

St. John's Lutheran Church

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The Wedding Book

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Introduction

Congratulations on your upcoming marriage! We are pleased that you have expressed an interest in being married at St. John's. Planning a wedding ceremony can be intimidating and even stressful. The staff at St. John's has created this booklet to guide you through the process, answer frequently asked questions, and serve as a resource.

A Wedding at St. John's is a Worship Service

Marriage is a government function, regulated by the laws of the state. No religious involvement is required to get married.

However, we believe that "marriage is a gift from God, intended for the joy and mutual strength of those who enter it and for the well-being of the whole human family. God created us male and female and blessed humankind with the gifts of companionship and the capacity to love." (*Evangelical Lutheran Worship [ELW]*) The love that we share is a reflection of the unconditional love that God showers upon humanity. There is no better way to start your marriage than in a worship ceremony where your union will be blessed by the source of your love.

By choosing to be married at St. John's, you have decided that your wedding will be a worship service. In this service, you will pledge your love and life-long faithfulness to each other. "The church in worship surrounds these promises with the gathering of God's people, the witness of the word of God, and prayers of blessing and intercession." (*ELW*)

Who may be married at St. John's?

In keeping with the nature of Christian marriage, only those who desire that God be actively present in the marriage ceremony and in their life together are married at St. John's. The desire for a "traditional wedding" or for a beautiful venue for the marriage ceremony is not reason enough to be married in a church.

Getting Started

As you read through this wedding booklet you will notice that some traditions associated with weddings are no longer practiced at St. John's. Some practices have been discontinued for practical reasons and others for theological reasons. In each case we have tried to explain why these traditions have been discontinued.

Initial inquiries about a wedding at St. John's may be answered by the office staff. This wedding book is available on our website (stjohns-ec.org/worship).



Before making further plans for a wedding at St. John, the following arrangements should be made:

1. Determine whether St. John's is an appropriate venue for your wedding, that you desire God to be actively present in the marriage ceremony and in your life together. If necessary, the pastor will help you determine this at your initial meeting.
2. Make certain that the date is available at the church, and that a pastor is able to be present. Pastors are available most of the year with some exceptions such as Holy Week, Synod Assembly, etc. Please note that, normally, only ONE wedding is scheduled per day. Exceptions would require approval from the staff and must comply with the scheduling needs of the first couple to reserve the date.
3. Review the fees involved so that you know what the costs are.
4. Commit to pre-marital counseling with the pastor.

Once these steps have been taken, please call the church office at 715-834-9571 to schedule a consultation with a pastor.

Pastor

The pastor who will officiate at your wedding has been called by St. John's Lutheran Church to "preside at rites of the church." This means it is the pastor's responsibility to see that your marriage service is performed in keeping with the policies of the congregation and within the tradition of the Christian Church.

If you would like a particular pastor to officiate at your wedding, please indicate this at the time you schedule a pastor's consultation. We will try to honor your request, but cannot guarantee that it will be granted.

If you would like to invite another pastor to participate in your wedding service, please discuss this with the pastor at St. John's. If the pastor you would like to invite is an ordained ELCA pastor, he/she may officiate at the service with the St. John's pastor's approval. If the pastor you would like to invite is not of the ELCA, he/she may not officiate at the service, but may participate to the extent that the St. John's pastor decides.

The pastor is the overall supervisor of the wedding and has responsibility for the content of the wedding service and the activity within the worship space. All music content must be approved by the pastor.

Wedding Coordinator

All weddings (except for very small private weddings) will utilize the services of a wedding coordinator. The wedding coordinator supervises the overall flow of the wedding day and the rehearsal, and tends to the details not connected with the worship content (decorations, bride's room, etc.). The wedding coordinator will be on site to assist the pastor and the wedding party at both the rehearsal and the wedding day until the service is over.

Organist

The church organist is responsible for the use of the organ at St. John's. She/he is generally available to play at weddings where organ music or piano music is desired. We will

provide you with the name of the organist and **it will be your responsibility to contact her/him directly to discuss the music.**

If our organist is not available, she/he will suggest a substitute. Should you desire another organist, she/he should be trained and have experience with a pipe organ. Permission for the substitute must be obtained from the church organist.

