

# **Holy Matrimony**

St. Gregory of Nyssa Episcopal Church  
San Francisco, California

## Entrance Procession and Welcoming

Leader A with the script for the presider.

Presider.

Umbrella.

Leader C with the candle.

Leader B with the book.

Bridal Couple

Umbrella.

Cantor.

*Vested party go the front side of the table, facing the street,*

*Cantor goes to the choir.*

*Bell-ringer stops ringing when the vested party arrives at table.*

*Presider sings as he/she enters...*

### **Presider**

♪ The Lord be with you.

### **People**

♪ And also with you.

### **Presider**

♪ Let us pray:

Blessed be God the Word,

who came to his own

and his own received him not

for in this way God glorifies the stranger.

Oh God, show us your image

in all we meet today

that we may welcome them, and you,

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

### **People**

♪ Amen.

*Cantor immediately leads the choir in the prelude.*

*Vested party kiss the Table, then split to opposite sides to greet everyone.*

*Vested party circles the room, greeting EVERYONE warmly, touching them with the left hand, without conversation, finally gathering on the round side of the Table. As gong sounds:*

**Presider**

Christ is Risen!

**People**

He is risen, indeed!

**Presider**

Please come all the way on to the wood floor... ad lib to welcome in closer, transition to music warm up

**Cantor**

Come close in. Let's sing! All the music you'll need for the service is in these books (hold up MFL) and on the (\_\_\_\_\_ colored) hymn sheet. Please open your books to number \_\_\_\_ and we'll sing \_\_\_\_\_ at number \_\_\_\_.

*Cantor leads the Trisagion ONLY.*

**Presider**

We have come together to bless the marriage of N. and N., to share in their happiness and celebrate their hopes for the future.

This covenant involves caring and giving. It involves learning to share one's life with another person, forgiving one another, and enjoying the depth of love that can be

found together. It involves facing together whatever adversity may arise and celebrating life's joys.

Here before God, N. and N. wish to reaffirm their love for each other and their commitment to spend their lives together. May God uphold and cheer you, that your promises may be honored, your words true, now and in time to come.

### **Leader A**

We'll go into the seating area together. When you see us leading off with the candle and cross, please go all the way to the far end (gesture) and leave seats at this end for latecomers. As we go N. will sing Psalm 148, and we'll sing an Alleluia refrain.

*Cantor teaches and then leads Alleluia refrain.*

### **Psalm 148**

Hallelujah! Praise the Lord! Across the heavens, from the heights,\*

all you angels, heavenly beings, sing praise, sing praise!

Sun and moon, glittering stars, sing praise, sing praise.\*

Highest heavens, rain clouds, sing praise, sing praise.

Praise God's name, whose word called you forth\*  
and fixed you in place for ever by eternal decree.

Let there be praise: from depths of the earth,\*  
from creatures of the deep.

Fire and hail, snow and mist, storms, and winds,\*  
mountains, hills, fruit trees and cedars,

Wild beasts and tame, snakes and birds,\*  
princes, judges, rulers, subjects,

Men, women, old and young,\*  
praise, praise the holy name, this name beyond all names.

God's splendor above the earth, above the heavens,\*  
gives strength to the nation, glory to the faithful.

A people close to the Lord.\*  
Israel, let there be praise!

*Procession to the seated area*

*Leader C moves at second Alleluia cycle to lead the procession into the seating area, on the HILL SIDE.*

*Pauses at the lectern help recruit(s) light candles, then shows the umbrella carriers where to put the umbrellas.*

*Puts candle on the stand on the presider's left.*

*Checks to see where Readers are seated.*

*Leader A walks to the chair on the presider's left, and remains standing.*

*Presider walks to the presider's chair.*

*Leader B walks to his/her chair. Checks to see where readers are seated.*

*Candle-Lighters light candles around the lectern from C's candle.*

*Presider stands in front of chair. Hands cross to A.*

*Leader A places the presider's cross in its base. Then holds the script for the presider.*

*Leader B gives Gospel Book to Presider.*

*Cantor stands at the opposite end of the platform chanting the Psalm until everyone is in place, then signals the congregation to sing the final Alleluia and moves to his/her seat.*

## **Liturgy of the Word**

### **Incense Hymn**

#### **Leader A**

The Blessing and Incense Hymn are found at number \_\_\_\_ in your music book. \_\_\_\_\_ Number \_\_\_\_.

