

The Sacrament of Holy Matrimony

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The Sacrament of Holy Matrimony

According to the Rite of the One, Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church

The Self-Ruled Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America

As the clergy leaves the altar to go get the wedding party,
sing the hymn to the Theotokos until the wedding party
gets up front to the altar.

*As the Bride enters the Church, a **hymn to the Theotokos** may be sung.*

The following is from the Ninth Ode of the Paschal Canon which may be chanted in English and Arabic:

Chanter: The angel cried to the lady full of grace, rejoice, rejoice, O pure Virgin, again, I say rejoice; Thy Son is risen from the His three days in the tomb with himself He hath raised all the dead rejoice, rejoice O ye people.

Shine, Shine, Shine O new Jerusalem; the glory of the Lord hath shone on thee. Exalt thou, exalt and be glad O Zion, be radiant, O pure one, Theotokos, in the Resurrection, the Resurrection of thy Son.

The following hymn is the Ninth Ode of the Pentecost Canon for weddings outside the Paschal Season.

Chanter: Rejoice, O Queen, pride of virgins and mothers; for every eloquent and capable mouth doth fall short of extolling thee worthily, and every mind is dazzled at the understanding of the manner of thy birth-giving. Wherefore, in unison do we glorify thee.

The Service of Betrothal

The Betrothal may take place in the vestibule (entrance) of the Church.

Priest: Have you, _____, a good, free, and unconstrained will and a firm intention to take unto yourself to wife this woman, _____, whom you see before you?

Groom: I have.

Priest: Have you, _____, a good, free, and unconstrained will and a firm intention to take unto yourself to husband this man, _____, whom you see before you?

Bride: I have.

Priest: Blessed is our God, always, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

If the service is done between St. Thomas Sunday and the Leave-Taking of Pascha we immediately sing:

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death and upon those in the tombs bestowing life. (3 times)

Chanter: Amen.

Deacon: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Chanter: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For the peace from above and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

Chanter: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For the peace of the whole world; for the good estate of the holy churches of God, and for the union of all men, let us pray to the Lord.

Chanter: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For this holy House, and for those who with faith, reverence, and fear of God enter therein, let us pray to the Lord.

Chanter: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For our Metropolitan _____ and our Bishop _____, the honorable priesthood, the diaconate in Christ, all the clergy and the people, let us pray to the Lord.

Chanter: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For the servant of God, _____, and for the handmaid of God, _____, who now plight each other their troth, and for their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Chanter: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: That He will grant unto them children for the continuation of the race, and all their petitions which are unto salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Chanter: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: That He will send down upon them perfect and peaceful love, and his help, let us pray to the Lord.

Chanter: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: That he will preserve them in oneness of mind, and in steadfastness of faith, let us pray to the Lord.

Chanter: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: That he will bless them with a blameless life, let us pray to the Lord.

Chanter: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: That the Lord our God will grant unto them an honorable marriage and a bed undefiled, let us pray to the Lord.

Chanter: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For our deliverance from all tribulation, wrath, danger, and necessity, let us pray to the Lord.

Chanter: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Help us; save us; have mercy on us, and keep us, O God by thy grace.

Chanter: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Calling to remembrance our all-holy, pure, most blessed and glorious Lady Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and one another and all our life unto Christ, our God.

Chanter: To thee, O Lord.

Priest: For unto thee are due all glory, honor, and worship: to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Chanter: Amen.

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Chanter: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: O eternal God, who hast brought into unity those who were sundered, and hast ordained for them an indissoluble bond of love; who didst bless Isaac and Rebecca, and didst make them heirs of thy promise: Bless also these thy servants, _____ and _____, guiding them unto every good work. For thou art a merciful God, who lovest mankind, and unto thee we ascribe glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Chanter: Amen.

Bishop: Peace be to all.

Chanter: And to thy spirit.

Deacon: Let us bow our heads unto the Lord.

Chanter: To thee, O Lord.

Priest: O Lord our God, who hast espoused the Church as a pure Virgin from among the Gentiles; Bless this Betrothal, and unite and preserve these thy servants in peace and oneness of mind. For unto thee are due all glory, honor and worship: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

The Exchange of the Rings

*The Priest takes bride's Ring, and blesses the groom,
making the sign of the Cross over him, thrice.*

Priest: The servant of God, _____, is betrothed to the handmaid of God, _____, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Chanter: Amen.

The Priest places the Ring on the fourth finger of the groom's right hand (the right hand being the side of honor and strength). Then the Priest takes groom's Ring, and blesses the bride, making the sign of the Cross over her, thrice.

