

## THE SERVICE OF HOLY MATRIMONY

Priest:

Blessed be our Lord Jesus Christ.

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

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. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever, Amen.

**Deacon:** Again in peace let us beseech the Lord. Receive our prayers, save us, and have mercy upon us.

**Priest:** Blessing and glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and always and forever and ever. Amen.

## HYMN

Today the heavenly ones are delighted by the renewal of the earthly ones, since the renewer of the beings, the Spirit, descended into the Holy Upper Room; by Whom the rank of the apostles were renewed.

## BLESSING OF THE RINGS

**Priest:** O Lord God of our fathers and of Abraham, the father of our faith, who sent his eldest servant to his kindred in order to take Rebecca as wife unto his son Isaac, giving him the earrings and bracelets and blessing them with his blessings. O Lord, we pray Thee, bless these rings, so that those who will wear them, be clean and inseparable as says the psalmist: "Mercy and truth are met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other. Truth shall spring out of the earth; and righteousness shall look down from heaven." (Ps 85:10-11). And they may be a people unto Thee and glorify Thy Holy name, and bless the all-holy Trinity, the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and unto the ages. Amen.

## Joining the Right Hands

God took the hand of Eve and placed it in the right hand of Adam and Adam said, "this is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh. She shall be called woman because she was taken

out of her man." For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and go with his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. Therefore, those whom God has joined together let no man put asunder.

### **HYMN**

O Christ, regard and have mercy upon us; for You have unlimited compassion. Mother, virgin and handmaiden of Christ, you are always intercessor for the world; all nations give you blessings.

Let us sing a new and victorious song in the highest to Christ, the King, O faithful people.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son, and the Holy Spirit, now and always and forever and ever. Amen.

Let us celebrate today the inauguration of the Holy Cross and render the Savior glory and honor, forever.

### **PRAYER**

**Priest:** Eternal Lord God, You have joined into an insoluble bond the dispersed and the disunited. As You have blessed Isaac and Rebecca and have made them the possessors of Your promises, bless also Your servant and handmaiden, directing them in all good works, merciful and ever-loving Lord, our God. To You is befitting dominion and honor, now and always and forever and ever. Amen.

### **EXHORTATION**

Behold beloved children of God, by divine ordinance and according to the canons of the holy patriarchs, you have come to this holy church to be crowned lawfully into holy matrimony. May God keep you in mutual love, make you attain a ripe old age and make you worthy of the unfading, heavenly crown. Yet behold in this world there are all kinds of tribulations such as a sickness, poverty, and many more afflictions. May God keep you away from all tribulations. But it is God's command that you two are in bounden duty to help one another until death.

My son, will you love, cherish, and protect (Bride's name) until death?

**Groom:** Yes, I will.

**Priest:**

My daughter, will you love, cherish and honor (Groom's name) until death?

**Bride:** Yes, I will.

**Priest:**

Of these words God is witness, who is invisibly seated upon the Holy Altar. Our guardian angels, this Holy Church, this Holy Cross, and the Holy Gospel, the ranks of the priests and the multitude of the people, shall all these also be witness to your promises?

**Bride and Groom:** Yes, We will.

**Priest:**

God be in the midst of these that they may not be shaken. May God help them from morn to morn, always.

**Deacon:**

Grant peace unto Your Holy Church, peace and steadfastness from the battle of the enemies; and establish the Catholic Church in one faith. We confess You Lord and God, save us.

**HYMN**

Be delighted Holy Church, since Christ the King of Heaven today has adorned you with His Cross and has ornamented your edifice with His magnificent glories.

**Deacon:**

Proschume. (Listen attentively.)

**Soloist:**

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, You who have been incarnated for us, have mercy upon us. (Three times)

**BIDDING**

**Deacon:**

Again in peace let us beseech the Lord.

For the peace of the whole world and the stability of the Holy Church, let us beseech the Lord.

For all holy and orthodox bishops, let us beseech the Lord.