If you do not require an organist and instead have a pianist in mind, please inform the pastor and wedding coordinator.

Musicians

If you would like to use a vocalist or instruments in addition to the organ or piano within the ceremony, coordinate this with the organist, the organ/piano substitute, or the pastor.

Custodians

While most of the activities of our church custodians take place behind the scenes, they are an essential part of the wedding team. They are responsible for seeing that the church building is in order for your wedding and for fellowship following the wedding.

License

A couple must secure a license to marry from the state of Wisconsin. A license may be obtained by contacting the Eau Claire County Clerk's Office, 721 Oxford Avenue, Eau Claire, WI.

Planning the Wedding Worship Service

The order for marriage in the Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW) is not a rigid form. The liturgy, like marriage itself, is meant to open doors to possibilities, not to exclude creativity. The pastor will discuss liturgical options with you as you meet to plan your wedding.

1. Outline of the Marriage Worship Service

You may use the following outline in order to develop a bulletin for your wedding service. (Please see the complete service printed at the end of this booklet.)

- Prelude (organ, instrumental music)
- Procession (organ, instrumental or congregational hymn)
- The Greeting
- Prayer of the Day
- Hymn or Solo (optional)
- Lessons (one or two scriptural passages may be read here)
- Homily
- Hymn or Solo (optional)
- The Exchange of Vows and Rings
- Pronouncement of Marriage
- The Blessing
- The Lighting of the Unity Candle (optional)
- Hymn or Solo (option - during the lighting of the unity candle)
- Blessing by Parents and Wedding Party (optional)

The Prayers
The Lord's Prayer
The Benediction
Introduction of the Couple (optional)
Recession (organ, instrumental or congregational hymn)

The pastor who presides at the wedding is the final judge as to what is appropriate. Assisting ministers may be used to read the statement about marriage, to read lessons, or to assist in the prayers. These assisting ministers may be lay persons.

2. Decorations

The paraments (altar cloths) at St. John's are designed and used according to the church year. They are not decorations. Thus the paraments may **not** be changed for your wedding in order to coordinate with colors you have chosen. At times, other articles are used in front of the church to emphasize liturgical seasons. These too, are **not** to be changed for weddings. Decorations may be placed on the pews; however no adhesive substances may be used to secure them.

For safety reasons, the use of aisle runners has been discontinued at St. John's. The flooring is not conducive to safe use of an aisle runner.



Floral decorations may be used. Real flowers are encouraged for use in the chancel and on the altar. Please check with your wedding coordinator regarding the use of church flower stands.

In addition to the candles upon the altar, St. John's also has aisle candles and free standing candelabra that you may use for a small fee. Check with your wedding coordinator to reserve these candles and to arrange their placement in the church. The use of these and other decorations should be discussed with your wedding coordinator.

3. Unity Candle

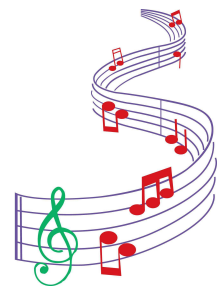
The unity candle is a recent innovation in the marriage service because of the way it symbolizes the joining of two lives in marriage. Some couples use a variation on that theme by combining colored sand. Use of either is optional. You are responsible to provide your own unity candle along with two tapers (side candles and holders) or glass sand containers.

4. Music

Throughout the centuries, the church has used the gift of music to praise and thank God. There is a vast selection of music that is appropriate for wedding ceremonies. Remember that your wedding is a worship service.

a. Instrumental Music

In addition to the suggestions listed below, the congregational organist has many selections and will assist you in your musical selections. If the organist has a question regarding the appropriateness of a song, you will be asked to contact the pastor who is presiding at your wedding for final determination. Please remember: "Whenever music is employed in the service and by whatever



instruments or voices, it should be of high quality and not cloud the mood of the service with triteness or sentimentality. It should moreover be within the ability of the performers at hand to play or sing with assurance." (*Manual on the Liturgy* p. 348).