Priest: The handmaid of God, _____, is betrothed to the servant of God, _____, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

The Priest places the Ring on the fourth finger of the bride's right hand, and the couple exchange rings.

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Chanter: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: O Lord our God, who didst accompany the servant of the Patriarch Abraham in to Mesopotamia, when he was sent to espouse a wife for his lord Isaac, and who, by means of the drawing of water, didst reveal to him that he should betroth Rebecca: Do thou, the same Lord, bless also the betrothal of these thy servants, _____ and _____, and confirm the word which they have spoken. Establish them in the holy union which is from thee. For thou, in the beginning, didst make them male and female, and by thee is the woman joined unto the man as a helpmeet, and for the procreation of the human race. Wherefore, O Lord our God, who hast sent forth thy truth upon thine inheritance, and thy covenant unto thy servants our father, even thine elect, from generation to generation; Look thou upon thy servant, _____, and upon thy handmaid, _____, and establish their betrothal in faith and in oneness of mind, in truth and in love. For thou, O Lord, hast declared that a pledge should be given and confirmed in all things. By a ring, power was given to Joseph in Egypt; by a ring, Daniel was glorified in the land of Babylon; by a ring, the uprightness of Tamar was revealed; by a ring, our Heavenly Father showed His bounty upon His Son, for He said: Bring the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and make merry. By thine own right hand, O Lord, thou didst arm Moses in the Red Sea; by thy true word, the heavens were established and the foundations of the earth were made firm; and the right hands of thy servants also shall be blessed by thy mighty work and by thine upraised arm. And, O Lord our God, do thou now bless this putting on of rings with thy heavenly benediction; and let thine Angel go before them all the days of their life;

For thou art He who blesseth and sanctifieth all things, and unto thee do we ascribe glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

The rings are now exchanged

Chanter: Amen.

The Service of Crowning

If the Betrothal took place in the Narthex the Priests lead the groom and bride in a procession into the Church. The marriage is now brought from this world into the Kingdom of God so that the couple may be able to share their new life together in Jesus Christ.

*If the Betrothal took place on the Solea, the Bishop now censes around the Tetrapod while a Priest the chants verses from Psalm 128. **After each verse, the Chanter chants: Glory to thee, our God; glory to thee.***

Priest: Blessed are all they that fear the Lord, and walk in his ways.

Thou shalt eat of the fruit of thy labors: O blessed art thou, and happy shalt thou be.

Thy wife shall be as a fruitful vine upon the walls of thy house: Thy children like a newly-planted olive-orchard round about thy table.

Lo, thus shall the man be blessed that feareth the Lord: The Lord in Zion shall so bless thee, that thou shalt see the good things of Jerusalem all the days of thy life.

Yea, that thou shalt see thy children's children, and peace upon Israel.

Candles

The service of crowning has begun. The groom and bride are given candles which they will hold throughout the service.

Bishop: Blessed is the Kingdom of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

If the service is done between St. Thomas Sunday and the Leave-Taking of Pascha we immediately sing:

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death and upon those in the tombs bestowing life. (3 times)

Chanter: Amen.

Deacon: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Chanter: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For the peace from above and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

Chanter: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For the peace of the whole world; for the good estate of the holy churches of God, and for the union of all men, let us pray to the Lord.

Chanter: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For this holy House, and for those who with faith, reverence, and fear of God enter therein, let us pray to the Lord.

Chanter: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For our Metropolitan _____ and our Bishop _____, the honorable priesthood, the diaconate in Christ, all the clergy and the people, let us pray to the Lord.

Chanter: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For the servants of God, ____ and _____, who are now being united to each other in the community of Marriage, and for their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Chanter: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: That he will bless this marriage, as he blessed that in Cana of Galilee, let us pray to the Lord.

Chanter: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: That he will grant them chastity, and of the fruit of the womb as is expedient for them, let us pray to the Lord.

Chanter: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: That he will make them glad with the sight of sons and daughters, let us pray to the Lord.

Chanter: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: That he will grant to them enjoyment of the blessing of children, and a blameless life, let us pray to the Lord.

Chanter: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: That he will grant to them and to us, all our petitions which are unto salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Chanter: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For our deliverance from all tribulation, wrath, danger and necessity, let us pray to the Lord.

Chanter: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Help us; save us; have mercy on us; and keep us, O God, by thy grace.

Chanter: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Calling to remembrance our all-holy, pure, most blessed and glorious Lady Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and each other and all our life unto Christ, our God.

Chanter: To thee, O Lord.

Priest: For unto thee are due all glory, honor, and worship: to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Chanter: Amen.

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Chanter: Lord, have mercy.

