

# The Order for a Wedding

## General Instructions

1. Marriage takes place when a woman and a man, in the presence of witnesses and under legal authority (civil or ecclesiastical) declare vows to one another that they will live together in matrimony, and that this is declared to be lawful.
2. Marriage, according to church order, is both civil and ecclesiastical. The marriage or wedding ceremony, which is legally binding, also takes place before God and it is therefore a liturgical ceremony. Individual elements of the service, such as music, readings and others, must be formulated accordingly.
3. The ceremony takes place in a church or in another location for church services which may be used for weddings.
4. Before the ceremony, the person who officiates (liturgist) - or, in exceptional circumstances, someone else on his/her behalf - will have a preparatory talk with the couple.
5. The liturgist must approve hymn and song texts in advance.
6. The forthcoming wedding may be announced beforehand during notices in a service, and the couple may be mentioned in the intercessions.
7. If the celebration of a Wedding service with Holy Communion (Wedding Mass) is desired, the liturgy for a Wedding up to and including the last hymn should be followed. This will be the hymn before the communion, which is then followed by the communion liturgy of Frikirken. During the Introduction, the celebration of the Wedding Mass is announced, for example, thus:

L | Dear (NN) and (NN). You have come here to (name of church) in order to be married. We are gathered here to rejoice with you. We will hear your vows to one another and pray for God's blessing for you and your home. You have also asked to take part in the Holy Communion as you start your life together as a married couple. We will therefore celebrate this ceremony as a Wedding Mass, so that those who wish may join you in Holy Communion on this day.

8. Couples who have been married by civil authority may apply to use the Order for a Prayer service following a civil marriage ceremony, which may be found at frikirken.no: **Forbønn for borgerlig inngått ekteskap.**

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Participation of various kinds may be introduced into the ceremony. Wedding guests may participate in the liturgy, and additions to the ceremony may be made in the form of music or readings, and if so desired, combined with the lighting of candles. The ethnic background of the couple may be mirrored in the inclusion of cultural additions to the service. If one party has a denominational background other than Den Evangelisk Lutherske Frikirke, provision may be made for participation from this denomination.

Participation from other denominations as well as the inclusion of cultural elements should be incorporated according to the liturgical nature of the wedding ceremony, and should not be contrary to the theological basis of Den Evangelisk Lutherske Frikirke.

Elements added to the liturgy may be placed after part 9 **Intercessions**.

Where the names are mentioned, one may use the full name or the first name, depending on what is natural in the individual case. Full names should be used for the questions during part 7 **The marriage vows**.

The readings are taken from the *New Revised Standard Version* of the Bible (1989, 1998).

## 1 Prelude/Entrance

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Organ music or other suitable music may be performed as a prelude or processional.

The bride may be led to her seat by a representative of the family or the couple may walk up the nave together in procession towards the chancel and may thereafter sit together. If desired, the couple (one or both), maid/man of honour and/or the best man/woman, representatives of the families, liturgist and others may also walk in procession into the church.

Additional vocal or instrumental music may then be performed.

## 2 Introduction

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either A

**L** | In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit ✠.

or B

**L** | Grace to you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Then the couple and the assembly are welcomed with these or similar words:

**L** | Dear *(NN)* and *(NN)*. You have come here to *(name of church)* in order to be married. We are gathered here to rejoice with you. We will hear your vows to one another, and pray for God's blessing upon you and your home.

Then the liturgist may say:

**L** | O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;  
his steadfast love endures forever!

This is the day that the Lord has made;  
let us rejoice and be glad in it. *Psalm 118. 1,24*

## 3 Hymn

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## 4 Bible Readings

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**L |** Marriage is a gift from God, which he has given for joy and for help for man and woman, and for the good of the community of which they are a part.

He has ordained that husband and wife should be one, as Christ and His Church are one, and he has confirmed this fellowship by his blessing. Marriage is the generous gift of God.

To live together as husband and wife is a calling to a life of trust and love, to care for one another and for the family, and to faithfully stand by each other until life ends.

**L |** The word of God testifies that marriage is holy and inviolable. It is written in the Book of Genesis:

So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them, and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.'

*Genesis 1:27-28a*

And our Lord Jesus Christ says: Have you not read that the one who made them at 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 flesh? So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.

*Matthew 19:4-6*

*In cases where one or both come from a broken relationship, the following may be used if both parties agree:*

**L |** Where the will of the Lord is broken, one has to bow before God and say: "If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand?"

*Matthew 130,3*

**L |** The forgiveness of God can grant us a new beginning to live according to his holy will. May God empower you to do this!

**L |** Let us hear more from the Word of God.

*2-4 additional Bible readings may be read here, either from those suggested below, or other suitable readings. Both the Old and New Testaments must be represented.*

*The readings may be read by wedding guests.*

*Those who read walk up to the lectern together.*

*The couple who are to be married and the assembly remain seated during the readings.*

*The final reading ends with:*

*This is the Word of the Lord.*

- Psalm 23
- Psalm 36,6-10
- Psalm 91,1-2.4.9
- Psalm 100
- Psalm 103,1-5
- Song 2,8-14.16-17 + 8,6-7a
- Song 2,9-10a.13b-14
- Song 8,6-7a
- Matt 6,25-34
- Matt 7,7-8.12
- Matt 7,24-25
- John 15,9-12[-17]
- Rom 8,38-39
- 1 Cor 13

- Gal 6,2
- Eph 3,14-21
- Eph 5,20-22.25
- Phil 2,1-5
- Phil 4,4-8
- Col 3,12b-14
- Heb 13,4a
- 1 John 4,7-12

Here may follow

## 5 Hymn

The hymn may be replaced with appropriate vocal or instrumental music.