Recommended organ/piano music for processions:

Canon in D	Pachelbel
Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring	Bach
March (from Occasional Oratorio)	Handel
Prince of Denmark's March (Trumpet Voluntary)	Clarke/Purcell
Processional in C	Hopson
Processional (from Water Music Suite)	Handel
Trumpet March	Lully-Wolff
Trumpet Tune in C	Lau
Air (from Water Music)	Handel

Recommended organ/piano music for recessions:

Allegro (from Symphony #4)	Boyce
Allegro Maestoso (Walter Music)	Handel
God of Grace	arr. Manz
Hornpipe (from Water Music)	Handel
Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee	Beethoven
Psalm 19	Marcello
Prelude in Classic Style	Young
Now Thank We All Our God	Post
Rigaudon	Campra
Rondeau ("Theme from Masterpiece Theater")	Mouret
Trumpet Tune	Clarke/Purcell
Trumpet Finale	Manfredini-Wolff

b. Vocal Music

The guidelines regarding vocal music are stricter than those for instrumental numbers because of the specific message they convey. If you are wondering about whether or not a vocal selection is appropriate for your wedding, here is a tip: If you can answer "yes" to any of the following questions, the music is probably appropriate:

1. Does the music/text reflect praise and/or thanksgiving to God?
2. Is the song based on, or does it reflect a scriptural theme?
3. Is this song in the form of a prayer?

Acceptable Vocal Music:

A Nuptial Blessing	Proulx
Love	Van Dyke
The Greatest of These	Moe
Wedding Hymn (Ptolemy)	Handel
Wedding Prayer	Dunlap
On Eagles Wings	Joncas
My Heart Ever Faithful	J.S. Bach

The Gift of Love	Arr. Hopson
And Now We Join	Halfvarson
All The Glory	Gaither
Author of Love	Clark
Where There is Love	Haas
Wedding Song	Stookey
Two Candles	Salsbury
God, A Woman and a Man	Green
Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us	Bradbury
Household of Faith	Lamb/Rosasco
The Lord's Prayer	
Parents' Prayer	Davis
Irish Blessing	Stookey
In This Very Room	Harris
The Prayer	Sager & Foster

The following selections are examples of vocal music that are inappropriate for use during a wedding worship service:

I Swear	You're my Hero	Endless Love
Speak Softly, Love	The Wind Beneath My Wings	Love Can Build a Bridge
Keeper of the Stars	Amazed	

c. Recorded Music

Some couples ask to use recorded music. While there is nothing inherently wrong with recorded music, you should know that live accompaniment can head off many of the technical difficulties associated with recordings. Missed cues and long pauses are uncomfortable for everyone, and ultimately detract from the beauty of the occasion. We strongly suggest that you refrain from recorded music.

d. Congregational Hymns:

*Since the wedding service is a worship service, it is appropriate for those gathered to sing together. A hymn also adds to the sense of participation in the service by those attending. Hymns may be sung in place of other vocal music or instrumental procession and recession. The following hymns from the **Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW)** are suggested for your consideration.*

At the beginning of the service, during the processional or immediately following the opening prayer:

Lord Jesus Christ, Be Present Now	527
We Praise You, O God	870
Praise to the Lord, the Almighty	858
Holy God, We Praise Your Name	414
I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry	732

During the service following the lessons or homily or during the lighting of the unity candle:

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling	631
You Are Mine	581

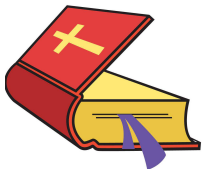
Hear Us Now, Our God and Father	585
Let Us Ever Walk With Jesus	802
Jesu, Jesu	708
The King of Love My Shepherd Is	502
Build us Up, Lord	670
Light Dawns on a Weary World	726

At the end of the service or for the recessional:

On What Has Now Been Sown	550
Now Thank We All Our God	839
Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven	865
Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee	836
Let All Things Now Living	881
Earth and All Stars	731
Shine, Jesus, Shine	671

For additional hymns, please check the sections of the ELW for "Gathering" (hymns #520 to #533), "Community in Christ" (hymns #640 to #659) and "Thanksgiving" (hymns #819 to #886).

5. Scripture Readings



Usually, two scripture lessons are read during the wedding service. You may choose to have more or less. The following is a list of scripture passages couples frequently ask to have read. It is not meant to be exhaustive, merely to stimulate your thinking. If you are having trouble deciding on a reading, you may consult with the pastor. Please give the pastor at least two weeks'

notice of your reading selections.