For the health of our Catholicos lord (name) and for the salvation of his soul, let us beseech the Lord.

**Priest:**

Have mercy. Being God, You are merciful and a lover of mankind, and unto You is befitting glory, dominion and honor, now and always and forever and ever. Amen.

**Deacon:**

Alleluia, alleluia. (Ps. 21:13)

Be exalted, O Lord, in thy strength! We will sing and praise thy power.

Lesson from I Corinthians, Chapter 13.

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give away all I have, and if I deliver my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing. Love is patient and kind; love is not jealous or boastful; it is not arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrong, but rejoices in the right.

Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends; as for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. For our knowledge is imperfect and our prophecy is imperfect; but when the perfect comes, the imperfect will pass away.

When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became a man, I gave up childish ways. For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall understand fully, even as I have been fully understood.

So faith, hope, love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

Alleluia, alleluia.

Psalm 45:9

Daughters of Kings are among your ladies of honor; at your right hand stands the queen in gold of Ophir.

**Deacon:**

Alleluia, Orthi.

**Priest:**

Peace unto all.

**Soloist:**

And with your spirit.

**Deacon:**

Listen in awe.

**Priest:**

The Holy Gospel of Jesus Christ according to

Matthew, 19:3-6.

**Soloist:**

Glory to You, O Lord our God.

**Deacon:**

Proschume. (Listen attentively).

**Soloist:**

God does speak.

**Priest:**

With our Lord, Jesus Christ. And Pharisees came up to him and tested him by asking, "Is it lawful to divorce one's wife for any cause?" He answered, "Have you not read that he who made them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one. So they are no longer two but one. What therefore God has joined together, let no man put asunder.'"

**Deacon:**

Glory to You, Lord our God.

### **THE NICENE CREED**

Congregation:

We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible, and in one Lord, Jesus Christ, Son of God, born of God the Father, Only-Begotten, that is of the substance of God. God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God. Begotten and not made. Himself of the nature of the Father by Whom all things were made in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible. Who for us men, and for our

salvation came down from heaven, was incarnate, became man, was born perfectly of the Holy Virgin Mary by the Holy Spirit. By Whom we took flesh, soul and mind and everything that is in man, verily and not in semblance. He suffered and was crucified and was buried, and the third day He rose again, and ascending into heaven in the same body sat on the right hand of the Father. And He shall come again in the same body and with the glory of the Father, to judge the living and the dead, and Whose kingdom shall have no end.

We believe also in the Holy Spirit, uncreated and perfect Who spoke through the Law and through the prophets and through the Gospels. Who came down upon the Jordan, reached to the Apostles and dwelled in the Saints.

We also believe in one Catholic and Apostolic Church. In one baptism, in repentance, in the expiation and remission of sins. In the resurrection of the dead, in the everlasting judgment of souls and bodies, in the kingdom of heaven, and in the life eternal.

### **BIDDING**

**Deacon:**

To guide our steps into the paths of peace, let us beseech the Lord.

**Priest:**

Lord, have mercy.

To dispel from our midst all the thoughts of the evil one, let us beseech the Lord. Lord have mercy.

To bestow upon us healthy thoughts and virtuous conduct, let us beseech the Lord. Lord have mercy.

To keep us under the shelter of His Almighty right hand, let us beseech the Lord. Lord have mercy.

Let us commit ourselves and one another to the Lord God Almighty.

**Priest:**

Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy.

### **PRAYER**

Lord, God of hosts and maker of all creatures. You took dust from the earth and fashioned man in Your own image and likeness and put him into a pleasing paradise. You have created them male and female and blessed them saying: increase and multiply and

replenish the earth and have dominion over it. Therefore, as You have blessed the marriages of the patriarchs and matriarchs, and as You blessed the crowning of Your righteous ones, bless (make sign of cross) also the marriage of these servants, (Names) for You have made them to arrive at Your sweet blessing, and You have placed upon their heads a crown of precious jewels.