## 6 Sermon

The liturgist gives a sermon based on one of the lessons read during part 4, or on another appropriate text.

## 7 The marriage vows

**L** | Come before the altar of the Lord, so that we may hear your vows to each other and pray for God's blessing upon you and your home.

The couple stands before the altar rail.  
Then follows:

either A

**L** | In the presence of God, *our* Creator, and before these witnesses, I ask you (*groom's full name without title*): Will you take (*bride's full name without title*) who stands beside you, as your wife?

**Groom:** I will.

**L** | Will you love and honour *her* and be faithful to *her* for better, for worse, until death do you part?

**Groom:** I will.

The liturgist then turns to the bride.

**L** | Likewise, I ask you (*bride's full name without title*): Will you take (*groom's full name without title*) who stands beside you, as your husband?

**Bride:** I will.

**L** | Will you love and honour *him* and be faithful to *him* for better, for worse, until death do you part?

**Bride:** I will.

**L** | Then join your hands as a sign of this.

The couple face each other and give each other their right hand.  
The liturgist then lays his/her hand on the joined hands of the couple.

**L** | In the presence of God, and before these witnesses, you have promised each other to live together in matrimony and joined your hands as a sign of this. I therefore declare that you are lawfully husband and wife, in the name of the Father, of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

or B

**L** | In the presence of God, our Creator, and before these witnesses, I ask you (*groom's full name without title*): Will you take (*bride's full name without title*) who stands beside you, as your wife?

**Answer:** I will.

The liturgist then turns to the bride.

**L** | Likewise, I ask you (*bride's full name without title*): Will you take (*groom's full name without title*) who stands beside you, as your ~~spouse~~ husband?

**Answer:** I will.

**L** | Repeat after me.

The couple face each other. They give each other their right hands and remain so standing while they say their vows.

The liturgist reads the vows, sentence by sentence (L); the couple repeats each in turn, starting with the groom.

**L** | I take you (*name*) as my wife/husband.

**G/B** | I take you (*name*) as my wife/husband.

**L** | I will love and honour you

**G/B** | I will love and honour you

**L** | and faithfully stay with you for better, for worse

**G/B** | and faithfully stay with you for better, for worse

**L** | until death do us part.

**G/B** | until death do us part.

The other person then repeats the vows.

The liturgist then lays his/her hand on the joined hands of the couple.

**L** | In the presence of God, and before these witnesses, you have promised each other that you will live together in matrimony, ~~you~~ and have joined your hands as a sign of this. I therefore declare that you are lawfully married.

Here may follow

## 8 Giving of Rings

either A

**L** | Now give one another the rings, which you will wear as a sign of your vows of faithfulness. Each puts the ring on the other's finger.

or B

**L** | Now give one another the rings, which you will wear as a sign of your vows to each other. Repeat after me.

The liturgist (L) reads the following words first, and then the couple repeat them in turn, starting with the groom.

**L** | (*Name*), I give you this ring

**G/B** | (*Name*), I give you this ring

**L** | as a sign of my vows of love and faithfulness.

**B/B** | as a sign of my vows of love and faithfulness.

The ring is then put on the other's finger, and the same words are repeated by the bride.

## 9 Intercessions

**L** | Let us pray.

The married couple kneel at the altar rail. While laying his/her hands on the couple, the liturgist recites one of following prayers for the couple, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

If desired, guests may also participate in the laying on of hands during the intercessions.

I

either A

**L** | Merciful God and Father, you who have ordained marriage and blessed man and woman, we pray: Let your blessing rest upon **(NN and NN)** who kneel in your presence. Fill them with your love and build their home in peace. Grant them your grace and strengthen them with your Spirit, so that in times of joy and sadness, they may place their trust in you, be faithful to each other and help each other towards eternal life.

or B

**L** | Merciful God, we give you thanks for **(Name)** and **(Name)** and for their love for each other. Bless their life as a married couple. Help them to keep their vows that they have made to one another, so that their marriage may be filled with trust, care, and joy. Grant them the ability and will to build their home in peace, so that it will be a place where [children may grow up in safety and] family and friends may find fellowship. You are the way, the truth, and the life; let them walk in your truth. You forgive and heal; help them to forgive each other. You are the source of love; help them and all married couples to grow and mature in love.

II

Additional prayers may be included here and, if desired, combined with the lighting of candles.

The assembly may also sing a hymn of prayer (while the married couple are kneeling).

III

The Intercessions always end with the Lord's Prayer

**L** | Let us together say the Lord's Prayer:

**A** | **Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and for ever.  
Amen.**

The married couple is seated.

Here may follow

## 10 Music / Symbolic practices

Wedding guests and others may participate with music, readings or other cultural elements.

As an example, this symbolic practice may be used:

As a token of the new unity, the liturgist asks the married couple to show that a new season in life has now begun.

Bride and groom takes place at opposite sides of the altar and receive a candle from one of their close relatives (parents, siblings or others). The relative lights the candle.

When candle is received, bride and groom slowly approach the middle of the altar, walking from each side, towards a third and bigger candle.

Together bride and groom now simultaneously light the third candle, before they put out the two first ones and give them away to the man and maid of honor. Then they lift the third candle facing the congregation, before they put it back on its stand.

Thus they symbolize that two have become one.

## 11 Hymn

## 12 The Blessing

**L** | Receive the blessing.

The congregation (C) stands.

**L** | The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you.

The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace. ✠

**C** | **Amen.**

## 13 Recessional

Appropriate music may be performed. The married couple leave the church together.

Vigselsliturgi for Den Evangelisk Lutherske Frikirke, engelsk versjon.  
Ordning 12-04 (Alm bestem per 7. mars 08). Til engelsk: juni 2024.