All:** Amen.

### **SIGN OF PEACE**

**Priest:** Lord Jesus Christ, who said to your Apostles: Peace I leave you, my peace I give you; look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church, and graciously grant her peace and unity in accordance with your will. Who live and reign for ever and ever.

- All:** Amen.
- Priest:** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- All:** And with your spirit.
- Priest:** Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

## **BREAKING OF THE BREAD**

### **AGNUS DEI**

- All:** Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:  
have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:  
have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:  
grant us peace.

## **COMMUNION**

- Priest:** Behold the Lamb of God,  
behold him who takes away the sins of the world.  
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.
- All:** Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof,  
but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

COMMUNION HYMN – see Appendix at the back

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION WITH SOLEMN BLESSING (FORM A)**

- Priest:** Let us pray.  
By the power of this sacrifice, O Lord,  
accompany with your loving favour  
what in your providence you have instituted,  
so as to make of one heart in love  
those you have already joined in this holy union  
(and replenished with the one Bread and the one Chalice).  
Through Christ our Lord.
- All:** Amen.

## **SOLEMN BLESSING AT THE END OF MASS**

- Priest:** May God the Eternal Father  
keep you of one heart in love for one another,  
that the peace of Christ may dwell in you  
and abide always in your home.

**All:** Amen.

**Priest:** May you be blessed in your children,  
have solace in your friends  
and enjoy true peace with everyone.

**All:** Amen.

**Priest:** May you be witnesses in the world to God's charity, so that the  
afflicted and needy who have known your kindness  
may one day receive you thankfully  
into the eternal dwelling of God.

**All:** Amen.

**Priest:** And may almighty God bless all of you, who are gathered here,  
the Father, and the Son, † and the Holy Spirit.

**All:** Amen.

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION WITH SOLEMN BLESSING (FORM B)**

**Priest:** Let us pray.  
Having been made partakers at your table,  
we pray, O Lord,  
that those who are united by the Sacrament of Marriage  
may always hold fast to you  
and proclaim your name to the world.  
Through Christ our Lord.

**All:** Amen.

### **SOLEMN BLESSING AT THE END OF MASS**

**Priest:** May God the all-powerful Father grant you his joy  
and bless you in your children.

**All:** Amen.

**Priest:** May the Only Begotten Son of God  
stand by you with compassion in good times and in bad.

**All:** Amen.

**Priest:** May the Holy Spirit of God  
always pour forth his love into your hearts.

**All:** Amen.

**Priest:** And may almighty God bless all of you, who are gathered here,  
the Father, and the Son, † and the Holy Spirit.

**All:** Amen.

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION WITH SOLEMN BLESSING (FORM C)**

**Priest:** Let us pray.  
Grant, we pray, almighty God,  
that the power of the Sacrament we have received  
may find growth in these your servants  
and that the effects of the sacrifice we have offered  
may be felt by us all.  
Through Christ our Lord.

**All:** Amen.

### **SOLEMN BLESSING AT THE END OF MASS**

**Priest:** May the Lord Jesus,  
who graced the marriage at Cana by his presence,  
bless you and your loved ones.

**All:** Amen.

**Priest:** May he, who loved the Church to the end  
unceasingly pour his love into your hearts.

**All:** Amen.

**Priest:** May the Lord grant  
that, bearing witness to faith in his Resurrection,  
you may await with joy the blessed hope to come.

**All:** Amen.

**Priest:** And may almighty God bless all of you, who are gathered here,  
the Father, and the Son, † and the Holy Spirit.

**All:** Amen.

### **DISMISSAL**

**Priest:** Go forth, the Mass is ended.

**All:** Thanks be to God.

**Or**

**Priest:** Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord.

**All:** Thanks be to God.

**Or**

**Priest:** Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life.

**All:** Thanks be to God.

**Or**

**Priest:** Go in peace.

**All:** Thanks be to God.

RECESSIONAL HYMN – see Appendix at the back

## **HYMNS**

- 1) A NEW COMMANDMENT
- 2) ALL MAN'S LABOUR CAN PRODUCE
- 3) AS I KNEEL BEFORE YOU (AVE MARIA)
- 4) BE THOU MY VISION
- 5) CELEBRATE
- 6) CENTRE OF MY LIFE
- 7) GIFT OF FINEST WHEAT
- 8) GIVE THANKS
- 9) HUMBLY WE ADORE THEE
- 10) IN BREAD WE BRING YOU, LORD
- 11) LORD, ACCEPT THE GIFTS WE OFFER
- 12) LOVE IS HIS WORD
- 13) LOVE IT WAS THAT MADE US
- 14) O BREAD OF HEAVEN
- 15) TAKE OUR BREAD
- 16) THE BEATITUDES
- 17) THIS IS THE DAY
- 18) WE ALL HAVE GATHERED HERE IN JOY
- 19) WHEN LOVE IS FOUND

### **A NEW COMMANDMENT**

A new commandment I give unto you,  
that you love one another as I have loved you,  
that you love one another as I have loved you.

