

**MARRIAGE SERVICE**  
**ΑΚΟΛΟΥΘΙΑ ΤΟΥ ΓΑΜΟΥ**



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## PREFACE

The publication of this book completes a total of five liturgical books (*Book of Prayers, The Divine Liturgy, Holy Baptism, Funeral Service, and Marriage Service*) prepared by the Committee on the Translation of Liturgical Texts, with the blessing of His Eminence Archbishop Stylianos of Australia. As was the intention of the Committee when first formed in 1990, it is our continued hope that these approved translations will be accepted and will contribute to achieving uniformity in the English liturgical texts used in Australia.

The translation of this Service has been carefully considered afresh, with close attention to the original, even though there are several existing translations. The task presented many challenges, as was to be expected when the aim is to achieve both accuracy and a dignified, yet readily intelligible English style. The rubrics have been kept largely in their traditional form rather than adjusted to cover details of current practice, which in any case is not rigid but allows for variations and different customs.

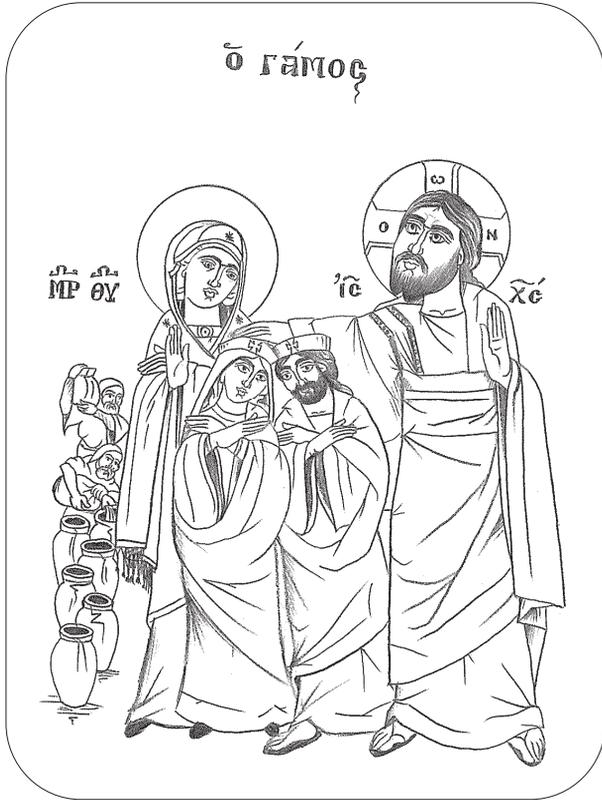
His Grace Bishop Seraphim of Apollonias has again given his time to act as adviser to the Committee and assist in the resolution of many questions. The members of the Committee at this juncture are Dr John Lee (chair), Mr George Harris,

## Preface

Dr Philip Kariatlis, Mr Dimitri Kepreotes, and Dr Anna Dimitriou; other long-serving members have been Mrs Fran Aroney and Fr Leslie Kostoglou. All are warmly thanked for their devoted service to the task over many meetings.

*Note on Amin and Allilua.* The spellings *Amin* and *Allilua* have been adopted in this book, as they were in the *Funeral Service*. They reflect the Orthodox pronunciation that has stood unchanged for more than a millennium. The words ultimately derive from Hebrew but were turned early into Greek form with Greek pronunciation. The Western, and now English, *Amen* and *Alleluia* reflect transmission through Latin. Besides adhering to the traditional Orthodox pronunciation, the forms *Amin* and *Allilua* avoid the use of two forms of the same word in a bilingual service and the need to choose between them.

ὁ γάμος



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**MARRIAGE SERVICE**  
**ΑΚΟΛΟΥΘΙΑ ΤΟΥ ΓΑΜΟΥ**

## THE SERVICE OF BETROTHAL

*In older practice the Service took place after the Divine Liturgy. The couple came to the priest at the Royal Doors, the man on the right and the woman on the left. The rings, one of gold and one of silver, had been placed on the altar.*

*In current practice a table is placed on the solea, with two candles, the Gospel Book, the rings, the crowns and a cup of wine. The couple come in front of the table facing the priest. He may ask the bride to declare if she wishes to marry the groom, and the groom if he wishes to marry the bride. The Service then begins.*

*Deacon:* Bless, master.

*Priest:* Blessed is our God, always, now and ever and to the ages of ages.

*People:* **Amin.**

*During the Easter period:* Christ is risen...

Betrothal Service

*Litany for Peace*

*Deacon:* In peace let us pray to the Lord.

*People, after each petition:* **Lord, have mercy.**

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

For the peace of the whole world, the stability of the holy Churches of God and the union of all, let us pray to the Lord.

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

For our Archbishop (*name*), the honourable priesthood, the diaconate in Christ, and all the clergy and laity, let us pray to the Lord.

For the servant of God (*name*) and the servant of God (*name*), who are now being betrothed to each other, and for their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

## Betrothal Service

That they may be granted children for the next generation, and all their requests that lead to salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

That there may be sent down upon them perfect and peaceful love, and all support, let us pray to the Lord.

That they may be kept in harmony and firmness of faith, let us pray to the Lord.

That they may be blessed with blameless life and conduct, let us pray to the Lord.

That the Lord our God may grant them an honourable and faithful marriage, let us pray to the Lord.

For our deliverance from all affliction, anger, danger and distress, let us pray to the Lord.