The Priest reads a prayer that remembers the first family — Adam and Eve — and the blessing God gave them to be fruitful and multiply and rule over the earth. The families who obeyed God are also remembered.

Priest: O God most pure, fashioner of every creature, who didst transform the rib of our forefather Adam into a wife, because of thy love towards mankind, and didst bless them and say to them: Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; who didst make of the two one flesh: Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and cleaves to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh, and what God has joined together, let no man put asunder. Thou didst bless thy servant Abraham, and opening the womb of Sarah didst make him to be the father of many nations. Thou didst give Isaac to Rebecca, and didst bless her in childbearing. Thou didst join Jacob unto Rachel, and from them didst bring forth the Twelve Patriarchs. Thou didst unite Joseph and Aseneth, giving to them Ephraim and Manasseh as the fruit of their procreation. Thou didst accept Zachariah and Elizabeth, and didst make their offspring to be the Forerunner. From the root of Jesse according to the flesh, thou didst bud forth from the ever-Virgin one, and was incarnate of her, and was born of her for the redemption of the human race. Through thine unutterable gift and manifold goodness, thou didst come to Cana of Galilee, and didst bless the marriage there, to make manifest that it is thy will that there should be lawful marriage and procreation. Do thou, the same all-holy Master, accept the prayers of us thy servants. As thou wast present there, be thou also present here, with thine invisible protection. Bless this marriage, and grant to these thy servants, ____ and _____, a peaceful life, length of days, chastity, mutual love in the bond of peace, long-lived offspring, gratitude from their children, a crown of glory that does not fade away. Graciously grant that they may see their children's children. Preserve their bed unassailed, and give them of the dew of heaven from on high, and of the fatness of the earth. Fill their houses with wheat, wine and oil and with every good thing, so that they may give, in turn, to those in need; and grant also to those here present with them all those petitions which are for their salvation.

For thou art a merciful God who lovest mankind, and unto thee we ascribe glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Chanter: Amen.

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Chanter: Lord, have mercy.

Bishop: Blessed art thou, O Lord our God, the Priest of mystical and pure marriage, and the Ordainer of the law of the marriage of the body, the Preserver of immortality, and the Provider of good things; do thou, the same Master, who in the beginning didst make man and set him to be King over thy creation, and didst say: It is not good for man to be alone on the earth; let us make a helpmeet for him; Taking one of his ribs, and didst fashion Woman, which when Adam beheld, he said: This is now bone of my bone, and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman because she was taken out of a man; for this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave unto his wife, and the twain shall be one flesh; and those whom God hath joined together, let no man put asunder. Do thou now also, O Master, our Lord and our God, send down thy heavenly grace upon these thy servants, ____ and ____; and grant that this thy handmaid may, in all things, be pleasing unto her husband; and that this thy servant may love and cherish his wife; that they may live according to thy will.

Bless them, O Lord our God, as thou didst bless Abraham and Sarah:

Bless them, O Lord our God, as thou didst bless Isaac and Rebecca:

Bless them, O Lord our God, as thou didst bless Jacob and all the patriarchs.

Bless them, O Lord our God, as thou didst bless Joseph and Aseneth:

Bless them, O Lord our God, as thou didst bless Moses and Zipporah:

Bless them, O Lord our God, as thou didst bless Joachim and Anna:

Bless them, O Lord our God, as thou didst bless Zacharias and Elizabeth:

Preserve them, O Lord our God, as thou didst preserve Noah in the Ark: Preserve them, O Lord our God, as thou didst preserve Jonah in the belly of the whale. Preserve them, O Lord our God, as thou didst preserve the three Holy Children from the fire, sending down upon them dew from heaven; and let that gladness come upon them which the blessed Helena had when she found the precious Cross. Remember them, O Lord our God, as thou didst remember Enoch, Shem and Elijah. Remember them, O Lord our God, as thou didst remember thy Forty Holy Martyrs, sending down upon them crowns from heaven: Remember them, O Lord our God, and the parents who have nurtured them, for the prayers of parents make firm the foundations of houses: Remember, O Lord our God, thy servants the attendants of the bridal pair, who share in this joy: Remember, O Lord our God, thy servant, ____, and thy handmaid, _____, and bless them. Grant them the fruit of their bodies, fair children, and concord of soul and body; exalt them like the cedars of Lebanon, like a luxuriant vine. Give them offspring in number like unto full ears of grain, that, having sufficiency in all things they may abound in every work that is good and acceptable unto thee. And let them behold their children's children round about their table, like a newly-planted olive-orchard, that, obtaining favor in thy sight, they may shine like the stars of heaven, in thee, our Lord and God: for unto thee are due all glory, honor, and worship: to the Father, and the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Chanter: Amen.