*Cantor gives Presider a pitch.*

*Presider signs the cross over congregation with book*

#### **Presider**

♩ Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

#### **People**

♩ And blessed be God's Kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

*Cantor leads the Blessing and Incense Hymn.*

*Presider gives book to Leader B.*

*Leader B takes Gospel Book from Presider.*

*During Incense Hymn:*

*Leader C carries Candle to lectern, adds incense to the thurible, and then stands STREET SIDE of the lectern.*

*Leader B carries Gospel book to lectern, places the Book on the stand, and then stands on the HILL SIDE of the lectern.*

*Leader A remains with Presider. Holds book open to the opening prayer as needed.*

## **Opening Prayer**

*Cantor offers Presider a pitch*

### **Presider**

♪ The Lord be with you!

### **People**

♪ And also with you!

### **Presider**

♪ Let us pray!

Holy Trinity, one God, three Persons perfect in unity and equal in majesty: Draw together with bonds of love and affection N. and N., who with their families seek to live in harmony and forbearance all their days, that their joining together will be to us a reflection of that perfect communion which is your very essence and life, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, who live and reign in glory everlasting. Amen.

or

Gracious God,  
in Christ you reveal your love, your power and your joy.  
May that love draw us closer to you,  
that power strengthen us in service,  
and that joy pervade our whole being.  
Through Christ our Lord.

or

O gracious and ever living 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 Savior, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

or

Something else...

**All**

♫ AMEN.

*Leader A takes cross from Presider and replaces it in stand.*

**Sh'ma or Opening Hymn**

**Leader C/B**

We'll sing number \_\_\_\_\_ Sh'ma Israel, at number \_\_\_\_\_".

*Cantor gives pitch.*

C/B ♫ "Sh'ma Yisrael, Adonai..."

*Congregation follows in English*

*As soon as the English verse starts...*

*B/C bring the First Reader to lectern;*

*B stands on the Reader's left and C stands on the Reader's right.*



## **First Reading**

### **Leader B**

Please take your seats. (pause until people stop rustling)  
and hear a reading from \_\_\_\_\_.

*Cantor make sure the recorder is turned ON, but NOT recording.*

*Cantor rings pot bells at the conclusion of the reading.*

*Reader returns to his/her seat.*

*Leader C carries candle back to candle stand.*

*Leader B thanks reader and returns to seat, leaving Gospel Book on the stand.*

*Cantor TWO minutes of silence, rings tingsha (hand cymbals).*

## **Canticle**

### **Leader A (standing)**

Turn to number \_\_\_\_ in your books, \_\_\_\_\_.

Stand and sing at number \_\_\_\_.

## **Cantor or Assisting Cantor**

We'll sing \_\_\_\_\_ [name] this way: the first verse, everyone sing in unison, then for the rest of the verses choose a part and we'll sing in harmony. We'll sing right through, without pausing at the end of the verse – and we'll keep a brisk tempo. You'll find the Gospel responses at the bottom of the page [or "facing page" or "back of the sheet"].

*Cantor Line out the first phrase.*

*Midway through the Canticle:*

*Leader B and C bring Gospel Reader to lectern; B stands on the Reader's left and C stands on the Reader's right.*

*Preacher if different from Presider, switch places now.*

## **Gospel Reading**

*Leader B signs cross on Book, then crosses forehead, lips and heart*

## **Leader B**

*♩ The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to*

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## **People**

*♩ Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

*Reader reads or chants the Gospel.*

*after the reading: [all Leaders move immediately]...*

*Leader C walks toward the chair singing,*

## **Leader C**

*♩ The Gospel of the Lord!*

## **People**

*Praise to you, Lord Christ!*

*Leader C carries candle to stand.*

*Leader B carries book close behind candle and hands it to the preacher.*

*All sit.*

*Cantor rings pot bells.*

*Cantor presses the RECORD button on the recorder TWICE.*

*Cantor TWO minutes of silence, rings tingsha (hand cymbals).*

## **Sermon**

*Preacher offers sermon of TEN to TWELVE minutes.*

*Preacher cues Cantor to ring pot-bells at end of sermon;*

*Cantor ring pot-bells then press the STOP button on the recorder.*

*Cantor observes ONE minute silence; rings hand-bells.*

## **Preacher**

We complete the sermon together. If an experience of your own came to mind, please share it now while we listen for God speaking to us in the silence.