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

Commemorating our all-holy, pure, most blessed, glorious Lady Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary with all the Saints, let us commend

Betrothal Service

ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.

*People:* **To you, O Lord.**

*Priest:* For to you belong all glory, honour and worship, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages.

*People:* **Amin.**

*Prayer*

*Deacon:* Let us pray to the Lord.

*People:* **Lord, have mercy.**

*Priest:* Eternal God, you bring together in unity what is separated, and make an agreed bond unbreakable, you blessed Isaac and Rebecca and showed them to be inheritors of your promise: bless also these your servants (*name*) and (*name*), and guide them in every good work.

For you are a merciful and loving God, and to you we offer glory, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages.

Betrothal Service

*People:* **Amin.**

*Priest:* Peace be with you all.

*People:* **And with your spirit.**

*Deacon:* Bow your heads to the Lord.

*People:* **To you, O Lord.**

*Prayer*

*Priest:* Lord our God, who chose to betroth yourself to the Church as a pure bride from among the nations, bless these symbols of betrothal, and unite and preserve these your servants in peace and harmony.

For to you belong all glory, honour and worship, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages.

*People:* **Amin.**

*Then the priest takes both the rings, makes the sign of the Cross over the Gospel Book and then over the groom three times, saying each time:*

## Betrothal Service

The servant of God (*name*) is betrothed to the servant of God (*name*), in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amin.

(3)

*He then does the same over the bride, saying:*

The servant of God (*name*) is betrothed to the servant of God (*name*), in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amin.

(3)

*When he has said this, he places one ring on the finger of the right hand of each, the groom first and then the bride.*

*Then the Best Man (Koumbaro) or Matron of Honour (Koumbara) exchanges the rings three times.*

*Prayer*

*Deacon:* Let us pray to the Lord.

*People:* **Lord, have mercy.**

## Betrothal Service

*Priest:* Lord our God, who accompanied the servant of the Patriarch Abraham in Mesopotamia, where he was sent to find a bride for his master Isaac, and through the watering at the well, revealed to him that he should betroth Rebecca: bless the betrothal of your servants (*name*) and (*name*), and confirm the word they have given. Strengthen them in your divine unity; for you created male and female from the beginning, and by you is woman joined to man, for help, and for the continuance of humankind.

Therefore, Lord our God, who sent your truth upon your inheritance and your promise upon your servants our Fathers, your chosen ones from generation to generation: look upon your servants (*name*) and (*name*), and uphold their betrothal in trust and harmony and truth and love; for you, Lord, showed that a pledge once given is upheld in every case.

By a ring authority was given to Joseph in Egypt; by a ring Daniel was glorified in the land of Babylon; by a ring the true identity of Tamar was revealed; by a ring our heavenly Father showed mercy to the Prodigal Son, for

## Betrothal Service

he said: 'Put a ring on his hand and bring the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and be merry.'

It was your right hand, Lord, that enabled Moses to march through the Red Sea, and by your true word the heavens were made firm and the earth was established; so also the right hand of your servants will be blessed by your mighty word and your arm on high. Therefore now, Master, bless this exchange of rings with a heavenly blessing, and may an Angel of the Lord go before them all the days of their life.

For you are the one who blesses and sanctifies all things, and to you we offer glory, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages.

*People:* **Amin.**

**THE SERVICE OF CROWNING  
or  
MARRIAGE**

*Immediately after the Betrothal, the priest begins the  
Service of Crowning, chanting the following psalm:*

*Psalm 127*

Blessed are all those who fear the Lord.

*After each verse the people respond:*

**Glory to you, our God, glory to you.**

Those who walk in his ways.

**Glory to you, our God, glory to you.**

You will eat the fruits of your labours.

**Glory to you, our God, glory to you.**

Blessed are you, and it will be well with you.

**Glory to you, our God, glory to you.**

Your wife will be as a fruitful vine on the walls  
of your house.

**Glory to you, our God, glory to you.**

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Your children like young olive trees, round about your table.

**Glory to you, our God, glory to you.**

Behold, thus will the man who fears the Lord be blessed.

**Glory to you, our God, glory to you.**

May the Lord bless you out of Sion, and may you see the good things of Jerusalem all the days of your life.

**Glory to you, our God, glory to you.**

And may you see your children's children. Peace be upon Israel.

**Glory to you, our God, glory to you.**

*Deacon:* Bless, master.

*The priest turns towards the east, and raising the holy Gospel in the customary manner, chants:*

*Priest:* Blessed is the kingdom of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages.

*People:* **Amin.**

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*During the Easter period:* Christ is risen... (3)

*Litany for Peace*

*Deacon:* In peace let us pray to the Lord.

*People, after each petition:* **Lord, have mercy.**

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

For the peace of the whole world, the stability of the holy Churches of God and the union of all, let us pray to the Lord.

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

For our Archbishop (*name*), the honourable priesthood, the diaconate in Christ, and all the clergy and laity, let us pray to the Lord.

For the servants of God (*name*) and (*name*), who are now being joined to each other in the communion of marriage, and for their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

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That this marriage may be blessed, like the one in Cana in Galilee, let us pray to the Lord.

That they may be granted moderation and the fruit of the womb as may be best for them, let us pray to the Lord.

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

That they may be granted the joy of children, and a way of life beyond reproach, let us pray to the Lord.

That they, and we, may be granted all our requests that lead to salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

That they, and we, may be delivered from all affliction, anger, danger and distress, let us pray to the Lord.