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Chanter: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: O holy God, who didst create man out of the dust and didst fashion his wife from his rib and join her unto him as a helpmeet, for it seemed good to thy majesty that man should not be alone upon the earth: Do thou, the same Lord, extend thy hand from thy holy dwelling-place, and join this thy servant, ____, and this thy handmaid, _____, for by thee is the husband united unto the wife. Unite them in one mind and one flesh, and grant unto them the fruit of the body, fair children for education in thy faith and fear: for thine is the majesty, and thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit; now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

Crowning

The Bishop takes a crown, symbolizing those with which the martyrs, or witnesses of Christ, are crowned in Heaven, and makes with it the sign of the Cross, thrice, over the groom's head, and touches the bride's head each time, saying:

Bishop: The servant of God, ____, is crowned unto the handmaid of God, _____, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. (3x)

Chanter: Amen.

Bishop: The handmaid of God, _____, is crowned unto the servant of God, ____, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. (3x)

Chanter: Amen.

Bishop: O Lord our God, crown them with glory and with honor.

Chanter: O Lord our God, crown them with glory and with honor. (In Arabic)

Bishop: O Lord our God, crown them with glory and with honor.

The Epistle

Deacon: Let us attend!

Reader: (Prokeimenon in Tone 8:) Thou hast set upon their heads crowns of precious stones. They asked life of thee, and thou gavest it them. (Psalm 20: 3-4)

Chanter: Thou hast set upon their heads crowns of precious stones. They asked life of thee, and thou gavest it them.

Reader: (Verse:) Yea, thou wilt make them most blessed forever.

Thou wilt make them glad with the joy of thy presence. (Psalm 20:7)

Chanter: Thou hast set upon their heads crowns of precious stones; they asked life of thee, and thou gavest it them.

Reader: Thou hast set upon their heads crowns of precious stones.

Chanter: They asked life of thee, and thou gavest it them.

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The Reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Ephesians.

Deacon: Let us attend!

Reader: (Eph. 5:20-33) Brethren, always and for everything give thanks in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God the Father. Be subject to one another out of reverence to Christ. Wives, be subject to your husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. As the church is subject to Christ, so let wives also be subject in everything to their husbands. Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. Even so husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no man ever hates his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, as Christ does the church, because we are member of his body. "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." This mystery is a profound one, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church; however, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

Bishop: Peace be to thee that readest.

Reader: And to thy spirit.

The Gospel

Chanter: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Reader: Thou, O Lord, shall keep us and preserve us.

Chanter: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Reader: Save me, O Lord, for the godly man has failed.

Chanter: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Deacon: Wisdom! Attend! Let us hear the Holy Gospel.

Bishop: Peace be to all.

Chanter: And to thy spirit.

Deacon: The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John.

Chanter: Glory to thee, O Lord, glory to thee.

Deacon: Let us attend!

Bishop: (John 2:1-11)

At that time there was a marriage at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there; Jesus also was invited to the marriage, with his disciples. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." And Jesus said to her, "O woman, what have I to do with you? My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." Now six stone jars were standing there, for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the steward of the feast." So they took it. When the steward of the feast tasted the water now become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward of the feast called the bridegroom and said to him, "Every man serves the good wine first; and when men have drunk freely, then the poor wine; but you have kept the good wine until now." This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

Chanter: Glory to thee, O Lord, glory to thee.

The Ektenia

Deacon: Let us say with all our soul and with all our mind, let us say.

Chanter: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: O Lord almighty, the God of our fathers, we pray thee, hearken and have mercy.

Chanter: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Have mercy upon us, O God, according to thy great mercy, we pray thee, hearken and have mercy.

Chanter: Lord, have mercy; Lord, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation and visitation for the servants of God, _____ and _____, (and their parents, and their attendants, and all here present) and for the pardon and remission of their sins.

Chanter: Lord, have mercy; Lord, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.

Priest: For thou art a merciful God, and lovest mankind, and unto thee we ascribe glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Chanter: Amen.

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Chanter: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: O Lord our God, who in thy saving providence didst vouchsafe by thy presence in Cana of Galilee to declare marriage honorable: Do, thou, the same Lord, now also maintain in peace and concord thy servants, ____ and _____, whom thou hast pleased to join together. Cause their marriage to be honorable. Preserve their bed blameless. Mercifully grant that they may live together in purity; and grant them to lead an upright and blameless life even unto a ripe old age, walking in thy commandments with a pure heart:

For thou art a merciful God who lovest mankind, and unto thee we ascribe glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Chanter: Amen.