*Cantor unobtrusively puts the recorder in the aqua storage box and locks it with the cable around the presider's chair.*

*Preacher Limit sharing to no more than seven minutes, then:*

## **Preacher**

Thank you all. Let's sing some Alleluias!

## **Gospel Procession**

**Leader A** *steps immediately onto platform,*

The Alleluia is found at number \_\_\_\_ in your book.

As we sing, we'll carry the Gospel Book around for you to greet with a touch, a kiss, or a bow. If you can't reach the Book, please put your hand on the shoulder of someone who can. Stand and sing at Number \_\_\_\_.

*Leader B helps Umbrella carriers and carries the maniple.*

*Preacher stands and holds book for vested party to kiss.*

*Thurible Lighter goes to kitchen to light two charcoals for the thurible.*

**PROCESSION ORDER:**

*Leader C carrying candle.*

*Preacher carrying the book.*

*Umbrella shadowing the book.*

*Vested party mixed among other umbrellas.*

*The procession moves briskly through the congregation.*

*Vested party members smile, make eye contact, and touch people while singing and moving, without making conversation.*

*Cantor leads the Alleluia and adds Psalm verses from the platform, always facing the book.*

*Leader B takes book and places it on the Shrine. Carries the maniple for the prayers that follow. After placing the book, stands on the solea near the lectern.*

*Leader C rings the tower bell until the vested party has returned to their seats (this work may be given away to a willing child.)*

*Leader A assists Umbrella carriers to collapse / store umbrellas, then goes to stand with CANTOR on the solea as the bell ringing and alleluias stop.*

*The Couple stand with the presider on the solea.*

## **The Marriage**

### **Presider**

Jesus, do for N. and N.  
as you did in Cana of Galilee.  
Take the water of their separate lives,  
and turn them into gospel wine.

or

N. and N., may the bond between  
you show to the world  
the power of God's love  
making a new creation.

or

Jesus, show to us,  
in the lives of N. and N.,  
the mystery of your love  
for the church.

### **N.**

N. I have taken you to be my husband.  
All that I have I offer you;  
what you have to give I gladly receive;  
wherever you go, I will go.  
You are my love.  
God keep me true to you always  
and you to me.

**N.**

N., I have taken you to be my wife.  
All that I have I offer you;  
what you have to give I gladly receive;  
wherever you go, I will go.  
You are my love.  
God keep me true to you always  
and you to me.

*N. & N. hold out their ringed hands.*

**Presider**

Christ our light, encircle these rings with your blessing to  
show the love of N. and N.  
Bind them together and keep them in your love eternally.

*The Presider binds their hands and says:*

**Presider**

God so join you together that nothing shall ever part you.

**People**

Amen.

**The Prayers**

*The couple stand at the far end of the solea facing the presider.*

*Leader B holds manipule*

**Leader**

We'll sing the Lord's Prayer found at number \_\_\_\_\_ in your  
book. After the prayer for peace take turns calling out your  
prayers aloud. Number \_\_\_\_\_.

*Cantor leads congregation in singing Lord's Prayer through "and deliver us from evil".*

**Leader A**

For your love that calls N. and N. into being and frees them to love one another, let us bless the Lord.

**People** Thanks be to God.

**Leader B**

For sharing this joyful day with N. and N. and for the gift of faith to commit all our lives to your love, let us bless the Lord.

**People**

Thanks be to God.

**Leader C**

That N. and N. may be upheld in your faithful love, let us pray to the Lord.

**People**

Lord have mercy.

**Leader A**

That your peace enfold them for ever and their home be free from all evil, let us pray to the Lord.

**People**

Lord have mercy.

**Leader B**

That your wisdom surround them and sustain them in sickness and in sorrow, let us pray to the Lord.

**People**

Lord have mercy.

**Leader C**

For the wisdom to care for the children you (have entrusted / may give) to them; let us pray to the Lord.

**People**

Lord have mercy.

**Leader B**

For peace in the whole world, for peace in \_\_\_\_\_ and for what other places shall we pray? [pause] and for peace everywhere, let us pray to the Lord.

**People**

Lord have mercy.

*People add their own prayers*

**Leader C**

For \_\_\_\_\_, our Bishop, \_\_\_\_\_ our presiding Bishop, \_\_\_\_\_, Archbishop of Canterbury, Let us pray to the Lord.