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

Commemorating our all-holy, pure, most blessed, glorious Lady Theotokos and ever-

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virgin Mary with all the Saints, let us commend ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.

*People:* **To you, O Lord.**

*Priest:* For to you belong all glory, honour and worship, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages.

*People:* **Amin.**

### *Prayer 1*

*Deacon:* Let us pray to the Lord.

*People:* **Lord, have mercy.**

*Priest:* O God most pure, maker of all creation, who in your loving kindness transformed the rib of our forefather Adam into a woman, and blessed them, saying, ‘Increase and multiply, and have dominion over the earth’; and who declared them both one through their union, when you said, ‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will be one flesh’; and, ‘Those

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whom God has joined together let no one put asunder.’

You blessed your servant Abraham and gave Sarah a child, and made him the father of many nations; you gave Isaac to Rebecca and blessed her offspring Jacob; you joined Jacob with Rachel and brought forth from him the twelve Patriarchs; you united Joseph and Asenath and granted them Ephraim and Manasseh as the fruit of their union; you received the prayer of Zachariah and Elizabeth and declared their child the Forerunner; you brought forth in the flesh the Ever-Virgin from the root of Jesse, and from her you were incarnate and were born for the salvation of the human race; you came, in your inexpressible bounty and great goodness, to Cana in Galilee and blessed the marriage there, to show that lawful wedlock and the begetting of children are according to your will.

Receive now, all-holy Master, the prayer of us your supplicants, and as you came there then, come among us now with your unseen presence; bless this marriage, and grant to these your servants *(name)* and *(name)* a peaceful life,

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length of days, moderation, love towards each other in the bond of peace, long-lived offspring, grace upon their children, and the unfading crown of glory. Grant that they may see their children's children; keep their marital bed safe; give them of the dew from heaven above and of the abundance of the earth; fill their home with wheat, wine and oil and every good thing, that they may share with those in need; and grant also to those here present all their requests that lead to salvation.

For you are a God of mercy, compassion and loving kindness, and to you we offer glory, with your eternal Father and your all-holy, good and life-giving Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages.

*People:* **Amin.**

### *Prayer 2*

*Deacon:* Let us pray to the Lord.

*People:* **Lord, have mercy.**

*Priest:* Blessed are you, Lord our God, the celebrant of mystical and pure marriage, the one

## Marriage Service

who ordained physical marriage, the protector of eternal life and the good steward of earthly life; who in the beginning formed man and set him as king of creation, and said, ‘It is not good for man to be alone upon the earth; let us make him a helper in his likeness’; and who took one of his ribs and formed woman; of whom Adam said, when he saw her, ‘This is bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called woman, because she was taken from her husband’; ‘For this reason a man will leave his father and his mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will be one flesh’; and you also said, ‘Those whom God has joined together let no one put asunder.’

Send down now, Master, Lord our God, your heavenly grace upon these your servants (*name*) and (*name*), and grant that this woman may be subject to her husband in all things, and that your servant this man may be ‘the head of the wife,’ that they may live their lives according to your will.

Bless them, Lord our God, as you blessed Abraham and Sarah; bless them, Lord our God, as you blessed Isaac and Rebecca; bless them,

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Lord our God, as you blessed Jacob and all the Patriarchs; bless them, Lord our God, as you blessed Joseph and Asenath; bless them, Lord our God, as you blessed Moses and Sepphora; bless them, Lord our God, as you blessed Joachim and Anna; bless them, Lord our God, as you blessed Zachariah and Elizabeth.

Protect them, Lord our God, as you protected Noah in the Ark; protect them, Lord our God, as you protected Jonah in the belly of the sea creature; protect them, Lord our God, as you protected the three holy Youths from the fire, sending down upon them dew from heaven; and may there come upon them that joy which the blessed Helen felt, when she found the precious Cross.

Remember them, Lord our God, as you remembered Enoch, Shem and Elijah; remember them, Lord our God, as you remembered your Forty holy Martyrs and sent down upon them crowns from heaven. Remember, Lord our God, the parents who raised them; for the prayers of parents strengthen the foundations of the home; remember, Lord our God, your servants the attendants of the bride and groom,

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who accompany them in their joy; remember, Lord our God, your servant (*name*) and your servant (*name*), and bless them.

Grant them the fruit of the womb, the joy of children, harmony of soul and body. Raise them up like the cedars of Lebanon and like the fruitful vine. Grant them the produce of the earth, so that sufficient in all things, they may have abundance for every good work pleasing to you, and may see their children's children like young olive trees, round about their table; and having found favour before you, may shine as bright lights in heaven in your presence, O Lord,

To whom belong all glory, power, honour and worship, now and ever and to the ages of ages.

*People:* **Amin.**

### *Prayer 3*

*Deacon:* Let us pray to the Lord.

*People:* **Lord, have mercy.**

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*Priest:* Holy God, who formed man from dust and from his rib fashioned woman, and joined her to him as a helper in his likeness, because it pleased you in your greatness that man should not be alone upon the earth: now send forth your hand, Master, from your holy dwelling-place and join together (*the priest joins their right hands*) your servant (*name*) and your servant (*name*), for by you is woman joined to man. Join them in oneness of mind; crown them to be one flesh; grant them the fruit of the womb and the joy of children.

For yours is the dominion, and yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages.

