

Тайнство Подружжя



Mystery of Matrimony



THE RITE OF MATRIMONY

Following the Divine Liturgy, the priest vested in the phelonion exits the sanctuary and proceeds to the narthex. Those who wish to marry wait in front of the church doors - the groom on the right, the bride on the left.

The priest questions the groom:

N., will you take willingly and freely N., here present, for your lawful wife?

The groom responds:

I have, reverend father.

Priest:

Have you ever pledged yourself to another?

The groom:

I have not, reverend father.

Then the priest questions the bride:

N., will you take willingly and freely N., here present, for your lawful husband?

The bride responds:

I have, reverend father.

Priest:

Have you ever pledged yourself to another?

The bride:

I have not, reverend father.

The priest takes the censer and proceeds with the betrothed to the tetrapod, while the choir sings psalm 127:

Happy are all who fear the Lord, who live according to His will. You shall eat the fruit of your own labors, you shall be happy and you shall prosper. Your wife shall be like a fruitful vine in the heart of your home; your sons shall be like olive-shoots round about your table. This is the blessing in store for the man who fears the Lord. May the Lord bless you from Sion; may you share the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days of your life, and live to see your children's children! Peace be upon Israel!

Deacon: Master, give the blessing.

Priest: **Blessed be the kingdom of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever.**

Choir: Amen.

Then the deacon intones the litany:

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from on high, and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

For peace throughout the world, for the well-being of God's holy churches and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

For this holy church and for all who enter it with faith, reverence and the fear of God, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

For the most holy universal Pontiff, *N.*, Pope of Rome, our most blessed Patriarch, *N.*, our most reverend Metropolitan, *N.*,

our God-loving Bishop, *N.*, the reverend priesthood, the diaconate in Christ, and all the clergy and the people, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

For our nation under God, for our government, and for all in the military, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

For the servants of God, *N.* and *N.*, who are now about to be joined in marriage, and for their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

That this marriage be blessed as was the marriage in Cana of Galilee, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

That a virtuous life and the fruit of the womb be granted them for their own good, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

That they may rejoice at the sight of their sons and daughters, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

That the blessing in children and a spotless life be granted to them, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

That they and we be granted the petitions that are helpful to our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

That they and we be delivered from all tribulation, wrath, and misfortune, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Help us, save us, have mercy and protect us, O God, by Your grace.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Remembering our most holy and immaculate, most blessed and glorious Lady, the Mother of God and ever-virgin Mary, together with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ, our God.

Choir: To You, O Lord.

For all glory, honor and worship befit You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever.

Choir: Amen.

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Then the priest says the following prayer, aloud:

O eternal God, You brought to unity those who are far from You, and established for them an indissoluble communion of love. You blessed Isaac and Rebecca and made them heirs of Your promise. You Yourself bless these Your servants *N.* and *N.*, teaching them every good deed.

Exclamation:

For You are a merciful and loving God, and we give glory to You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever.

Choir: Amen.

Priest:

Peace be with all.

Choir: And with your spirit.

Deacon: Bow your heads to the Lord.

Choir: To You, O Lord.

Priest:

O Lord our God, You, from among all the nations, first betrothed the Church, the pure virgin; bless this betrothal, and unite and protect these Your servants in peace and harmony.

Exclamation:

For all glory, honor and worship befit You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever.

Choir: Amen.

Then the priest gives the rings; first, to the groom, then to the bride. He says to the groom:

The servant of God, *N.*, is betrothed to the servant of God. *N.*, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

He also says to the bride:

The servant of God, *N.*, is betrothed to the servant of God, *N.*, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

While saying this, he makes a sign of the cross with the ring over their heads, and places the ring on their fingers.

