



**Supplemental Resources
for use within the
Evangelical Lutheran Worship
Service of Marriage**

August 2016

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Supplemental Resources for use within the Evangelical Lutheran Worship Service of Marriage

Resources for the Gathering Section

These resources are supplemental to those included in Evangelical Lutheran Worship (assembly and leaders editions) and Evangelical Lutheran Worship Occasional Services for the Assembly. Please consult those sources for the full orders of service and accompanying descriptive material.

Entrance

The assembly stands as the ministers and the wedding group enter. Music—hymn, song, psalm, instrumental music—may accompany the entrance. When the service includes a thanksgiving for baptism, the ministers and the wedding group may gather at the baptismal font, and the assembly faces the font.

[Greeting]

Introduction A

The minister may address the assembly with these or similar words.

Dear friends:

We have come together in the presence of God
to witness the marriage of name and name,
to surround them with our prayers,^[SEP]
and to share in their joy.

God intends the gift of their marriage
to be a source of comfort and joy for them,
and a blessing to all whom they encounter.
Their promises bear witness to God's faithfulness.
Their love and care for one another,
though human, finite, and flawed,
reflect God's enduring mercy and steadfast love.
They love because God first loved them.

Water may be poured into the font. The minister addresses the couple.

Name and name, dearly beloved of God,
when you make your promises to one another,
you will draw from the deep well of the promise
God made to you the day you were baptized:
to make a home with you wherever you live,
to clothe you with forgiveness and mercy,
to send you as light into the world,
and to give you abundant life in Jesus Christ.

Introduction B

The minister may address the couple with these or similar words.

In the waters of baptism,
you are claimed by God and marked with the cross of Christ forever.
God clothes you with mercy and lovingkindness, forgiveness and hope,
gifts that you are called to share with the world.
In marriage your life in Christ takes a new shape
as you make promises of love and commitment to one another.
As God has chosen us, you choose one another,
sharing the gifts of your baptism not only separately but joined together.
Your marriage brings you joy and serves the community by witnessing to Christ,
as you daily die to self-centeredness and rise to self-giving love.
God joins this celebration, pouring out the Holy Spirit
to bless your marriage with forgiveness, courage, and compassion.
The community joins God in rejoicing with you
and in promising to surround your marriage with joy and loving support.

Introduction C

The minister may introduce the service with these or similar words.

Name and name have come to make their marriage vows
in the presence of God and this assembly.
The uniting of these two persons in heart, body, and mind
is intended by God for their mutual joy,
for the help and comfort they give one another in prosperity and adversity,
and that their love may be a blessing to all whom they encounter.
Let us now witness their promises to each other and surround them with our prayers,
giving thanks to God for the gift of marriage and asking God's blessing upon them,
that they may be strengthened for their life together and nurtured in the love of God.

Declaration of Intention

The minister addresses the couple in these or similar words, asking each person in turn:

Name, living in the promise of God,
[joined to Christ in baptism,]
will you freely receive name as your *wife/husband/spouse/life partner*,
and will you freely give yourself to name,
binding yourself to name in the covenant of marriage?

I will.

The minister may address the assembly in these or similar words.

Friends and families of name and name,
[drawing from that same well of love and mercy,]
will you encourage and honor,
pray and care for name and name in their life together?

We will.

Thanksgiving for Baptism

A thanksgiving for baptism may follow. Water may be poured into the font. The presiding minister leads this or another form of thanksgiving.

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,
clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness,
let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Holy God, fountain of living water,
source of mercy, tender and mighty,
you are clothed with majesty and splendor.
Your steadfast love fills the earth.

[Your steadfast love fills the earth.]

Your love flows through water,
satisfying the thirst of all living things,
sustaining life in this community,
nourishing and delighting *name* and *name*.
We bless you for these gifts of water:

[Local waters or those significant to the couple may be named.]

Your steadfast love fills the earth.

[Your steadfast love fills the earth.]

Your love flows through water,
a sign of your saving power:
Noah and the animals survive the flood.
Hagar discovers your well.
The Israelites escape through the sea.
Naaman washes his leprosy away
and the Samaritan woman will never thirst again.
Your steadfast love fills the earth.