*People:* **Amin.**

*The priest takes the crowns, and crowns first the bridegroom, saying:*

The servant of God (*name*) is crowned in marriage to the servant of God (*name*), in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amin. (3)

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*He says this three times, making the sign of the Cross with the crowns.*

*Then he crowns the bride, saying:*

The servant of God (*name*) is crowned in marriage to the servant of God (*name*), in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amin. (3)

*He says this three times in the same way.*

*He then places the crowns on their heads, and chants:*

O Lord our God, crown them with glory and honour. (3)

### *Scripture Readings*

#### *Apostle*

*The prokimenon is read by the reader:*

You have placed upon their head crowns of precious stones.

*Deacon:* Let us attend.

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*Verse.* They asked for life and you gave them length of days.

*Deacon:* Wisdom.

*Reader:* The reading is from Paul's Letter to the Ephesians. (5.20-33)

*Deacon:* Let us attend.

*Reader:* Brethren, always and for everything give thanks, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to God the Father, being subject to one another out of reverence for 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 Saviour. 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 her to himself in splendour, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. In the same way husbands should love their wives as their

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own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no man ever hates his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, as the Lord does the Church, because we are members of his body, of his flesh and of his bones. '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 is a great mystery, and I take it to mean Christ and the Church; however, let each of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

*Priest:* Peace be with you, the reader.

*People:* **Alliluia. Alliluia. Alliluia.**

### *Holy Gospel*

*Deacon:* Wisdom. Attend. Let us hear the holy Gospel.

*Priest:* Peace be with you all.

*People:* **And with your spirit.**

*Priest:* The reading is from the holy Gospel according to John. (2.1–11)

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*Deacon:* Let us attend.

*People:* **Glory to you, Lord, glory to you.**

*Priest:* 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 ran out, the mother of Jesus said to him, ‘They have no wine.’ And Jesus said to her, ‘What has this to do with me? 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 eighty or a hundred litres. Jesus said to them, ‘Fill the jars with water.’ And they filled them up to the brim, and he said to them, ‘Now draw some out, and take it to the master of the feast.’ So they took it. When the master of the feast tasted the water that had become wine (he did not know where it came from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast addressed the bridegroom and said to him, ‘Every man serves the good wine first; and when the guests have had plenty to drink, then the poor wine; but you have kept the good wine until now.’ This, the first of his signs, Jesus did

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at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory; and his Disciples believed in him.

*People:* **Glory to you, Lord, glory to you.**

*Litany of Fervent Supplication*

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

*People:* **Lord, have mercy. (3)**

*Deacon:* Lord Almighty, the God of our fathers, we ask you, hear us and have mercy.

*People:* **Lord, have mercy. (3)**

*Deacon:* Have mercy on us, O God, according to your great mercy, we ask you, hear us and have mercy.

*People:* **Lord, have mercy. (3)**

*Deacon:* Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, and salvation for your servants (*name*) and (*name*), and the people here present, who await your rich mercy.

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*People:* **Lord, have mercy. (3)**

*Priest:* For you are a merciful and loving God, and to you we offer glory, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages.

*People:* **Amin.**

### *Prayer*

*Deacon:* Let us pray to the Lord.

*People:* **Lord, have mercy.**

*Priest:* Lord our God, who in your plan of salvation deemed it right to show, by your presence in Cana in Galilee, that marriage is honourable: keep now in peace and harmony your servants *(name)* and *(name)*, who in your good pleasure have been joined to each other; let their marriage be honourable; keep them faithful in marriage; grant that they may pass their life together without sin; and grant that they may attain to a ripe old age, keeping your commandments with a pure heart.

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For you are our God, a God of mercy and salvation, and to you we offer glory, with your eternal Father and your all-holy, good and life-giving Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages.

*People:* **Amin.**

### *Litany*

*Deacon:* Help us, save us, have mercy on us and protect us, O God, by your grace.

*People:* **Lord, have mercy.**

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

*People, after each petition:* **Grant this, O Lord.**

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

For pardon and forgiveness of our sins and offences, let us ask of the Lord.

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For that which is good and beneficial to our souls, and for peace in the world, let us ask of the Lord.

That we may complete the remainder of our life in peace and repentance, let us ask of the Lord.

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

*People:* **To you, O Lord.**

*Priest:* And make us worthy, Master, that we may with boldness and without condemnation dare to call upon you, the heavenly God, as Father, and say:

### *The Lord's Prayer*

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread,  
and forgive us our sins,**

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**as we forgive those who sin against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.**

*Priest:* For yours is the kingdom and the power  
and the glory, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now  
and ever and to the ages of ages.

*People:* **Amin.**

*Priest:* Peace be with you all.

*People:* **And with your spirit.**

*Deacon:* Let us bow our heads to the Lord.

*People:* **To you, O Lord.**

*The common cup is brought to be blessed by the priest.*

*Deacon:* Let us pray to the Lord.

*People:* **Lord, have mercy.**

*The priest blesses the cup saying:*

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O God, who made all things by your might and established the world, and adorned the crown of all that you had made: bless with a spiritual blessing this common cup, which you bestow on those who have been joined in the communion of marriage.

For blessed is your name, and glorified is your kingdom, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages.

*People:* **Amin.**

*The priest takes the cup and gives a sip of wine to each, the groom first and then the bride, as he chants:*

I will take the cup of salvation, and I will call upon the name of the Lord.

*The priest leads the couple around the table three times, while the Best Man (Koumbaro) holds the crowns from behind.*

*The priest and choir chant alternately:*

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*Plagal of Tone 1*

Dance, O Isaiah, dance:  
the Virgin in her womb conceived,  
and has borne a son who is Emmanuel;  
he is both God and man,  
dawning sun is his name;  
and magnifying him,  
we call the Virgin bless'd.