By this shall all men know you are my disciples,  
If you have love, one for another.  
By this shall all men know you are my disciples,  
If you have love, one for another.

### **ALL MAN'S LABOUR CAN PRODUCE**

*Refrain:*        **May this lowly bread and wine be the sacrifice divine  
Of our Saviour Jesus Christ, of our Saviour Jesus Christ.**

1.     **All man's labour can produce, You have given for our use.  
Take O Lord our offering, Take O Lord our offering. (R)**
2.     **On these gifts of bread and wine, of our sacrifice a sign.  
Father look with favour now, Father look with favour now. (R)**
3.     **May this food which strength imparts; Bring refreshment to our hearts.  
And a taste of joy to come! And a taste of joy to come! (R)**

### **AS I KNEEL BEFORE YOU (AVE MARIA)**

1.     **As I kneel before you  
As I bow my head in prayer  
Take this day, make it yours  
And fill me with your love**

*Refrain:*        **Ave Ma-ri-ia, gra-ti-a plena  
Dominus tecum benedic-ta-tu**

2.     **All I have I give you  
Ev'ry dream and wish are yours  
Mother of Christ, Mother of mine  
Present them to my Lord. (R)**
3.     **As I kneel before you  
And I see your smiling face  
Ev'ry thought, ev'ry word  
Is lost in your embrace. (R)**

## **BE THOU MY VISION**

1. Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;  
Naught be all else to me, save that thou art –  
Thou the best thought, by day or by night,  
Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.
2. Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true Word;  
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;  
Thou my great Father, I thy true son,  
Thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.
3. Be thou my battle-shield, sword for the fight;  
Be thou my dignity, thou my delight,  
Thou my soul's shelter, thou my high tow'r.  
Raise thou me heav'nward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.
4. Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,  
Thou mine inheritance, now and always;  
Thou and thou only, first in my heart,  
High King of heaven, my treasure thou art.
5. High King of heaven, my victory won,  
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heav'n Sun!  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

## **CELEBRATE**

Come on and celebrate,  
His gift of love, we will celebrate.  
The Son of God who loved us, and gave us life.

We'll shout your praise, O King,  
You give us joy nothing else can bring,  
We'll give to you our offering in celebration praise.

Come on and celebrate, celebrate, celebrate and sing.  
Celebrate and sing to the King.  
Come on and celebrate, celebrate, celebrate and sing.  
Celebrate and sing to the King.

## **CENTRE OF MY LIFE**

**Refrain:** O Lord, you are the centre of my life:  
I will always praise you; I will always serve you,  
I will always keep you in my sight.

1. Keep me safe, O God, I take refuge in you.  
I say to the Lord, "You are my God.  
My happiness lies in you alone;  
my happiness lies in you alone." (R)
2. I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel,  
who even at night directs my heart.  
I keep the Lord ever in my sight:  
Since he is at my right hand, I shall stand firm. (R)
3. And so my heart rejoices, my soul is glad;  
even in safety shall my body rest.  
For you will not leave my soul among the dead,  
nor let your beloved know decay. (R)
4. You will show me the path of life,  
the fullness of joy in your presence,  
At your right hand, at your right hand  
Happiness for ever. (R)

## **GIFT OF FINEST WHEAT**

**Refrain:** You satisfy the hungry heart with gift of finest wheat;  
Come, give to us, O saving Lord, the bread of life to eat.

1. As when the shepherd calls his sheep,  
They know and heed his voice;  
So when you call your family, Lord,  
We follow and rejoice. (R)
2. With joyful lips we sing to you  
Our praise and gratitude;  
That you should count as worthy, Lord,  
To share this heav'nly food. (R)
3. Is not the cup we bless and share  
The blood of Christ outpoured?  
Do not one cup, one loaf, declare  
Our oneness in the Lord? (R)
4. The myst'ry of your presence, Lord,  
No mortal tongue can tell,

Whom all the world cannot contain  
Comes in our hearts to dwell. (R)

5. You give yourself to us, O Lord;  
Then selfless let us be,  
To serve each other in your name  
In truth and charity. (R)

### **GIVE THANKS**

Give thanks, with a grateful heart. Give thanks, to the Holy One;  
Give thanks, because He's given, Jesus Christ, his Son. (X2)

And now, let the weak say: "I am strong". Let the poor say: "I am rich".  
Because of what the Lord has done, for us. (X2)

Give thanks...

