



**The Sacrament of Holy Matrimony
according to the use of
The Orthodox Apostolic Church**

**Ceremony of Salisbury
for celebration in parishes of the Western Rite**

**HOLY COMFORTER ORTHODOX CHURCH
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in the hope that all people may enjoy the
Presence of God
in their lives.

Please, do not sin.

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The Sacrament of Holy Matrimony

The Celebrant faces the people and the persons to be married, with the woman to the right and the man to the left.

Celebrant: Dearly beloved: We have come together in the presence of God to witness and bless the joining together of this man and this woman in Holy Matrimony. The bond and covenant of marriage was established by God in creation, and our Lord Jesus Christ adorned this manner of life by his presence and first miracle at a wedding in Cana of Galilee. It signifies to us the mystery of the union between Christ and his Church, and Holy Scripture commends it to be honored among all people.

The union of husband and wife in heart, body, and mind is intended by God for their mutual joy; for the help and comfort given one another in prosperity and adversity; and, when it is God's will, for the procreation of children and their nurture in the knowledge and love of the Lord. Therefore, marriage is not to be entered into unadvisedly or lightly, but reverently, deliberately, and in accordance with the purposes for which it was instituted by God.

Into this holy union (name of bride) and (name of groom) now come to be joined. If any of you can show just cause why they may not lawfully be married, speak now; or else for ever hold your peace.

The Celebrant pauses.

The Charge and the Promises

Celebrant: I require and charge you both, here in the presence of God, that if either of you know any reason why you may not be united in marriage lawfully, and in accordance with God's Word, you do now confess it.

The Celebrant pauses, then addresses the bride.

Celebrant: (name of bride), will you have this man to be your husband; to live together in the covenant of marriage? Will you love him, comfort him, honor and keep him, in sickness and in health; and, forsaking all others, be faithful to him as long as you both shall live?

Bride: I Will.

Celebrant: (name of groom), will you have this woman to be your wife; to live together in the covenant of marriage? Will you love her, comfort her, honor and keep her, in sickness and in health; and, forsaking all others, be faithful to her as long as you both shall live?

Groom: I Will.

The Celebrant addresses the entire congregation.

Celebrant: Will all of you witnessing these promises do all in your power to uphold these two persons in their marriage?

All: **I Will.**

Celebrant: Who gives this woman to be married to this man?

Presenter: I Do.

The Celebrant leads the congregation in prayer:

Celebrant: Let us pray.
O gracious and everliving God, you have created us male and female in your image: Look mercifully upon this man and this woman who come to you seeking your blessing, and assist them with your grace, that with true fidelity and steadfast love they may honor and keep the promises and vows they make; through Jesus Christ our Saviour, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

The Readings from the Holy Scripture

The bride turns and reads to all present this reading from the Song of Solomon, chapter 2:10-13, (from NIV)

Bride: My lover spoke and said to me,
“Arise, my darling, my beautiful one, and come with me. See! the winter is past; the rains are over and gone. Flowers appear on the earth; the season of singing has come, the cooing of doves is heard in our land. The fig tree forms its early fruit; the blossoming vines spread their fragrance.
Arise, come, my darling; my beautiful one, come with me.”

The groom turns and reads to all present this reading, the wedding prayer of Tobiah, from Tobit, 8:5b-7, (from NAB)

Groom: Blessed are you, O God of our fathers; praised be your name forever and ever. Let the heavens and all your creation praise you forever.
You made Adam and you gave him his wife Eve to be his help and support; and from these two the human race descended.

You said, "It is not good for the man to be alone; let us make him a partner like himself."

Now, Lord, you know that I take this wife of mine not because of lust, but for a noble purpose. Call down your mercy on me and on her, and allow us to live together to a happy old age.

The Celebrant or other designated minister reads to all present this Gospel Reading from Matthew 5:1-12, (from NRSV)

Celebrant: When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

The Saying of the Vows

The groom shall face the bride, take her right hand in his.

Groom: In the Name of God,
I, (name of groom),
Take you, (name of bride),
To be my wife,
To have and to hold from this day forward,
For better for worse,
For richer for poorer,
In sickness and in health,
To love and to cherish,
Until we are parted by death.
This is my solemn vow.

Then the bride shall take the right hand of the groom in hers.

Bride: In the Name of God,
I, (name of bride),
Take you, (name of groom),
To be my husband,
To have and to hold from this day forward,
For better for worse,
For richer for poorer,
In sickness and in health,
To love and to cherish,
Until we are parted by death.
This is my solemn vow.

The Blessing of the Rings

The rings are presented to the Celebrant.

Celebrant: Bless, O Lord, these rings to be signs of the vows by which this man and this woman have bound themselves to each other; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The groom places the ring on the bride's ring-finger.

Groom: (name of bride), I give you this ring
as a symbol of my vow,
And 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.

The bride places the ring on the groom's ring-finger.

Bride: (name of groom), I give you this ring
as a symbol of my vow,
And 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.

The Pronouncement of the Marriage

Then the Celebrant joins the hands of husband and wife.

Celebrant: Now that (name of bride) and (name of groom) have given themselves to each other by solemn vows, with the joining of hands and the giving and receiving of rings, I pronounce that they are husband and wife, in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Those whom God has joined together let no one put asunder. **AMEN.**

The Blessing of the Marriage

Celebrant: 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 make the way of the cross to be the way of life. We thank you, also, for consecrating the union of man and woman in his Name. By the power of your Holy Spirit, pour out the abundance of your blessing upon this man and this woman. Defend them from every enemy. Lead them into all peace. Let their love for each other be a seal upon their hearts, a mantle about their shoulders, and a crown upon their foreheads. 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 for ever in your heavenly home; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever **AMEN.**

The General Blessing and Dismissal

Celebrant: The Peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord: and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be amongst you, and remain with you always. **AMEN.**

So ends the ceremony.