[Your steadfast love fills the earth.]

Your love flows through the water of baptism
joined to your life-giving Word:
your well of mercy and cleansing flood,
your sea of deliverance from death into life,
your healing river washing sin away,
your living water springing up to eternal life.
Your steadfast love fills the earth.

[Your steadfast love fills the earth.]

Shower us with your Holy Spirit.
Fill *name* and *name* with your love.
Clothe them and all your people with grace.
Embolden us to do justice.

Bless us to love mercy.
Guide us to walk humbly with you,
whom we thank and praise, through Jesus Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

If the font is located near the entrance door, the wedding group and the ministers may continue into the assembly. Music, especially assembly song, may accompany the entrance. As a reminder of the gift of baptism, the assembly may be sprinkled with water during the singing.

Supplemental Resources
for use within the Evangelical Lutheran Worship Service of Marriage
Resources for the Word Section

These resources are supplemental to those included in Evangelical Lutheran Worship (assembly and leaders editions) and Evangelical Lutheran Worship Occasional Services for the Assembly. Please consult those sources for the full orders of service and accompanying descriptive material.

Psalms and Readings

Isaiah 55:6-11 [12-13] *God's word accomplishes God's purpose*

Psalms 1:1-3 *Happy are they whose delight is in God*

Psalms 65 *Your paths overflow with plenty*

Psalms 145:1-4, 8-9, 14-18, 21 *I will praise your name and tell your marvelous works*

Psalms 146 *I will sing praise to my God, who keeps promises forever*

especially for those bringing children to the marriage:

Psalms 78:1-7 *We will tell God's wonderful works to our children*

Romans 12:9-21 *Let love be genuine*

Romans 15:5-7, 13 *Welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you*

Ephesians 4:30-5:2 *Live in love, as Christ loved us*

1 John 4:16-18a, 19-21 *We believe the love God has for us*

Matthew 3:13-17, Mark 1:9-11, Luke 3:21-23 *God says, You are my beloved*

Luke 12:22-31 *Do not keep worrying; God feeds and clothes*

John 15:1-5 *Abide in me as branches to the Vine*

John 20:19-23 *Jesus says, Peace be with you*

Hymns

ELW 379	Now the Green Blade Rises
ELW 407	O Living Breath of God / Soplo de Dios viviente
ELW 469	By Your Hand You Feed Your People
ELW 502	The King of Love My Shepherd Is
ELW 543	Go, My Children, with My Blessing
ELW 580	How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord
ELW 587/8	There's a Wideness in God's Mercy
ELW 631	Love Divine, All Loves Excelling
ELW 636	How Small Our Span of Life
ELW 653	Where True Charity and Love Abide
ELW 664	Heaven Is Singing for Joy / El cielo canta alegría
ELW 679	For the Fruit of All Creation
ELW 712	Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service
ELW 757	All My Hope on God is Founded
ELW 760	O Christ the Same

ELW 765 Lord of All Hopefulness
ELW 804 Come Down, O Love Divine
ELW 829 Have You Thanked the Lord?
ELW 845 Voices Raised to You
ELW 861 When Long before Time
ELW 880 O God beyond All Praising
TFF 162 May God Bless Us / Bwana awabariki
Love Has Brought Us Here Together (*Gather, third edition, #969*)

Supplemental Resources
for use within the Evangelical Lutheran Worship Service of Marriage
Resources for the Marriage Section

These resources are supplemental to those included in Evangelical Lutheran Worship (assembly and leaders editions) and Evangelical Lutheran Worship Occasional Services for the Assembly. Please consult those sources for the full orders of service and accompanying descriptive material.

Vows

The couple may join hands. Each promises faithfulness to the other in these or similar words.

[In the name of God, (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,)]

I, name, take you, name,
to be my wife/husband/spouse/life partner,
to have and to hold from this day forward,
for better for worse, for richer for poorer,
in sickness and health, to love and to cherish,
until we are parted by death.
This is my solemn vow.