*Leader B extends maniple toward those who pray aloud.*

*Leader A make sure that prayers include: the church / the nation and her leaders / the world's welfare /local concerns / the sick, suffering and imprisoned.*

*A, B or C offer prayers for those that are missed.*

*Presider decides when to conclude open prayer by saying,*

**Presider**

For peace for the dead, and comfort for mourners, let us pray to the Lord.

**Leader B**

For those we have wronged, for our enemies and all who wrong us, let us pray to the Lord.

For forgiveness, generosity and love among all people everywhere, and for the coming kingdom of peace, Let us pray to the Lord.

In fellowship with Gregory of Nyssa, with Mary, Jesus' mother, (with \_\_\_\_\_) and with all God's holy people in every time and place, let us commend ourselves and each other, and all our lives through Christ to God.

*Cantor offers a pitch.*

**Presider**

♪ Giver of every gift, source of all goodness, hear the prayers we bring before you for N. and N., who seek your blessing this day. Give them a share in the saving work of Jesus, who gave himself for us, and bring about the fullness of life he promised, who now lives and reigns for ever and ever...

*ALL sing Doxology.*



## **Tripudium**

*Leader A starts speech immediately (see below). Demonstrates the step as he/she says the lines, then goes with the presider to the table under the scroll.*

*Presider (with cross) demonstrates step, then goes to the table under the scroll.*

*Cantor demonstrates step, then remains on platform to lead step, then joins the end of a line on LEFT.*

*Leader B demonstrates step, then leads a line (preferably on the RIGHT).*

*Leader C demonstrates step, then leads a line (preferably on the LEFT).*

*Thurifer (typically the presider) goes to the table under the scroll to lead gifts in procession.*

## **Leader A steps onto platform**

We will go up to the Table in step, singing \_\_\_\_\_, found (on your colored sheet / at Number \_\_\_\_.)

The step is very simple; look at us and we'll show you how it goes. Starting on your right foot, go right, left, right, back; (demonstrate)

right, left, right, back;

right left, right, back.

Place your hand on the shoulder of the person in front of you and \_\_\_\_\_ will tell us when to step off.

## **Cantor**

When we get to the word " \_\_\_\_\_," please step off on your right foot and start the right, left, right, back pattern.

*Cantor leads the Tripudium, cues people to move at the right time, calls for additional stanzas if needed to get everyone circling the Table.*

*Presider leads the couple to the altar.*

*Drummer begin drumming when the cantor tells people to step off.*

## **Transfer of the Gifts**

*Leader A uncovers the bread and forms gift bearers into a line and starts them moving behind the presider as soon as the congregation comes into the rotunda, keeping in step with the rest of the congregation. The other Leaders make sure the couple get to the flat side of the altar.*

## **The Nuptial Blessing**

### **Leader A**

We're going to join in blessing N. and N. Everyone, please place a hand on the shoulder of the person in front of you, reaching out to give your support and blessing to their marriage. Those closest to N. and N., please place a hand on their shoulders.

### **Presider**

♪ All praise and blessing to you, God of love, creator of the universe, maker of humankind in your likeness, source and blessing of love. All praise to you for you have created courtship and marriage, joy and gladness, feasting and laughter, pleasure and delight, lover and beloved. May your blessing come in full upon N. and N. Let their love for each other be a seal upon their hearts, a mantle about their shoulders and a crown on their foreheads. May they know your presence in their joys and in their sorrows. May they reach old age in the company of friends and come at last to your eternal kingdom.

### **People**

Amen.

## **The Peace**

### **Presider**

N. and N., lead us in sharing a sign of Christ's Peace; the Peace of the Lord be with you all!

## **People**

And also with you!

*All exchange peace.*

*Thurible-lighter returns the thurible to the candle closet. Turn on the exhaust fan and shut the door to the closet.*

## **The Great Thanksgiving**

*Leader A stands at Presider's RIGHT, makes sure Presider has cross, Missal, correct page, etc.*

*Leader B stands at Presider's LEFT.*

*Leader C stands out in FRONT of Table and helps where needed.*

*Leader A remove palls from chalices and patens, fold and place on table.*

*Chalice Bearers come to the table.*

*Cantor shaking sistrum [to end the peace]...*

*Please make room for the choir over here, and open your books to number \_\_\_\_.*

**All Vested** *gesturing to the People*

♪ Draw Near! Draw near!