*Heavy Tone*

O holy Martyrs,  
who have contested well  
and have been crowned,  
intercede with the Lord,  
that mercy be granted to our souls.

Glory to you, Christ our God,  
the boast of the Apostles,  
the gladness of the Martyrs,  
whose proclamation is:  
Trinity of one essence.

*Then the priest raises the crowns. While raising the  
crown of the groom he says:*

*Priest:* Be magnified, O Bridegroom, like Abra-  
ham, be blessed like Isaac, and multiply like  
Jacob, walking in peace and performing in  
righteousness the commandments of God.

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*And raising that of the bride he says:*

*Priest:* And you, O bride, be magnified like Sarah, rejoice like Rebecca, and multiply like Rachel, rejoicing in your husband and observing the directions of the Law, for so is it pleasing to God.

### *Prayer*

*Deacon:* Let us pray to the Lord.

*People:* **Lord, have mercy.**

*Priest:* O God, our God, you were present at Cana in Galilee and blessed the marriage there: bless also these your servants, who by your providence have been joined in the communion of marriage; bless all their comings and goings; fill their life with good things; \*receive their crowns in your Kingdom; keep them pure, blameless, and safe from evil designs, to the ages of ages.

*\*Here the priest takes the crowns from the heads of the bride and groom and places them on the table.*

*People:* **Amin.**

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*Priest:* Peace be with you all.

*People:* **And with your spirit.**

*Deacon:* Bow your heads to the Lord.

*People:* **To you, O Lord.**

*Priest:* May the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, the all-holy and consubstantial and life-creating Trinity, the one Godhead and Kingship, bless you and grant you length of days, the joy of children, progress in life and faith; fill you with all the good things of the earth; and make you worthy to enjoy the good things that have been promised, through the intercessions of the holy Theotokos and all the Saints.

*People:* **Amin.**

*Dismissal*

*Priest:* Glory to you, O God our hope, glory to you.

*People:* **Glory to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit;**

Marriage Service

**Both now and ever and to the ages of ages.  
Amin.**

**Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord,  
have mercy. Holy father, bless.**

*Priest:* May Christ our true God, who by his presence in Cana showed marriage to be honourable: through the intercessions of his all-pure Mother; of the holy, glorious and praise-worthy Apostles; of the holy kings crowned by God and equal to the Apostles, Constantine and Helen; of the holy, great-martyr Procopius; and of all the Saints, have mercy on us and save us, as a good and loving and merciful God.

Through the prayers of our holy Fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us and save us.

*People:* **Amin.**

**Prayer  
at Removal of the Crowns  
on the Eighth Day**

*Deacon:* Let us pray to the Lord.

*People:* **Lord, have mercy.**

*Priest:* Lord our God, who blessed the crown of the year and granted these crowns to be placed upon those joined to each other in lawful marriage, as if bestowing on them the reward for moderation: for in a state of purity for marriage as ordained by you, were they joined: bless them, as we dissolve these crowns, and preserve their union undissolved; that they may always give thanks to your all-holy name, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages.

*People:* **Amin.**

*Priest:* Peace be with you all.

*People:* **And with your spirit.**

Marriage Service

*Deacon:* Bow your heads to the Lord.

*People:* **To you, O Lord.**

*Priest:* We your servants, Lord, having come together in harmony and performed the service of the marriage in Cana in Galilee, now put away its symbols, and offer you glory, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages.

*People:* **Amin.**

*Dismissal*

## THE SERVICE OF SECOND MARRIAGE

*Deacon:* Bless, master.

*Priest:* Blessed is our God, always, now and ever  
and to the ages of ages.

*People:* **Amin.**

*During the Easter period:* Christ is risen...

*Reader:*

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have  
mercy on us. (3)

Glory to the Father and the Son and the Holy  
Spirit;

Both now and ever and to the ages of ages.  
Amin.

All-holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, be  
merciful to our sins. Master, forgive our  
transgressions. Holy One, visit us and heal our  
infirmities, for your name's sake. Lord have  
mercy, Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy.

## Second Marriage

Glory to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit;  
Both now and ever and to the ages of ages.  
Amin.

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread, and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

*Priest:* For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages.

*People:* **Amin.**

*The dismissal hymn of the day.*

*Litany for Peace*

*Deacon:* In peace let us pray to the Lord.

*People, after each petition:* **Lord, have mercy.**

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

For the peace of the whole world, the stability of the holy Churches of God and the union of all, let us pray to the Lord.

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

For our Archbishop (*name*), the honourable priesthood, the diaconate in Christ, and all the clergy and laity, let us pray to the Lord.

For the servants of God (*name*) and (*name*), for their protection and their life together in God, let us pray to the Lord.

That they may live together well in harmony, let us pray to the Lord.

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

Commemorating our all-holy, pure, most blessed, glorious Lady Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary with all the Saints, let us commend

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ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.

*People:* **To you, O Lord.**

*Priest:* For to you belong all glory, honour and worship, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages.

*People:* **Amin.**

### *Prayer*

*Deacon:* Let us pray to the Lord.

*People:* **Lord, have mercy.**

*Priest:* Eternal God, you bring together in unity what is separated, and make an agreed bond unbreakable, you blessed Isaac and Rebecca and showed them to be inheritors of your promise: bless also these your servants (*name*) and (*name*), and guide them in every good work.