Acclamation A

The presiding minister addresses the assembly.

Name and name, by their promises before this assembly,
have joined themselves to one another and are married in the sight of God.
Those whom God has joined together let no one separate.
Amen. Thanks be to God.

Acclamation B

The presiding minister addresses the assembly.

Name and name, by their promises before God
and in the presence of this assembly,
have joined themselves to one another as spouses/partners for life.
Those whom God has joined together let no one separate.
Amen. Thanks be to God.

Marriage Blessing

The presiding minister may extend a hand over the couple while praying for God's blessing in these or similar words.

Blessed are you, O God.
Holy is your presence,
glorious is your peace.
You made humans to love and be loved.
You call us together into community
so that we might not live and die alone.

Bless now name and name
as they commit themselves to one another.
As you have blessed your faithful people
throughout time and around the earth,
we ask you now to bless the union of their lives.

Blessed are you, O God, father of mercies.
Pour your mercy over name and name,
that they may know your lovingkindness
and share your mercy with one another.

Blessed are you, O God, mother of life.
Create for name and name countless occasions
when they may share their life with the world.

Blessed are you, O God: you are our home.
Abide in their dwelling,
that it may be a place of warmth and protection,
hospitality and generosity.

Blessed are you, O God: you are the horizon of our days.
Shine always before them,
that they may journey into the future
with you ever in their view.

Blessed are you, O God: you are the everlasting arms.
Protect them from danger,
support them in trouble,
comfort them in sorrow.
Embrace them with your tender strength
all the days of their lives.

Blessed are you, O God, Father, Son, and Spirit.
the Lover, the Beloved, and Love.
Give to name and name and to all people
your love that surpasses understanding.
May we with the whole earth
praise your goodness now and forever.
Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

Prayers of intercession may be prayed. The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion, using the following pattern or another appropriate form. An assisting minister may invite the assembly into prayer with these or similar words:

In our joy, let us turn our hearts toward the church, the world, those in need, and all of God's creation.

Prayers reflect the wideness of God's mercy for the whole world—

for the church universal, its ministry, and the mission of the gospel;

for the well-being of creation;

for peace and justice in the world, the nations and those in authority, the community;

for the poor, oppressed, sick, bereaved, lonely;

for all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit;

for the gathered assembly,

and for special concerns.

Additional prayers may come from the assembly.

Prayers of thanksgiving for the faithful departed may include especially those remembered among the families and friends of the couple.

Each portion of the prayers ends with these or similar words:

God of mercy,

hear our prayer.

or

Faithful and loving God,

receive our prayer.

The prayers of intercession may conclude with these or similar words:

With joy we offer these prayers to the one who promises eternal fidelity and everlasting love, Jesus Christ, our light and our life.

Amen.

One or more of the following petitions may be included or adapted in the prayers that are prepared for the occasion.

For the church, that the love of Christ shape its care for those making promises and building married lives.

For those who carry out ministries of word, sacrament, and service, that they fulfill the promises of their callings among your people with strength, compassion, and joy.

For the community of creation, and especially that the people you created tend well the earth you have placed into our care.

For a world separated by conflict, failed commitments, and false promises, and for those who seek justice, that the love of Christ move society and church to reflect your reign of equality, opportunity, and fairness.

For those in any need; for those who are homeless or seeking refuge; for the sick, the troubled, the sorrowing, [especially those we name before you: name/s], that they know the embrace of your steadfast love and our patient care.

For name and name, that the love of Christ shower on them gifts of patience, forgiveness, and gentleness, and that the light of Christ brighten their witness to God's love in the world.

If the couple made previous commitments before legal marriage

For name and name, that the love of Christ continue to deepen the commitment binding their lives together.

For those gathered here, that the love of Christ give us wisdom to offer our support and care for name and name in their life together.

If conflict among families or friends has accompanied the occasion

For those who could not attend this wedding, that the love of Christ move us into ever-deeper expressions of community and forgiveness.

For those who are married, those who long for marriage, those who struggle in marriage, and those who could not marry in the church, that the love of Christ give them peace, healing, hope, and compassion.