**ASSIGNED** *confident singing voice*

♪ Parents, take your children in hand!

Let us love one another that we may offer the Holy Sacrifice in Peace!

## **People**

♪ A blessing of peace, a sacrifice of praise!

## **Eucharistic Prayer**

*Presider sings the prayer from the Eucharistic Prayer Book (Missal).*

## **Fraction**

*Presider begins to break the bread.*

*Everyone assists in breaking the bread, filling chalices, and passing them around the table.*

*All communion servers LOOK TO THE PRESIDER*

*ALL lift patens and chalices high and turn in a circle as the Presider sings...*

## **Presider**

♪ Holy gifts for holy people.

## **People**

♪ "One is holy..."

## **Communion**

### **Leader A**

Jesus welcomes everyone to his table and so we offer everyone, without exception, the bread and wine which are Christ's body and blood.

(Presider's name), the Body of Christ. (Amen)

The Blood of Christ. (Amen)

*Presider offers bread and cup first to the Cantor and Leader A, then others at the Table, alternating from one side of the table to the other.*

*Communion servers: distribute communion according to plan below; communicate choir as soon as music is finished. DON'T RUSH!*

*Communion servers return all patens and chalices to table and cover with palls.*

## **Post-communion Blessing**

### **Presider**

Arise Jerusalem and stand on high,  
and look about toward the east  
and behold your children,  
gathered together from the rising to the setting sun  
at the word of the Holy One,  
rejoicing that God has remembered them.

For they went out from you on foot  
led away by their enemies,  
but the Lord will bring them back to you  
riding high in honor as children of the kingdom.

*Presider bows and signs him/herself with the cross.*

*Others may sign themselves with the cross.*

✠ Blessed be the name of the Lord,  
henceforth and for ever more.

### **People**

Amen.

*The following, the COLLECTION, is used on Sundays only.*

### **Collection**

*Leader A Holds basket HIGH!*

### **Leader A**

Now seeing how greatly God loves us, let's share freely of the good things we've received. Bring your gifts of money for the work of the church to the table, in thanksgiving for all of God's blessings.

If this is your first time here, you can wait. Instead of giving, notice your blessings, and make a thanksgiving gift when you return.

*Cantor leads offertory music.*

*ONE Offering Collector (a recruit) carries an offering basket around the outside of the circle to collect from those who can't get to the table and takes the basket to the Table.*

*Choir DO NOT PUT MUSIC FOLDERS IN THE CABINET. Keep focus on the action in the center of the room.*

**Polychronia** *This is used at non-Sunday weddings.*

### **Leader C**

Is anyone celebrating a birthday or anniversary? (become a new member, just been baptized, just been married(!) etc. --- Please come to the Table so we can bless you.

*Leader C helps gather people around Table for Polychronia,*

*Leader A feed back NAMES to Presider or Cantor*

*Cantor teaches by ear – no page number!*

### **Cantor**

The words are "God grant them many years..." which we'll repeat three times:

### **Presider**

♩ To \_\_\_\_\_, may the Lord grant long life peace and protection and many years!

*Presider blesses each person*

God grant them many years! God grant them many years!

God grant them many years!

## **Announcements & Carol**

### **Announcer**

Before we sing the last hymn, let me tell you what will happen right after the service. Coffee will appear here on the table (gesture) food there by the crosses (gesture) and healing prayer over there under the icon of Bishop Tutu.

Please stay, and also (stay for; come back for)

\_\_\_\_\_ (one event, preferably for today, give time and location.) If you want to receive news and announcements about upcoming events at St. Gregory's, sign our guestbook (hold up) and give us your email address.

### **Cantor**

Now we'll sing and dance the carol, God is working a prupose out on your music sheets. Carols are sung dances, and we'll make it easy for you to dance the carol by surrounding you with people who've done it before.

Now place your right hand on the shoulder of the person on your right, and start walking to the right until we can all move....

*Teacher teaches step until familiar.*

*Cantor offers pitch, then leads the Carol.*

*When the Carol is finished:*

*(LOOK TO CANTOR FOR CUE:)*

### **All Vested**

LET US BLESS THE LORD!

### **People**

Thanks be to God!

END.