For you are a merciful and loving God, and to you we offer glory, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages.

Second Marriage

*People:* **Amin.**

*Priest:* Peace be with you all.

*People:* **And with your spirit.**

*Deacon:* Bow your heads to the Lord.

*People:* **To you, O Lord.**

*Prayer*

*Priest:* Lord our God, who chose to betroth yourself to the Church as a pure bride from among the nations, bless these symbols of betrothal, and unite and preserve these your servants in peace and harmony.

For to you belong all glory, honour and worship, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages.

*People:* **Amin.**

*Then the priest takes both the rings, makes the sign of the Cross over the Gospel Book and then over the groom three times, saying each time:*

## Second Marriage

The servant of God (*name*) is betrothed to the servant of God (*name*), in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amin.

(3)

*He then does the same over the bride, saying:*

The servant of God (*name*) is betrothed to the servant of God (*name*), in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amin.

(3)

*When he has said this, he places one ring on the finger of the right hand of each, the groom first and then the bride.*

*Then the Best Man (Koumbaro) or Matron of Honour (Koumbara) exchanges the rings three times.*

### *Prayer*

*Deacon:* Let us pray to the Lord.

*People:* **Lord, have mercy.**

*Priest:* Master, Lord our God, you care for all and provide for all, you know the secrets of all and understand all: be merciful to our sins and

## Second Marriage

forgive the faults of your supplicants, calling them to repentance; grant them pardon of their transgressions, mercy for their sins, and forgiveness of wrongdoing, both voluntary and involuntary. You who know the frailty of human nature, our maker and creator, and who forgave Rahab the harlot and accepted the repentance of the Tax Collector: do not remember our sins of ignorance from our youth onwards. For if you closely watch iniquities, Lord, Lord, who will endure? Or what person will be justified before you? For you alone are righteous, without sin, holy, merciful, compassionate and ready to forgive the wrongdoing of human beings: Master, take your servants *(name)* and *(name)* as your own, and unite them in love for each other; grant them the repentance of the Tax Collector, the tears of the Harlot, the confession of the Thief, so that through repentance with their whole heart, and keeping your commandments in harmony and peace, they may be found worthy of your kingdom.

For you are the good steward of all, and to you we offer glory, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages.

*People:* **Amin.**

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*Priest:* Peace be with you all.

*People:* **And with your spirit.**

*Deacon:* Bow your heads to the Lord.

*People:* **To you, O Lord.**

### *Prayer*

*Priest:* Lord Jesus Christ, Word of God, who were raised on the precious and life-giving Cross and ‘tore up the record against us,’ and delivered us from the power of the Devil: be merciful to the sins of your servants, who, unable to bear the heat and burden of the day and the burning of the flesh, have come together in a second communion of marriage; for you decreed through your chosen vessel Paul the Apostle, for the sake of us lowly ones: ‘It is better to marry in the Lord than to burn with passion.’

Have mercy, as a good and loving God, and forgive, be merciful, pardon and remit our transgressions, as the one who took our infirmities upon your shoulders; for no one is with-

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out sin, not even if their life lasts a day, nor without defilement, except you alone, who lived in the flesh without sin, and bestowed on us eternal freedom from passions.

For you are God, the God of those who repent, and to you we offer glory, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages.

*People:* **Amin.**

### *Prayer*

*Deacon:* Let us pray to the Lord.

*People:* **Lord, have mercy.**

*Priest:* Holy God, who formed man from dust and from his rib fashioned woman, and joined her to him as a helper in his likeness, because it pleased you in your greatness that man should not be alone upon the earth: now send forth your hand, Master, from your holy dwelling-place and join together (*the priest joins their right hands*) your servant (*name*) and your servant (*name*), for by you is woman joined to man. Join them in oneness of mind; crown them to be

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one flesh; grant them the fruit of the womb and the joy of children.

For yours is the dominion, and yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages.

*People: Amin.*

*The priest takes the crowns, and crowns first the bridegroom, saying:*

The servant of God (*name*) is crowned in marriage to the servant of God (*name*), in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amin. (3)

*Then he crowns the bride, saying:*

The servant of God (*name*) is crowned in marriage to the servant of God (*name*), in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amin. (3)

*He then places the crowns on their heads, and chants:*

O Lord our God, crown them with glory and honour. (3)

Second Marriage

*Scripture Readings*

*Apostle*

*The prokimenon is read by the reader:*

You have placed upon their heads crowns of precious stones.

*Deacon:* Let us attend.

*Verse.* They asked for life and you gave them length of days.

*Deacon:* Wisdom.

*Reader:* The reading is from Paul's Letter to the Ephesians. (5.20-33)

*Deacon:* Let us attend.

*Reader:* Brethren, always and for everything give thanks, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to God the Father, being subject to one another out of reverence for 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

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the Church, his body, and is himself its Saviour. 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 her to himself in splendour, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. In the same way 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 the Lord does the Church, because we are members of his body, of his flesh and of his bones. '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 is a great mystery, and I take it to mean Christ and the Church; however, let each of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

*Priest:* Peace be with you, the reader.

*People:* **Alliluia. Alliluia. Alliluia.**

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*Holy Gospel*

*Deacon:* Wisdom. Attend. Let us hear the holy Gospel.

*Priest:* Peace be with you all.

*People:* **And with your spirit.**

*Priest:* The reading is from the holy Gospel according to John. *(2.1–11)*

*Deacon:* Let us attend.