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

The priest says the following prayer, aloud:

O God, most pure, Author of all creation, You transformed the rib of our forefather Adam into woman, and blessed them saying: Increase and multiply, fill the earth and subdue it. Thus You made them two in one flesh; this is why a man leaves his father and mother and joins himself to his wife, and they become one body. Therefore, what God has joined together, let no man put asunder. O Lord, in Your loving kindness You blessed your servant Abraham and, granting fruitfulness to Sarah, You made him the father of a multitude of nations. You gave Isaac to Rebecca and blessed them with children. You joined Jacob and Rachel, raising from that union the twelve patriarchs. You united Joseph to Asenath and blessed them with sons Ephraim and Manasseh. You joined Zachary to Elizabeth, blessing them with their offspring, John the Forerunner. You caused the ever-virgin Mary to blossom forth from the root of Jesse, according to the flesh, and You Yourself, in Your indescribable graciousness and great goodness, became incarnate of her and were born of her for the salvation of the human race. You also came to Cana in Galilee and blessed the marriage there, thus making it clear that it is Your will that there should be lawful marriage and from it the procreation of children. Now, most holy Master, hear our supplication. As You were there, so also be here with Your invisible presence; and bless this mar-

riage, granting to Your servants, *N.* and *N.*, a peaceful and long life, matrimonial chastity, mutual love in the bond of peace, a longlived posterity, happiness in their children, and an unfading crown of glory. Keep their married life above reproach and grant them to see their children's children; give them dew from heaven and the fruitfulness of the earth; provide them with an abundance of temporal goods that they, in turn, may share their abundance with those in need; and grant to everyone here present with them all that is necessary for salvation.

For You are a merciful, gracious and loving God, and we give glory to You, together with Your eternal Father, and Your most holy, good, and life-giving Spirit, now and for ever and ever.

Choir: Amen.

The groom and the bride join their right hands. The priest covers their hands with the epitachelion, crosswise. The groom says the oath in a loud voice:

I, *N.*, take you, *N.*, to be my wife, and I promise to love you, to respect you, to be always faithful to you, and never to forsake you until death do us part. So help me God, one in the Holy Trinity, and all the saints.

Then the bride says:

I, *N.*, take you, *N.*, to be my husband, and I promise to love you, to respect you, to be always faithful to you, to give you matrimonial obedience and never to forsake you until death do us part. So help me God, one in the Holy Trinity, and all the saints.

The priest removes the epitrachelion, blesses them with a sign of the cross, and says:

What God has joined together, let no man put asunder.

The priest takes the crowns, and crowns the groom, saying:

The servant of God, *N.*, is crowned in marriage for the servant of God, *N.*, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Then he crowns the bride, saying:

The servant of God, *N.*, is crowned in marriage for the servant of God, *N.*, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Then he blesses them, thrice, saying:

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

Deacon: Let us be attentive!

The cantor sings the prokimenon, tone 8:

You have placed crowns of precious stones upon their heads; they have asked life of You and You have given it to them.

Verse: For You give them a blessing forever; You will make them glad with the joy of your presence.

First Epistle to the Corinthians, (13:1-13).

Brethren, if I speak in human and angelic tongues but do not have love, I am a resounding gong or a clashing cymbal. And if I have the gift of prophecy and comprehended all mysteries and all knowledge; if I have all faith so as to move mountains but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away everything I own, and if I hand my body over so that I may boast but do not have love, I gain nothing. Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, love is not pompous, it is not inflated, it is not rude, it does not speak its own interests, it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury, it does not rejoice over wrongdoing but rejoices with the

truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails. If there are prophecies, they will be brought to nothing; if tongues, they will cease; if knowledge, it will be brought to nothing. For we know partially and we prophesy partially, but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. When I was a child, I used to talk as a child, think as a child, reason as a child; when I became a man, I put aside childish things. At present we see indistinctly, as in a mirror, but then face to face. At present I know partially; then I shall know fully, as I am fully known. So faith, hope, love remain, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

Priest: **Peace be with you.**

Deacon: Wisdom! Let us be attentive!

Choir: Alleluia.

Verse: You, O Lord, shall guard us and preserve us from this generation, and for ever.

Deacon: Wisdom! Stand aright! Let us listen to the holy Gospel.

Priest:

Peace be with all.

Choir: And with your spirit.

Priest: **A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.**

Choir: Glory be to You, O Lord, glory be to You.

Deacon: Let us be attentive!

The priest reads the Gospel, §6, (2:1-11).

