# Order of Service

Prelude “Arioso”
“Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring”

*(Please stand.)*

Processional “Air on G String”

**Presider**: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
**All**: Amen.

### Welcoming Salutation

**Presider**: Let us pray:Father, you have made the bond of marriage a holy mystery, a symbol of Christ’s love for His Church. Hear our prayers for Mark and Laura. With faith in you and in each other, they pledge their love today. May their lives always bear witness to the reality of that love. We ask you this through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.
**All**: Amen.

*(Please be seated.)*

## Liturgy of the Word

First Reading Genesis 1:26-28, 31

**Reader**: A reading from the Book of Genesis.
Then God said: “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. Let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and the cattle, and over all the wild animals and all the creatures that crawl on the ground.” God created man in His image; In the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. God blessed them, saying: “Be fertile and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it. Have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and all the living things that move on the earth.” Go looked at everything He had made, and He found it very good.
**Reader**: The Word of the Lord.
**All**: Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm Psalm 145:8-9, 10, 15, 7-18

**Reader**: The Responsorial Psalm:
The Lord is compassionate toward all His works.
**All**: The Lord is compassionate toward all His works.
**Reader**: The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and of great kindness. The Lord is good to all and compassionate toward all His works.
**All**: The Lord is compassionate toward all His works.
**Reader**: Let all your works give you thanks, O Lord and let your faithful ones bless You. The eyes of all look hopefully to You and You give them their food in due season.
**All**: The Lord is compassionate toward all His works.
**Reader**: The Lord is just in all His ways and holy in all His words. The Lord is near to all who call upon Him, to all who call upon Him in truth.
**All**: The Lord is compassionate toward all His works.

Second Reading Phillippians 4:4-9

**Reader**: A reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Phillippians.
Brothers and sisters: Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again, rejoice! Your kindness should be known to all. The Lord is near. Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing what you have learned and received and heard and seen in me. Then the God of peace will be with you.
**Reader**: The Word of the Lord.
**All**: Thanks be to God.

*(Please stand.)*

### Proclamation of the Gospel

**Presider**: Alleluia, Alleluia!
**All**: Alleluia, Alleluia!
**Presider**: God is love. If God loved us, we must also love one another.
**All**: Alleluia, Alleluia!
**Presider**: A reading from the he Holy Gospel according to Matthew.
**All**: Glory to you, Lord.

Gospel Matthew 22:35-40

**Presider**: One of the Pharisees, a scholar of the law, tested Jesus by asking, “Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” He said to him, “You shall love the Lord, your God, With all your heart, With all your soul, and With all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. The whole law and the prophets depend on these two commandments.”
**Presider**: The Gospel of the Lord
**All**: Praise to you, O Christ.

*(Please be seated.)*

### Homily

## Rite of Marriage

*(Please stand.)*

### Introductory Address

**Presider**: My dear friends, you have come together in this church so that the Lord may seal and strengthen your love in the presence of the Church’s minister and this community. Christ abundantly blesses this love. He has already consecrated you in baptism and now He enriches and strengthens you by a special sacrament so that you may assume the duties of marriage in mutual and lasting fidelity. And so, in the presence of the Church, I ask you to state your intentions.

### Statement of Intentions

**Presider**: Mark and Laura, have you come here freely and without reservation to give yourselves to each other in marriage?
**Mark**: I have.
**Laura**: I have.
**Presider**: Will you love and honor each other as man and wife for the rest of your lives?
**Mark**: I will.
**Laura**: I will.
**Presider**: Will you accept children lovingly from God and bring them up according to the law of Christ and His Church?
**Mark**: I will.
**Laura**: I will.

### Consent

**Mark**: I, Mark, take you, Laura, for my lawful wife, to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, until death do us part.
**Laura**: I, Laura, take you, Mark, for my lawful husband, to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, until death do us part.

### Reception of Consent

**Presider**: You have declared your consent before the Church. May the Lord in His goodness strengthen your consent and fill you both with His blessings. What God has joined, men must not divide.
**All**: Amen.