### **HUMBLY WE ADORE THEE**

1. Humbly we adore thee, Christ, Redeemer King,  
Thou art Lord of heaven, thou to whom we sing;  
God the Mighty, thou hast come, bearing gifts of grace.  
Son of Adam still thou art, Savior to our race.
2. Jesus, Lord we thank thee for this wondrous bread;  
In our land thou dwellest, by thee we are fed.  
We who share this mystery in thee are made one,  
Every act we offer thee in thy name is done.
3. Thou who died to save us livest as our Light;  
Though our eyes are blinded, yet our faith gives sight.  
Christ, do thou be merciful, Lamb for sinners slain;  
We in grief confess our guilt, cleanse our souls from stain.
4. Christ, our God and Brother, hear our humble plea:  
By this holy banquet keep us joined to thee;  
Make us one in loving thee, one in mind and heart.  
Till in heaven we are thine, nevermore to part.
5. Hail, thou Word Incarnate, born from Mary's womb,  
Hail thou Strength immortal, risen from the tomb.  
Share with us thy victory, Saviour ever blest:  
Live more fully in our hearts; be our constant Guest.
6. Faith alone reveals here Bread of paradise;  
Faith alone may witness Jesus' sacrifice.  
Therefore, Lord, as once of old Thomas gained his sight,  
now increase our feeble faith: shed thy healing light.

### **IN BREAD WE BRING YOU, LORD**

1. In bread we bring you Lord, our bodies' labour.  
 In wine we offer you, our spirits' grief.  
 We do not ask you Lord, "Who is my neighbour?"  
 But stand united now, one in belief.  
 Oh we have gladly heard, Your Word your Holy Word.  
 And now in answer Lord, our gifts we bring.  
 Our selfish hearts make true, our failing faith renew.  
 Our lives belong to you, our Lord and King.
  
2. The bread we offer you, is blessed and broken.  
 And it becomes for us, our spirits' food.  
 Over the cup we bring, Your Word is spoken;  
 Make it your gift to us, your healing blood.  
 Take all that daily toil, plants in our hearts' poor soil.  
 Take all we start and spoil, each hopeful dream.  
 The chances we have missed, the graces we resist.  
 Lord in thy Eucharist, take and redeem.

### **LORD, ACCEPT THE GIFTS WE OFFER**

1. Lord, accept the gifts we offer at this Eucharistic feast,  
 Bread and wine to be transformed now  
 through the action of thy priest;  
 Take us, too, O Lord, transform us, by thy grace in us increased.
  
2. May our souls be pure and spotless as the host of wheat so fine;  
 May all stain of sin be crushed out,  
 Like the grape that forms the wine,  
 As we, too, become partakers in this sacrifice divine.
  
3. Take our gifts, almighty Father, Living God, eternal, true,  
 Which we give through Christ, our Saviour,  
 Pleading here for us anew;  
 Grant salvation to all present, and our faith and love renew.

## **LOVE IS HIS WORD**

1. Love is his word, love is his way, feasting with men, fasting alone.  
Living and dying, rising again. Love, only love is his way.

*Refrain:* Richer than gold is the love of my Lord.  
Better than splendour and wealth.

2. Love is his way, love is his mark, sharing His Last Passover feast.  
Christ at the table, host to the Twelve; Love only love is His mark. (R)
3. Love is His mark, love is his sign: Bread for our strength, wine for our joy.  
“This is my body, this is my blood.” Love only love is his sign. (R)
4. Love is his sign, love is his news, “Do this” he said, “lest you forget  
all my deep sorrow, all my dear blood.” Love, only love is his news. (R)
5. Love is his news, love is his name, we are his own, chosen and called,  
family, brethren, cousins and kin. Love, only love is his name. (R)
6. Love is his name, love is his law. Hear his command, all who are his:  
“Love one another, I have loved you”. Love, only love is his law. (R)
7. Love is his law, love is his word: love of the Lord, Father and Word,  
love of the Spirit, God ever one. Love, only love is his word. (R)

## **LOVE IT WAS THAT MADE US**

*Refrain:*

Love it was that made us, and it was love that saved us.  
Love was God’s plan when he made man; God’s divine nature is love.  
Born of God’s love we must love him, that’s why he made us: to love him;  
But only when we love all men can we partake of God’s love.  
But only when we love all men can we partake of God’s love.