Old Testament Readings:

Genesis 1:26-31
 Genesis 2:18-24
 Genesis 24:48-51,58-67
 Ruth 1:16-17
 Song of Solomon 2:10-13
 Song of Solomon 5:16
 Song of Solomon 8:7
 Isaiah 61:10-11
 Isaiah 63:7-9
 Jeremiah 32:38-41
 Jeremiah 33:11
 Psalms: 29, 33, 34, 63, 100, 117, 127, 128, 136, 150
 Hosea 2:19-20

General Theme

Male and female created by God
 God creates man and woman
 Marriage of Isaac and Rebekah
 "Do not press me to leave you"
 Love in the Spring
 What my lover is like
 Unquenchable love
 I will greatly rejoice in the Lord
 The steadfast love of God
 God's faithfulness
 The voice...of gladness
 "And I will take you for my wife forever"

New Testament Letters:

Romans 12:1-2
 I Corinthians 7:1-7
 I Corinthians 12:31-13:13
 Ephesians 5:21-33
 Colossians 3:12-17

A living offering
 Marital duties of husband & wife
 The song of God's love
 Marriage and the church
 Live in love and thanksgiving

Philippians 2:5-11
I John 3:16; 4:7-19

Attitudes to build a marriage
Teaching on love

The Gospels:

Matthew 5:1-10
Matthew 5:14-16
Matthew 7:24-27
Matthew 19:4-6
Matthew 22:35-40
John 2:1-10
John 15:9-12
John 17:22-23

The Beatitudes
You are the light
Built on a rock
Faithfulness in marriage
Love the greatest commandment
The Wedding at Cana
Love one another
Christ's prayer for love and unity

You may select a reading from each category if you choose. The order of worship indicates that at least one lesson should be read. In addition to readings from the Bible, a selection from a secular source may be used **if it is in harmony with the spirit of a Christian Worship service and with the biblical understanding of marriage**. Be especially careful with poetry. Many love poems are personal and private expressions not appropriate for public reading at a wedding. These are to be approved by the Pastor.

6. Exchange of Promises



You have the option to choose from several different vows. Please inform the pastor as to your choice at least a week before your wedding.

1. I take you, _____ to be my *wife/husband*, from this day forward, to join with you and share all that is to come, and I promise to be faithful to you until death parts us. (Printed in ELW)
2. In the presence of God and this community, I, _____, take you, _____ to be my *wife/husband*; to have and hold from this day forward, in joy and in sorrow, in plenty and in want, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, as long as we both shall live. (Printed in ELW)
3. I take you, _____ to be my *wife/husband*, and these things I promise to you: I will be faithful to you and honest with you; I will respect, trust, help and care for you; I will share my life with you; I will forgive you as we have been forgiven; and I will try with you better to understand ourselves, the world and God; through the best and worst of what is to come until death parts us.

You may wish to write your own vows. They should be consistent with the biblical understanding of marriage and should make clear that the promises are a life-long commitment. The pastor must approve the wording you choose if it is not a form found in the *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* or this booklet, since it is the pastor who, as a representative of the Church, must certify that a marriage has taken place. If you write your own vows, be careful not to promise the impossible. The vows printed above may serve as a good outline for the writing of your own promises.

7. Holy Communion

As baptized Christians you may request that your marriage include the celebration of Holy Communion. Celebrating marriage in the context of Holy Communion can enrich the meaning of marriage and our understanding of the sacrament.



However, as the word “communion” suggests, the sacrament is meant to be a sign of unity. St. John’s is inclusive and welcomes to the communion table all who believe Jesus Christ is present in the sharing of the bread and wine.

However, differing views over the meaning of communion have historically divided, and continue to divide, church denominations and to divide Christians from those with no professed faith. Communion among those of diverse beliefs can therefore be a cause of division rather than unity, and this should be taken into account in requesting the sacrament. If you plan to have Holy Communion as a part of your wedding service, please indicate your intent to the pastor early in the planning process.

Additional Notes:

1. Ushers

A minimum of two ushers (more if more than 150 guests) is necessary in order to seat and dismiss worshippers. Ushers should exhibit maturity and confidence and should be well-briefed on their responsibilities beforehand.