At that time, there was a wedding at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had likewise been invited to the celebration. At a certain point the wine ran out, since the wine provided for the wedding was all finished. Then, Jesus' mother told him, "They have no more wine." Jesus replied, "Woman, how does this con-

cern of yours involve Me? My hour has not yet come.” His mother instructed those waiting on table, “Do whatever He tells you.” As prescribed for Jewish ceremonial washings, there were at hand six stone water jars, each one holding fifteen to twenty-five gallons. “Fill those jars with water,” Jesus ordered, at which they filled them to the brim. “Now,” He said, “draw some out and take it to the waiter in charge.” They did as He instructed them. The waiter in charge tasted the water made wine, without knowing where it had come from; only the waiters knew, since they had drawn the water. Then the waiter in charge called the groom over and remarked to him: “People usually serve the choice wine first; then when the guests have been drinking awhile, a lesser vintage. What you have done is keep the choicest wine until now.” Jesus performed this first of His signs at Cana in Galilee. Thus did He reveal His glory, and His disciples believed in Him.

Choir: Glory be to You, O Lord, glory be to You.

Deacon:

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Almighty Lord, God of our fathers, we pray You, hear us and have mercy.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Have mercy on us, O God, in the greatness of Your compassion, we pray You, hear us and have mercy.

Choir: Lord, have mercy (*thrice*).

We also pray for the servants of God, *N.* and *N.*, who are today united in marriage, for their health and salvation.

Choir: Lord, have mercy (*thrice*).

We also pray for the people present in this holy church who await your great and bountiful mercies, for all our brethren and for all orthodox Christians, for their health and salvation.

Choir: Lord, have mercy (*thrice*).

Exclamation:

For You are a merciful and loving God, and we give glory to You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever.

Choir: Amen.

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

The priest says the following prayer:

O Lord, our God, in your saving providence You came to Cana in Galilee and by Your presence You declared marriage to be an honorable state. Keep in peace and oneness of mind Your servants, *N.* and *N.*, whom it has pleased You to unite. Let their marriage be honorable; keep them faithful to each other; grant their marital life to be without sin, and enable them to attain a ripe old age, observing your commandments with a pure heart.

For You are our God, the God of mercy and salvation, and we give glory to You, together with Your

eternal Father and Your most holy, good, and life-giving Spirit, now and for ever and ever.

Choir: Amen.

Deacon:

Help us, save us, have mercy and protect us, O God, by Your grace.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

That this whole day may be perfect, holy, peaceful, and sinless, let us ask the Lord.

Choir: Grant this, O Lord.

For an angel of peace, a faithful guide, a guardian of our souls and bodies, let us ask the Lord.

Choir: Grant this, O Lord.

For the forgiveness and remission of our sins and offenses, let us ask the Lord.

Choir: Grant this, O Lord.

For all that is good and beneficial for our souls and for peace for the world, let us ask the Lord.

Choir: Grant this, O Lord.

That we may spend the rest of our lives in peace and repentance, let us ask the Lord.

Choir: Grant this, O Lord.

For a Christian end to our lives, one that is painless, unashamed, and peaceful, and for a good defense at the awesome tribunal of Christ, let us ask the Lord.

Choir: Grant this, O Lord.

Having asked for the unity of faith and for the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, let us commend ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.

Choir: To You, O Lord.

The priest exclaims:

Make us worthy, O Master, with confidence and without condemnation to dare call You, the heavenly God, Father, and say:

The people sing:

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.

The priest exclaims:

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever.

Choir: Amen.

The common cup with wine is now brought. The priest blesses it, and prays in a low voice:

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Priest:

O God, Who with Your might created all things and established the universe and adorned it with man, the crown jewel of all creation, bless this Common Cup of which Your servants now united in the common life of marriage, are about to partake.

Exclamation:

For blessed is Your name, and glorified is Your kingdom, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever.

Choir: Amen.

Then the priest proffers the cup with wine three times, first to the groom and then to the bride, alternately. Afterwards, he binds their right hands with the epitachelion and leads them around the tetrapod, thrice. The choir sings:

(tone 5): Rejoice, O Isaiah! The Virgin was with child and bore a son, Emmanuel. He is God and Man. Orient is His name. By extolling Him we also praise the Virgin.

(tone 7): O Martyrs, you have suffered courageously and received your reward; pray to the Lord, our God, to have mercy on our souls.

Glory to You, O Christ, our God; Glory of the Apostles and Joy of the Martyrs, who proclaimed the consubstantial Trinity.