1. Love is a wonderful thing; joy in our hearts it will bring.  
And when there’s true love there is God,  
and where there is God there is love. (R)
2. Christ said, “Love must be the sign by which men will know you are mine.  
A new commandment I give: Each other love as I did.” (R)

## **O BREAD OF HEAVEN**

1. O Bread of Heaven, beneath this veil  
Thou dost my very God conceal:  
My Jesus, dearest treasure, hail!  
I love Thee and, adoring, kneel;  
Each loving soul by Thee is fed  
With Thine own Self in form of Bread.
2. O food of life, Thou Who dost give  
The pledge of immortality;  
I live, no 'tis not I that live;  
God gives me life, God lives in me:  
He feeds my soul, He guides my ways,  
And every grief with joy repays.
3. O Bond of love that dost unite  
The servant to his living Lord;  
Could I dare live and not requite  
Such love – then death were meet reward:  
I cannot live unless to prove  
Some love for such unmeasured love.
4. Beloved Lord, in Heaven above  
There, Jesus, Thou awaitest me,  
To gaze on Thee with endless love;  
Yes, thus I hope, thus shall it be:  
For how can He deny me Heaven,  
Who here on earth Himself hath given?"

## **TAKE OUR BREAD**

*Refrain:* Take our bread, we ask you;  
Take our hearts, we love you, take our lives.  
Oh Father we are yours, We are yours.

1. Yours as we stand at the table you set;  
Yours as we eat the bread our hearts can't forget.  
We are the sign of your life with us yet;  
We are yours, We are yours. (R)
2. Your holy people standing washed in your blood.  
Spirit-filled yet hungry we await your food.  
We are poor but we've brought ourselves, the best we could;  
We are yours, We are yours. (R)

## **THE BEATITUDES**

1. **Blest are you, the poor who trust the Father with your lives,  
For within your heart is born the Kingdom of the Lord.  
Blest are you, the sorrowing, who know your Father wise,  
For within your heart is born the Kingdom of the Lord. (R)**

**Refrain: Let your light shine for all the world to see:  
the brightness of your life within, the peace that sets you free.  
Let your light shine to fill your nights and days;  
All will the deeds you do and give your Father praise.**

2. **Blest are you, the lowly ones, who know your need to share,  
For within your heart is born the Kingdom of the Lord.  
Blest are you, whose searching souls will draw you to God's care,  
For within your heart is born the Kingdom of the Lord. (R)**
3. **Blest are those whose mercy shows the Father's love to all,  
For within your heart is born the Kingdom of the Lord.  
Blest are you, the pure in heart, who live the Father's call,  
For within your heart is born the Kingdom of the Lord. (R)**
4. **Blest are you who work for peace among the Father's own,  
For within your heart is born the Kingdom of the Lord.  
Blest are you who suffer hate to prepare the day to come,  
For within your heart is born the Kingdom of the Lord. (R)**

## **THIS IS THE DAY**

1. **This is the day, which the Lord has made; Let us be glad and rejoice;  
He is the Maker of Heaven and earth; Praise him with heart and voice.**

**Refrain: Hallelujah! (X4)**

2. **This is the day with the Lord has made; Sing of his bounty and love;  
Thank him this day for his wonderful gifts, poured out on us from above.  
(R)**
3. **This is the day, which the Lord has, made; Cry out in praise of his name;  
We have assembled to ponder his word may we his message proclaim. (R)**
4. **This is the day, which the Lord has, made; rising, he conquered all strife.  
Having attended his banquet of love, rise in his newness of life. (R)**

## **WE ALL HAVE GATHERED HERE IN JOY**

1. We all have gathered here in joy,  
To pray with our two friends,  
Who have today been joined in Christ,  
By love that never ends.
2. In their exchange of hearts we see  
How marriage is the sign  
Of Christ's own love for us, his Church  
In covenant divine.
3. To God the Father, through the Son,  
We pray this holy day  
That in the Spirit their love mean  
What words can never say.

## **WHEN LOVE IS FOUND**

1. When love is found and hope comes home,  
Sing and be glad that two are one,  
When love explodes and fills the sky,  
Praise God and share Our Maker's joy.
2. When love has flower'd in trust and care,  
Build both each day, that love may dare,  
To reach beyond home's warmth and light  
To serve and strive for truth and right.
3. When love is tried as loved ones change,  
Hold still to hope though all seems strange,  
'Til ease returns and hope grows wise,  
Through list'ning ears and opened eyes.
4. When love is torn and trust betrayed,  
Pray strength to love 'til torments fade,  
'Til lovers keep no score of wrong,  
But hear through pain love's Easter song.
5. Praise God for love, praise God for life,  
In age or youth, in calm or strife.  
Lift up your hearts! Let love be fed,  
Through death and life in broken bread.