*People:* **Glory to you, Lord, glory to you.**

*Priest:* 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 ran out, the mother of Jesus said to him, ‘They have no wine.’ And Jesus said to her, ‘What has this to do with me? 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 eighty or a hundred litres. Jesus said to them, ‘Fill the jars with water.’ And they filled them up to the

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brim, and he said to them, ‘Now draw some out, and take it to the master of the feast.’ So they took it. When the master of the feast tasted the water that had become wine (he did not know where it came from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast addressed the bridegroom and said to him, ‘Every man serves the good wine first; and when the guests have had plenty to drink, 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.

*People:* **Glory to you, Lord, glory to you.**

### *Litany of Fervent Supplication*

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

*People:* **Lord, have mercy. (3)**

*Deacon:* Lord Almighty, the God of our fathers, we ask you, hear us and have mercy.

*People:* **Lord, have mercy. (3)**

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*Deacon:* Have mercy on us, O God, according to your great mercy, we ask you, hear us and have mercy.

*People:* **Lord, have mercy. (3)**

*Deacon:* Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, and salvation for your servants (*name*) and (*name*), and the people here present, who await your rich mercy.

*People:* **Lord, have mercy. (3)**

*Priest:* For you are a merciful and loving God, and to you we offer glory, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages.

*People:* **Amin.**

### *Prayer*

*Deacon:* Let us pray to the Lord.

*People:* **Lord, have mercy.**

*Priest:* Lord our God, who in your plan of salvation deemed it right to show, by your

## Second Marriage

presence in Cana in Galilee, that marriage is honourable: keep now in peace and harmony your servants *(name)* and *(name)*, who in your good pleasure have been joined to each other; let their marriage be honourable; keep them faithful in marriage; grant that they may pass their life together without sin; and grant that they may attain to a ripe old age, keeping your commandments with a pure heart.

For you are our God, a God of mercy and salvation, and to you we offer glory, with your eternal Father and your all-holy, good and life-giving Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages.

*People:* **Amin.**

### *Litany*

*Deacon:* Help us, save us, have mercy on us and protect us, O God, by your grace.

*People:* **Lord, have mercy.**

Second Marriage

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

*People, after each petition:* **Grant this, O Lord.**

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

For pardon and forgiveness of our sins and offences, let us ask of the Lord.

For that which is good and beneficial to our souls, and for peace in the world, let us ask of the Lord.

That we may complete the remainder of our life in peace and repentance, let us ask of the Lord.

That the end of our life may be Christian, painless, unashamed and peaceful, and for a good defence at the fearful judgement seat of Christ, let us ask of the Lord.

## Second Marriage

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

*People:* **To you, O Lord.**

*Priest:* And make us worthy, Master, that we may with boldness and without condemnation dare to call upon you, the heavenly God, as Father, and say:

### *The Lord's Prayer*

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread,  
and forgive us our sins,  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.**

*Priest:* For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages.

Second Marriage

*People:* **Amin.**

*Priest:* Peace be with you all.

*People:* **And with your spirit.**

*Deacon:* Let us bow our heads to the Lord.

*People:* **To you, O Lord.**

*The common cup is brought to be blessed by the priest.*

*Deacon:* Let us pray to the Lord.

*People:* **Lord, have mercy.**

*The priest blesses the cup saying:*

O God, who made all things by your might and established the world, and adorned the crown of all that you had made: bless with a spiritual blessing this common cup, which you bestow on those who have been joined in the communion of marriage.

## Second Marriage

For blessed is your name, and glorified is your kingdom, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages.

*People:* **Amin.**

*The priest takes the cup and gives a sip of wine to each, the groom first and then the bride, as he chants:*

I will take the cup of salvation, and I will call upon the name of the Lord.

*The priest leads the couple around the table three times, while the Best Man (Koumbaro) holds the crowns from behind. The priest and choir chant alternately:*

### *Plagal of Tone 1*

Dance, O Isaiah, dance:  
the Virgin in her womb conceived,  
and has borne a son who is Emmanuel;  
he is both God and man,  
dawning sun is his name;  
and magnifying him,  
we call the Virgin bless'd.

## Second Marriage

### *Heavy Tone*

O holy Martyrs,  
who have contested well  
and have been crowned,  
intercede with the Lord,  
that mercy be granted to our souls.

Glory to you, Christ our God,  
the boast of the Apostles,  
the gladness of the Martyrs,  
whose proclamation is:  
Trinity of one essence.

*Then the priest raises the crowns. While raising the crown of the groom he says:*

*Priest:* Be magnified, O Bridegroom, like Abraham, be blessed like Isaac, and multiply like Jacob, walking in peace and performing in righteousness the commandments of God.

*And raising that of the bride he says:*

*Priest:* And you, O bride, be magnified like Sarah, rejoice like Rebecca, and multiply like Rachel, rejoicing in your husband and observing the directions of the Law, for so is it pleasing to God.

Second Marriage

*Prayer*

*Deacon:* Let us pray to the Lord.

*People:* **Lord, have mercy.**

*Priest:* O God, our God, you were present at Cana in Galilee and blessed the marriage there: bless also these your servants, who by your providence have been joined in the communion of marriage; bless all their comings and goings; fill their life with good things; \*receive their crowns in your Kingdom; keep them pure, blameless, and safe from evil designs, to the ages of ages.

*\*Here the priest takes the crowns from the heads of the bride and groom and places them on the table.*

*People:* **Amin.**

*Priest:* Peace be with you all.