#### **HYMN**

You formed an apparel of glory on the crown of Arsacids with Apostolic virtues -- Lord Gregory, made of numerous gems of celebrated martyrdoms, weaving an elegant wreath for the Holy Church.

#### **Priest:**

And as You have blessed the wedding in Cana of Galilee and have shown to Your disciples Your divine glory by changing the water into wine and thus declared God and Savior for all men, You have not despised marriage but have blessed it as a high priest and did establish with Your very word that those whom God has joined together no man should mput asunder.

For this reason, marriage is honorable, and the bridal bed is holy. Lord, You are Holy, and You rest in Your saints. Therefore, keep holy their bridal bed and unite them the yoke of Your dispensation, to become one body, united with a spirit of meekness, to love each other in modesty, by a pure spirit, without shame, without impudence and always ready for good works. Thus, by escaping from the snares of the enemy, they may be preserved in health of soul and body under angelic protection and with the sign of Your ever victorious Cross.

Yes, Lord our God, be protector of Your servants, and become a haven to them during all the days of their lives; save them from alien thoughts, and protect them day and night with Your mercy. Plant them as a fruitful olive tree in the house of God, so that living in righteousness, purity and godliness, according to the pleasure of Your beneficent will, they may see the children of their children and may become Your own people by glorifying Your Holy Name and unceasingly praising the most Holy Trinity, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and always and forever and ever. Amen.

#### **HYMN**

You, the blessed of all, by universal authority have received from Christ the crowns of glory; O Dertad, Great King, and Ashken, Mother Queen, intercede for us unto the Heavenly King.

#### **BIDDING**

**Deacon:**

May the Lord listen to our supplications, receive therequests of our hearts and forgive our trespasses and have mercy upon us. May our prayers and requests enter at all times into the presence of His great majesty, and may He grant us to labor in good works, in one faith, in one accord and in righteousness, so that He may send down upon us the graces of His mercy. Almighty God, save us and have mercy upon us.

**PRAYER**

**Priest:**

Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy.

Lord, our God, You are with us every hour and never have abandoned those who profess Your holy name in truth. We beseech You and call upon You and request from You, ever loving Lord, that with Your command we have blessed the crowning of this marriage at Your holy altar and before Your holy table; And now, beneficent Lord, according to Your command, we take off from their heads the braids of the crowning of the marriage and bless them with the sign of Holy cross (make sign of cross). Amen.

Look upon them, Lord, with sweetness, and send your angel of peace that he may come and keep them holy and pure and in oneness of spirit and thought. Grant them, Lord, offspring, according to Your will. Make sweet the virtuousness of their lives with Your bountiful beneficence, that they may live in this world to an extreme old age with unblemished and unstained conduct and may be worthy of Your heavenly kingdom and unfading crowns. Unto you, Almighty God, is befitting glory, dominion and honor, now and always and forever and ever. Amen.

**Blessing of the Wine**

**Priest:**

Lord, our God, You have created everything in wisdom and have established the universe, and have adorned the wedding in Cana of Galilee. Bless, Lord, this cup with Your mercy; we shall always thank You for Your rewards and shall give blessing and glory to You, the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and always and forever and ever. Amen.

**BIDDING**

**Deacon:**

By the Holy Cross let us beseech the Lord, that He deliver us from sins and save us by the grace of His mercy.🕯️ Almighty Lord, our God, save us and have mercy upon us.



## **PRAYER**

### **Priest:**

Guardian and hope of the faithful, O Christ our Lord, Keep and preserve in peace Your faithful people and especially the newly-wed King and Queen, , under the protection of Your holy and venerable Cross.

Save them from their enemies, visible and invisible, Make them worthy to glorify You with joy, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and always and forever and ever. Amen.

Blessed is our Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

For Thine is the Kingdom, and the Power, and the Glory, forever and ever. Amen.

### **Priest:**

Be you blessed by the grace of the Holy Spirit. Depart in peace and the Lord be with you all. Amen.