2. Bulletins

It is helpful, but not necessary, to have printed bulletins to inform guests of the order of worship and the names of participants in the worship service. You should discuss the use of the bulletin with the wedding coordinator. Purchase of bulletin covers and printing are the responsibility of the couple. The St. John’s church office does not print wedding bulletins. If you don’t have one, provide an outline with names, roles and order of service including readings, and music.

Note: The bulletin is the best place to remind the worshippers that no flash pictures should be taken during the service.

3. Photography

We strongly suggest that formal pictures be taken **before** the service. There are several reasons for this.



First, fees for the custodian are based on the assumption that weddings (without receptions held in the church) take no more than three and one half hours. This 3-1/2 hour block must include time for dressing, the wedding service (25-35 minutes) and the reception line following the service (20-30 minutes). Therefore it is important that pictures be done in an efficient manner and concluded at least 30 minutes before the wedding service is scheduled to begin.

Secondly, you will be able to join your guests at the reception in a more timely fashion by having your pictures taken before the ceremony.

Some may object to this practice because of the tradition of "not seeing the bride" before her march down the aisle. The origin of this tradition, however, dates back to the 1800s and arranged marriages where the groom was not allowed to see the bride's face before the ceremony was completed to assure that he would not back out of the arrangement.

Please inform your photographer that pictures will be taken before the ceremony and that the time needs to be limited to one hour and fifteen minutes.

Videography at your ceremony is permissible, but must be done in an unobtrusive manner. The wedding coordinator will talk with your videographer about camera placement. For connection to the church sound system, please consult the wedding coordinator.

No flash pictures may be taken during the wedding service. Please include the following notice in your wedding bulletin:

Please refrain from using cameras with flash during the ceremony. Thank You.

4. Alcoholic Beverages

It is not uncommon for alcoholic beverages to be consumed at the occasion of a wedding. Should you choose to have your wedding at St. John's, we ask you to inform your friends and family that **no alcohol may be consumed on the premises, in the parking lots or on the streets adjacent to St. John's**. Ask your friends to take it easy with alcohol at your rehearsal dinner and to abstain completely prior to the rehearsal and wedding ceremony. While weddings are cause for celebration, they are also solemn occasions of worship, requiring a certain standard of behavior. Weddings at St. John's are a privilege; therefore, the pastors and wedding coordinator may dismiss any persons in the wedding party who appear intoxicated. The only beverage allowed in the sanctuary is water.

5. No smoking is allowed inside the church building.

6. No pets allowed in the wedding service.

7. Throwing Rice or Bird Seed, Bubbles

We ask that NO rice or birdseed be thrown on St. John's premises. At one time rice was associated with fertility, thus throwing rice over a newly married couple was a symbol, which is no longer understood in our culture. When it was discovered that rice was fatal to the birds that cleaned up the sidewalks after weddings, people began to throw birdseed instead of rice – which of course loses the original symbolism completely. Now it has been noticed that birdseed is extremely slippery and a potential hazard to pedestrians using the sidewalks. Therefore we ask that this custom not take place on church premises. If you feel the need to be showered with something as you leave the church, we suggest bubbles (outside the building).

8. The Reception

St. John's facilities are available for wedding receptions.

Contact the church office (715-834-9571) for information.

9. Fees

There are a variety of fees charged and appear on the “Wedding Information” sheet that you received when you were given this booklet. A \$100 reservation fee, payable to St. John’s Lutheran Church, is required to reserve the church for your wedding date and is due 2 weeks after your initial meeting with the pastor.

When this is received, your date will be confirmed. Since staff will make commitments to that date, and because the date is then no longer available to others who might want it, the \$100 fee is **nonrefundable** if the wedding does not take place on that date.

Otherwise, your \$100 fee will be refunded the night of your rehearsal.

You are responsible for making separate checks payable to the pastor, organist, other musicians and soloists, the wedding coordinator and the custodian. All checks must be brought to the church AT THE REHEARSAL.

Note: There is an additional mileage fee for an off-site wedding.

10. Invitations to pastors for receptions and rehearsal dinners

Many times it is impossible for the pastor to attend either your rehearsal dinner or your wedding reception if it is held away from the church. If you would like either the pastor or the pastor and his/her spouse to attend such events, please invite them well in advance (at the same time you send your other invitations is customary). This will give the pastor time to respond to your invitation and avoid surprises.