Priest: And vouchsafe, O Lord, that with boldness and without condemnation we may dare to call upon thee, the heavenly God, as Father, and 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.

Priest: For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Chanter: Amen.

The Common Cup

Bishop: Peace be to all.

Chanter: And to thy spirit.

Deacon: Let us bow our heads unto the Lord.

Chanter: To thee, O Lord.

The common cup is blessed by the Bishop:

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Chanter: Lord have, mercy.

Bishop: O God, who hast created all things by thy might, and hast made fast the round world, and adornest the crown of all things which thou hast made: Bless now, with thy spiritual blessing, this Common Cup, which thou dost give to those who are now united in community of marriage: for blessed is thy name, and glorified is thy kingdom, of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

Chanter: I will take of the cup, the cup salvation and call on the Name, the Name of the Lord.

The Dance of Isaiah (Ceremonial Walk)

Tone 5 (Each Verse in Arabic and English)

Chanter: O Isaiah, dance thy joy: for a Virgin was with child and hath borne a son, Emmanuel, both God and man: and Orient is his name; whom magnifying we call the Virgin blessed.

Tone 7

Ye holy martyrs, who fought the good fight and have received your crowns: entreat ye the Lord that he will have mercy on our souls.

Glory to thee, O Christ our God: the Apostles' boast, the Martyrs' joy, whose preaching was the consubstantial trinity.

The Bishop takes the groom's crown, and makes with it the sign of the Cross, saying:

Bishop: Be thou exalted, O Bridegroom, like unto Abraham; and be thou blessed, like unto Isaac; and do thou multiply like unto Jacob, walking in peace, and keeping the commandments of God in righteousness.

The Bishop takes the bride's crown, and makes with it the sign of the Cross, saying:

And thou, O Bride: Be thou exalted like unto Sarah; and exalt thou like unto Rebecca; and do thou multiply like unto Rachel, and rejoice thou in thy husband, fulfilling the conditions of the law: for so is it well-pleasing unto God.

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Chanter: Lord, have mercy.

Bishop: O God, our God, who didst come to Cana of Galilee, and didst bless there the marriage feast: Bless, also, these thy servants, who through thy good providence are now united together in wedlock. Bless their going out and comings in: replenish their life with good things: receive their crowns into thy kingdom, preserving them spotless, blameless, and without reproach, unto ages of ages.

Chanter: Amen.

Bishop: Peace be unto all.

Chanter: And to thy spirit.

Deacon: Let us bow our heads unto the Lord.

Chanter: To thee, O Lord.

Bishop: May the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, the all-holy, consubstantial and life-giving Trinity, one Godhead, and one Kingdom, bless you; and grant unto you length of days, fair children, prosperity of life, and faith: and fill you with abundance of all earthly good things, and make you worthy to obtain the blessings of the promise: through the prayers of the holy Theotokos, and of all the Saints.

Chanter: Amen.

Priest: Wisdom! Most holy Theotokos, save us!

Chanter: More honorable than the Cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the seraphim, thou who without stain barest God the Word, and art truly Theotokos, we magnify thee.

Priest: Glory to thee, O Christ, our God and our Hope, glory to thee!

Chanter: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen. Lord, have mercy, Lord, have mercy, Lord, have mercy. Master, bless.

Bishop: May He who by His presence at the marriage feast in Cana of Galilee did declare marriage to be an honorable estate, Christ our true God; through the prayer of his all-holy Mother; of the holy, glorious and all-laudable Apostles; of the holy, God crowned Kings and Saints-equal-to-the-Apostles Constantine and Helena; of the holy Great Martyr Procopius; of St. George, the Trophy Bearer, Patron of our Church; and of all the Saints, have mercy upon you and save you: forasmuch as he is good, and loveth mankind.

If the service is done between St. Thomas Sunday and the Leave-Taking of Pascha the Bishop says:

Bishop: *Christ is Risen! (3x)*

Glory to His third day resurrection!

Chanter: *We glorify His third day resurrection!*

Bishop: *Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death and upon those in the tombs . . .*

Chanter: . . . *bestowing life.*

Bishop: Through the prayers of our Holy fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us and save us.

Priest: Through the prayers of our holy master, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy upon us and save us.

Chanter: Amen, Amen.

Bishop: Grant, O Lord, a peaceful and prosperous life, furtherance in all things, to the newly crowned servants of God, _____ and _____, and grant them many years!

People: **God, grant you many years! (Thrice)**

Proper Decorum

We respectfully request that you preserve the sanctity of the service. Please, turn cell phones and pagers off, refrain from using flash photography, and do not applaud at the conclusion of the service.

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