For every life-giving relationship and companionship; for the health of families and all kinds of human communities; and for those who teach us new patterns for abundant life, that in Christ a new creation may come to life and grow.

Giving thanks for those who did not live to see this day, especially name/s, let us pray that the love of Christ gather us with them into eternal celebration where peace and harmony sing into eternal life.

**Supplemental Resources
for use within the Evangelical Lutheran Worship Service of Marriage
Resources for the Meal Section**

These resources are supplemental to those included in Evangelical Lutheran Worship (assembly and leaders editions) and Evangelical Lutheran Worship Occasional Services for the Assembly. Please consult those sources for the full orders of service and accompanying descriptive material.

Preface

The preface of the season or day, or the following form, may introduce the thanksgiving at the table.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times in all places give thanks and praise to you,
almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ.
You made us in your image, for community you created us.
When your Word became flesh, you made your home among us,
bringing us all grace upon grace, for the sake of the world you so love.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Thanksgiving at the Table A

Holy God,
mighty and merciful,
your people praise you, saying,
Your mercy endures forever.
Your mercy endures forever.

By your promise
you bound yourself to earth and all its creatures,
granting them life and calling them to flourish,
setting the sign of your bow in the clouds,
the colors of your love and faithfulness.
Your mercy endures forever.
Your mercy endures forever.

By your promise
you bound yourself to your people of old,
blessing them with family outnumbering the stars
and calling them to be blessing to others,
showing them steadfast love in every generation
and calling them to be a light to the nations.
Your mercy endures forever.
Your mercy endures forever.

By your promise
you joined us to Jesus, your Beloved,
grafting us into your living Vine,
and calling us to bear the fruit of your self-giving love.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

With this bread and cup
we remember his life laid down and lifted up
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Send your Holy Spirit upon us
and these gifts of bread and wine.
Bless us to be a blessing.
Make us a sign of your faithfulness.
Send us to tend and cherish the earth
and to serve the world with mercy and love.

With *[name/s and]* all the saints in light,
with earth and all its creatures,
with sun and moon and stars,
we praise you, O God,
through Christ Jesus,
in your Spirit, now and forever.
Amen.

Thanksgiving at the Table B

Blessed are you, O God of the universe.
Your mercy is everlasting
and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

All creation sings your praise.
Sun, moon, and stars reflect your glory.
Mountains, lakes, and forests declare your wonders.
With Sarah and Abraham we go out in faith, trusting your promise.

With Miriam and Moses we celebrate our deliverance from bondage.
With Naomi and Ruth we bind ourselves together in covenant love.
With Jonathan and David we delight in the gift of deep and abiding friendship.
With Mary and Elizabeth we welcome your presence in the birth of Jesus, the Holy One.
With Lazarus, Martha, and Mary we give thanks for the blessings of family.
With disciples and followers we marvel at the reign of God come near.
With saints through the ages we ponder the mystery of Christ's dying and rising.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

With hearts full of memories and hopes,
we break this bread and share this cup,
remembering the death and resurrection of Christ,
and his promise to be with us always
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

O Divine Lover,
You are the breath within us.
You are our heart's desire.
You are our priceless treasure.
You are the garden of paradise.

Come down, O Love divine.
Come among us, O passionate Fire.
Come within us, O Spirit of unity.
Come, Holy Spirit.
Come, Holy Spirit.

Bless us, O Lord, and these your gifts
which we are about to receive from your bounty.
Bless our table and the feast we share.
Bless us with gladness of heart.
Bless name and name with cups running over.
Come, Holy Spirit.
Come, Holy Spirit.

At this table make of us your body.
Form us to be a people of justice and peace.
Fill us with gratitude and generosity
that we may bear the fruit of love
in word and deed.
Come, Holy Spirit.
Come, Holy Spirit.

Praise to you, Author of creation.
Praise to you, O Beloved One.
Praise to you, O Giver of all good things.
Praise to you, blessed and holy Trinity, one God,
now and forever.
Amen.