*People:* **And with your spirit.**

*Deacon:* Bow your heads to the Lord.

*People:* **To you, O Lord.**

## Second Marriage

*Priest:* May the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, the all-holy and consubstantial and life-creating Trinity, the one Godhead and Kingship, bless you and grant you length of days, the joy of children, progress in life and faith; fill you with all the good things of the earth; and make you worthy to enjoy the good things that have been promised, through the intercessions of the holy Theotokos and all the Saints.

*People:* **Amin.**

### *Dismissal*

*Priest:* Glory to you, O God our hope, glory to you.

*People:* **Glory to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit;**

**Both now and ever and to the ages of ages.  
Amin.**

**Lord, have mercy. (3) Holy father, bless.**

Second Marriage

*Priest:* May Christ our true God, who by his presence in Cana showed marriage to be honourable: through the intercessions of his all-pure Mother; of the holy, glorious and praiseworthy Apostles; of the holy kings crowned by God and equal to the Apostles, Constantine and Helen; of the holy, great-martyr Procopius; and of all the Saints, have mercy on us and save us, as a good and loving and merciful God.

Through the prayers of our holy Fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us and save us.

*People:* **Amin.**

## Second Marriage

### SUMMARY POINTS ON SECOND MARRIAGE

*Statement of Nikephoros the Confessor, Patriarch of Constantinople (X AD)*

There is no crowning in Second Marriage and it is disciplined by not partaking of the sacred Mysteries for two years, and in the case of a Third Marriage for five years.

*From the response of the blessed Nikita, Metropolitan of Heracleia, to the questions asked by Bishop Constantine.*

Strictly it is not customary to crown those making a Second Marriage, but in the custom of the Great Church this is not observed, and in both Second and Third Marriages the bride and groom are crowned, and no one has ever found fault with this. However, they are excluded from Holy Communion for one or two years. Moreover, it is not customary for the priest who conducts the marriage to join them in the wedding banquet, according to the seventh Canon of the Council of Neocaesaria.

**THE SERVICE  
OF RESTORATION OF  
MARRIAGE  
OF A DIVORCED COUPLE**

*Deacon:* Bless, Master.

*Priest:* Blessed is our God, always, now and ever  
and to the ages of ages.

*People:* **Amin.**

*The following verses are chanted. After each verse the  
people respond:*

**Glory to you, O Lord, glory to you.**

Blessed is the man who fears the Lord; for God  
is great and terrible towards all who are round  
about him.

The Lord will keep his mercy for ever, and his  
covenant will be faithful.

Glory and riches will be in his house; for the  
hand of the Lord will assist him, and his arm  
will strengthen him.

## Restored Marriage

Your wife will be as a fruitful vine on the walls of your house; your children like young olive trees, round about your table.

May the Lord bless you out of Sion, and may you see the good things of Jerusalem all the days of your life.

Blessed be the name of the Lord, from now and for evermore.

### *Litany for Peace*

*Deacon:* In peace let us pray to the Lord.

*People, after each petition:* **Lord, have mercy.**

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

For the peace of the whole world, the stability of the holy Churches of God and the union of all, let us pray to the Lord.

For our Archbishop (*name*), the honourable priesthood, the diaconate in Christ, and all the clergy and laity, let us pray to the Lord.

## Restored Marriage

For the servants of God (*name*) and (*name*), who are being joined together again in marriage, and that they may be granted a life without disapproval, blameless conduct, and behaviour beyond reproach, let us pray to the Lord.

That they may be granted a life together in harmony and love, progress in good works, and length of days, let us pray to the Lord.

That they, and we, may be delivered from all affliction, anger, danger and distress, let us pray to the Lord.

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

Commemorating our all-holy, pure, most blessed, glorious Lady Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary with all the Saints, let us commend ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.

*People:* **To you, O Lord.**

## Restored Marriage

*Priest:* For to you belong all glory, honour and worship, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages.

*People:* **Amin.**

### *Prayer*

*Deacon:* Let us pray to the Lord.

*People:* **Lord, have mercy.**

*Priest:* Loving Master, King of the ages and creator of all, who broke down the dividing wall of enmity and granted peace to the human race, we ask you and we beg you, look upon your servants (*name*) and (*name*) and pour your blessing upon them. Restore the peace that has been disturbed, and implant in their hearts love for each other. Bestow on them an abundance of spiritual calm and conduct beyond reproach, so that continuing in tranquillity of soul, they may enjoy the benefits of family life, and glorify you, the only God of love and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom belong all glory, honour and worship, now and ever and to the ages of ages.

Restored Marriage

*People:* **Amin.**

*Dismissal*

*Priest:* Glory to you, O God our hope, glory to you.

*People:* **Glory to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit;**

**Both now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amin.**

**Lord, have mercy. (3) Holy father, bless.**

*Priest:* May Christ our true God, through the intercessions of his all-pure and blameless holy Mother; through the power of the precious and life-giving Cross; through the protection of the honoured bodiless Powers of heaven; through the supplications of the honoured, glorious Prophet and Forerunner John the Baptist; of the holy, glorious and praiseworthy Apostles; of the holy, glorious and triumphant Martyrs; of our holy and God-bearing Fathers and Mothers; of the holy, great-martyr Procopius; of the holy and righteous Ancestors of God Joachim and Anna, and of all the Saints, have mercy on us and save us, as a good and loving God.

Restored Marriage

Through the prayers of our holy Fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us and save us.

*People:* **Amin.**