11. Things to bring with you to the rehearsal

- Rings License
- Bulletins Unity Candle and tapers
- Decorations Clothing you wish to have locked up over night

Payment of all fees are to be made the night of the rehearsal. The list below is provided for your organizational purposes. The amount of the specific fee is listed on the “Wedding Information” sheet; checks should be made payable to the specific person assisting with your wedding.

- Wedding Coordinator Organist
- Custodian Building Usage*
- Pew Candles* Candelabras*
- Pastoral Fee

*Checks for these items are payable to St. John’s Lutheran Church and may be combined into one check.

Marriage Service from the *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*

P=pastor, C= congregation, B/G= bride/groom

Entrance

Stand

1. The bride, groom, and wedding party stand in front of the minister. The parents may stand behind the couple.

Greeting

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

C And also with you.

Declaration of Intention

P _____, will you have _____ to be your *wife/husband*, to live together in the covenant of marriage? Will you love *her/him*, comfort *her/him*, honor and keep *her/him*, in sickness and in health, and forsaking all others, be faithful to *her/him* as long as you both shall live?

B/G I Will.

P Will all of you, by God's grace, uphold and care for _____ and _____ in their life together?

C We will.

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray.

Gracious God, you sent your Son Jesus Christ into the world to reveal your love to all people. Enrich _____ and _____ with every good gift, that their life together may show forth your love; and grant that at the last we may all celebrate with Christ the marriage feast that has no end; in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen

Sit

Readings

One or more lessons from the Bible may be read. An address may follow. A hymn may be sung.

Homily (Sermon)

Hymn of the Day

Vows

The couple may join hands.

B/G I take you, _____ to be my *wife/husband*, from this day forward, to join with you and share all that is to come, and I promise to be faithful to you until death parts us.

Or

In the presence of God and this community, I, _____, take you, _____ to be my *wife/husband*; to have and to hold from this day forward, in joy and in sorrow, in plenty and in want, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, as long as we both shall live.

Or

I take you, _____ to be my *wife/husband*, and these things I promise to you: I will be faithful to you and honest with you; I will respect, trust, help and care for you; I will share my life with you; I will forgive you as we have been forgiven; and I will try with you better to understand ourselves, the world and God; through the best and worst of what is to come until death parts us.

Giving of Rings

The bride and groom exchange rings with these words:

B/G _____, I give you this ring as a sign of my love and faithfulness.

Or

_____, I give you this ring as a symbol of my vow. With all that I am, and all that I have, I honor you, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Acclamation

P _____ and _____, by their promises before God and in the presence of this assembly, have joined themselves to one another as husband and wife. Those whom God has joined together let no one separate.

C Amen. Thanks be to God.

Marriage Blessing

Couple may kneel.

P Most gracious God, we give you thanks for your tender love in sending Jesus Christ to come among us, to be born of a human mother, and to endure the cross for our sake, that we may have abundance of life.

By the power of your Holy Spirit pour out the abundance of your blessing on _____ and _____. Defend them from every enemy. Lead them into all peace. Let your love be a seal upon their hearts, a mantle about their shoulders, and a crown upon their foreheads.

Bless them so that their lives together may bear witness to your love. Bless them in their work and in their companionship; in their sleeping and in their waking; in their joys and in their sorrows; in their life and in their death.

Finally, in your mercy, bring them to that table where your saints feast forever in your heavenly home, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Stand

Prayers of Intercession

Each petition may end:

P Gracious and faithful God,

C Hear our prayer.

The presiding minister concludes the prayer

C Amen.

A service with communion continues with the peace.

Or

A service without communion continues as follows.

C 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. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen

Peace

If this has not been included earlier in the service, the greeting of peace may be shared.

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

Greeting to one another is shared Peace Be With You or similar words.

Blessing

P The blessed and holy Trinity make you strong in faith and love, defend you on every side, and guide you in truth and peace, now and forever.

C Amen.

Or

P God Almighty sends you light and truth to keep you all the days of your life. The hand of God protect you; the holy angels accompany you; and the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the ✕ Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with you now and forever.

C Amen.

Dismissal

P Go in peace, Serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

A hymn may be sung or instrumental music played as the wedding group and the ministers depart.