### Blessing and Exchange of Rings

**Presider**: Lord, bless these rings which we bless + in Your Name. Grant that those who wear them may always have a deep faith in each other. May they do Your Will and always live together in peace, good will and love. We ask You this through Christ our Lord.
**All**: Amen.
**Mark**: Laura, take this ring as a sign of my love and fidelity, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
**Laura**: Mark, take this ring as a sign of my love and fidelity, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

*(Couple kneels; congregation remains standing)*

### Prayer of the Couple

**Mark and Laura**: All powerful, ever-living God, we now kneel before You very happy, but somewhat nervous. We feel you brought us together in the beginning, helped our love grow and at this moment are with us. We ask that You stay by our side in the days ahead. Protect us from anything which might harm this marriage, give us courage when burdens come our way, teach us to forgive one another when we fail.
**Mark**: I ask from You the assistance I need to be a good husband and father. Never let me take my wife for granted or forget she needs to be loved. If You bless us with children, I promise to love and care for them, to give them the best possible example.
**Laura**: I ask from You the assistance I need to be a good wife and mother. May I never fail to give my husband encouragement. If You again bless me with motherhood, I promise to devote myself to the children, even to the point of stepping aside when they must walk alone.
**Mark and Laura**: We ask, finally, that in our old age we may love one another as deeply and cherish each other as much as we do at this very moment. May You grant these wishes which we offer through You Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

*(Please stand.)*

### Prayer of the Faithful

**Presider**: Now that we have heard God’s Word in the Bible and experienced the Lord’s presence in the exchange of vows, let us present these prayerful petitions for the people in the world today.

*(After each petition is read, the response is as follows.)*

**Reader**: Let us pray to the Lord
**All**: Lord, hear our prayer.
**Presider**: O ever-living and caring God, Jesus taught us to ask, to seek and to knock. We have done so, confident that You will now look upon our many needs, considering our trusting faith, and in Your great love grant these requests which we present to you through Jesus Christ our Lord.
**All**: Amen.
**All**: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

*(Please stand.)*

### Nuptial Blessing

**Presider**: My dear friends, let us turn to the Lord and pray that He will bless Laura, now married in Christ to Mark, and that He will unite in the love the couple he has joined in this holy bond. Father, by Your power You have made everything out of nothing. In the beginning, You created the universe and made mankind in Your own likeness. You gave man the constant help of woman so that man and woman should no longer be two, but one flesh and You teach us that what You have united may never be divided.

Father, You have made the union of man and wife so holy a mystery that it symbolizes the marriage of Christ and His Church.

Father, by Your plan man and woman are united, and married life has been established as the one blessing that was not forfeited by original sin or washed away in the flood.

Look with love upon this woman, your daughter, now joined to her husband in marriage. She asks your blessing. Give her the grace of love and peace. May she always follow the example of the holy women whose praises are sung in the scripture. May her husband put his trust in her and recognize that she is his equal and the heir with him to the life of grace. May he always honor her and love her as Christ loves his bride, the Church.

Father, keep them always faithful to Your commandments. Keep them faithful in marriage and let them be living examples of Christian life.

Give them the strength which comes from the gospel so that they may be witnesses of Christ to others. Bless them with children and help them to be good parents. May they live to see their children’s children. And after a happy old age, grant them fullness of life with the saints in the kingdom of heaven.

We ask You this through Christ our Lord.
**All**: Amen.

*(Please be seated.)*

“The Prayer of St. Francis” Words attributed to St. Francis of Assisi

Music by: Sebastian Temple 1967, Sung by Sinead O’Connor

Make me a channel of your peace
Where there is hatred, let me bring Your love
Where there is injury, Your pardon, Lord
And where’s doubt, true faith in You.

Make me a channel of Your peace,
Where’s despair in life, let me bring hope
Where there is darkness, only light
And where’s sadness, ever joy!

O Master, grant that I may never seek so much to be consoled as to console
To be understood as to understand
To be loved as to love with all my soul!

Make me a channel of your peace
It is pardoning that we are pardoned
It is giving to all men that we receive
And in dying that we are born to eternal life

## Concluding Rite

*(Please stand.)*

### Final Blessing

**Presider**: God the eternal Father keep you in love with each other, so that that the peace of Christ may stay with you and be always in your home.
**All**: Amen.
**Presider**: May your children bless you and your friends console you and all men live in peace with you.
**All**: Amen.
**Presider**: May you always bear witness to the love of God in this world so that the afflicted and the needy will find in you generous friends, and welcome you into the joys of heaven.
**All**: Amen.
**Presider**: And may almighty God bless you all, the Father, and the Son +, and the Holy Spirit.
**All**: Amen.