Removing the crown from the groom's head, the priest says:

Be exalted, O Bridegroom, as Abraham; and blessed as Isaac; and multiply like Jacob, walking in peace and keeping the commandments of God in righteousness.

Removing the crown from the bride's head, the priest says:

And you, O Bride, be exalted as Sarah, and rejoice as Rebecca; and multiply like Rachel, rejoicing in your husband, and observing the prescriptions of the law, for such is the will of God.

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

The priest prays:

O God, our God, Who came to Cana of Galilee, and blessed the marriage there, bless also Your servants, who through Your will are now united together in marriage; bless their comings and their goings, fill their life with good things, receive their crowns into Your kingdom, preserving them pure, blameless and without reproach, for ever and ever.

Choir: Amen.

Priest:

Peace be with all.

Choir: And with your spirit.

Deacon: Bow your heads to the Lord.

Choir: To You, O Lord.

The priest prays:

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 you a long life, good children, advancement in life and in faith, fill you with an abundance of all the good things of the earth, and render you worthy of receiving the promised blessings, through the prayers of the most holy Mother of God and all the saints.

Choir: Amen.

Deacon: Wisdom!

Choir: More honorable than the cherubim and by far more glorious than the seraphim; ever a virgin, you gave birth to God the Word, O true Mother of God, we magnify you.

Priest: **Glory be to You, O Christ our God, our hope, glory be to You.**

Choir: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever. Amen. Lord, have mercy (*thrice*). Give the blessing!

The priest says dismissal:

Christ, our true God, Who by His presence in Cana of Galilee declared marriage to be an honorable state, through the prayers of His immaculate Mother, of the holy, glorious and all-praiseworthy apostles, of the holy, God-crowned kings and equals-to-the-apostles, Constantine and Helena, of the holy great martyr Procopius, and all the saints, will have mercy on us, for He is good and loves mankind.

Choir: Amen.

The priest intones the polychronion:

To the newlywed servants of God, *N.* and *N.*, grant, O Lord, in health and salvation, many and happy years.

Choir: Many years! (*thrice*).

CHURCHING OF THE NEWLYWED BRIDE

The newlywed bride stands at the icon of the most holy Theotokos, and bows her head. The priest approaches her, and says:

Enter, child, into the realms of the Lord and with all piety and fear of God always visit His church to receive from Him mercy and to find grace, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: **God, our God, You spoke through the prophets, and announced the illumination of all peoples in the last generations lest any man created by You remain outside Your salvation. You established the laws through Your chosen vessel, the Apostle Paul, in order that men and women who live in faith, do all unto Your glory. The former ought to render glory and honor to Your holy name with head uncovered, while the latter, with covered head, in piety and virtues, adorning themselves with good deeds, con-**

firmed by faith, give honor and supplications, with thanksgiving, to Your glory. You Yourself, O Master, Who love mankind, bless Your handmaiden, *N.*, and adorn her head with the beauty pleasant to You, that living according to all Your precepts, and being foremost in all the virtues, she may preserve herself in chastity, and together with her husband given to her by You, she may attain Your eternal happiness.

Exclamation:

For You are a merciful and loving God, and we give glory to You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever.

Choir: Amen.

The priest blesses the head of the woman, and covers her head with a kerchief, saying:

May the Lord protect you with the shadow of His wings, and preserve you from all evil all the days of your life, and grant you to see in peace and happiness the sons of your sons down to the third and fourth generation together with your husband.

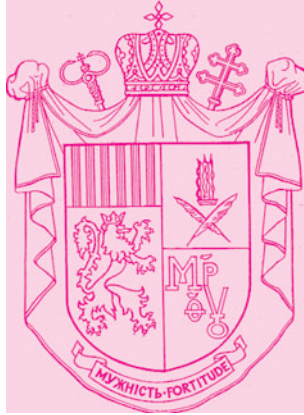
Then he sprinkles her with the holy water, saying:

By the sprinkling of this holy water may the blessing of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit descend upon you and remain with you, always, now and for ever and ever. Amen.

Then he says to the woman, blessing her with his right hand:

Go in peace and keep faithfully, in fear of God, all the commandments of the Lord all the days of your life, being obedient to your husband according to the ordinance of God, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

And all depart, glorifying God.



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Edited by:
Father Bohdan J. Danylo and Father Volodymyr Sybirny.