Supplemental Resources
for use within the Evangelical Lutheran Worship Service of Marriage
Resources for the Sending Section

These resources are supplemental to those included in Evangelical Lutheran Worship (assembly and leaders editions) and Evangelical Lutheran Worship Occasional Services for the Assembly. Please consult those sources for the full orders of service and accompanying descriptive material.

Dismissal A

An assisting minister may send the assembly forth.

Let love be genuine;
hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good;
love one another with mutual affection;
outdo one another in showing honor.
Be ardent in spirit. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Dismissal B

An assisting minister may send the assembly forth.

Go in peace. Welcome one another
as you have been welcomed.

Thanks be to God.

Supplemental Resources for use within the Evangelical Lutheran Worship Service of Marriage Resources for Additional Notes on the Service

These notes are supplemental to those included in Evangelical Lutheran Worship (assembly and leaders editions) and Evangelical Lutheran Worship Occasional Services for the Assembly. Please consult those sources for the full Notes on the Service.

Gathering

- Many decisions about the entrance are affected by the space in which the marriage takes place. In the congregation's worship space, a procession with instrumental music or singing appropriate to the praise of God is fitting. The procession may include a processional cross and candles, the ministers, members of the wedding group, parents and family members, and the couple. The assembly stands for the whole procession.
- The greeting, introduction, and declaration of intention may take place at the font. A thanksgiving for baptism may follow in the same place. When the font is located near the entrance to the church, the initial procession may be brief or the participants may simply gather at the font. Then, after the declaration of intention (and thanksgiving for baptism), the entrance procession may continue into the worship space and may be accompanied by assembly song. When the font is located in another part of the worship space, appropriate adjustments may be made to the entrance procession. The prayer of the day concludes the Gathering and leads into the liturgy of the Word.
- When one person of the couple is not baptized, the Gathering is modified as needed. Introduction C is provided as a suitable option to the other two, which include baptismal imagery and focus.

Word

- The lists of suggested readings, psalms, and hymns, both those appearing in *Evangelical Lutheran Worship Occasional Services for the Assembly* and the additions listed here, are not exhaustive. The selection of readings is often an important aspect of the pastoral care and preparation with the couple. In addition to these possibilities, pastors and couples are encouraged to explore readings for the liturgical season in which the marriage takes place, including the appointed lectionary readings for the week or upcoming Sunday. The suggested hymn listings are intended not only for the hymn of the day but for other places in the service where hymns may be used.

Marriage

- The supplemental form of the vows provided here (from *Liturgical Resources 1* of The Episcopal Church, 2015) as well as those in *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* are open to the use of traditional language for each person in any couple: wife, husband. *Spouse* or *life partner* are other terms that may be used to signify both persons. Context, gender identity/expression, or common practice are among the factors that may suggest approaches to the language to be used. Another important aspect of pastoral care and preparation with the couple is the selection of vows and terms they will speak to one another. Vows will include the promise of lifelong commitment and an expression of the complete sharing that marriage implies.
- The language of acclamation A echoes a quote from Martin Luther: [If] “from the bottom of their hearts both are of a mind to live together in lawful wedded love,...the two are certainly married in the sight of God” (*To the Christian Nobility of the German Nation Concerning the Reform of the Christian Estate*, 1520).

- In places where the announcement or marriage is prescribed by law, that form should be used instead.
- The prayers of intercession offer another significant opportunity for participation by the couple with the pastor as part of their preparation for marriage. The sample intercessions offered here may be starting points for petitions that reflect the unique history of the couple and the particular nature of the gathered community, while keeping in mind the needs of the whole world, the creation, and all the people of God.

Meal

- When the marriage service includes holy communion, the gathering of an offering for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need, is recommended.
- Two forms of the thanksgiving at the table are offered here, in addition to the forms provided in Evangelical Lutheran Worship. Assembly responses in both forms may be signaled to the assembly by tone of voice and gesture, making the printing of the prayers for the assembly's use unnecessary.

Sending

- Two supplemental forms of the dismissal are offered here. In addition, attention to the vocation of marriage into which the couple is sent may be signaled by the use of Affirmation of Christian Vocation (ELW-LE, p. 155) prior to the blessing and dismissal.