

THE WEDDING SERVICE

Uniting

^ \$

and

% #

Processional

Charge to the Congregation

Dearly beloved, we are assembled here in the presence of God, to join this man and this woman in holy marriage; which is instituted of God, regulated by his commandments, blessed by our Lord Jesus Christ, and to be held in honor among all. Let us therefore reverently remember that God has established and sanctified marriage, for the welfare and happiness of humankind. Our savior has declared that a man shall leave his father and mother and cleave unto his wife. By his apostles, he has instructed those who enter into this relation to cherish a mutual esteem and love; to bear with each other's infirmities and weaknesses to comfort each other in sickness, trouble and sorrow; in honesty and industry to provide for each other, and for their household, in temporal things; to pray for and encourage each other in the things which pertain to God; and to live together as the heirs of the grace of life.

Prayer

Almighty and ever-blessed God, whose presence is the happiness of every condition, and whose favor hallows every relation: We beseech thee to be present and favorable unto these thy servants, that they may be truly joined in the honorable estate of marriage, in the covenant of their God. As thou hast

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brought them together by thy providence, sanctify them by thy Spirit, giving them a new frame of heart fit for their new estate; and enrich them with all grace, whereby they may enjoy the comforts, undergo the cares, endure the trials, and perform the duties of life together as becometh Christians, under thy heavenly guidance and protection; through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Scripture Lesson:

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

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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 abode, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

Charge to the Couple

The Questions of Intent

The Groom

^, wilt thou have this woman to be thy wife, and wilt thou pledge thy troth to her, in all love and honor, in all duty and service, in all faith and tenderness, to live with her, and cherish her, according to the ordinance of God, in the holy bond of marriage?

I WILL

The Bride

%, wilt thou have this man to be thy husband, and wilt thou pledge thy troth to him, in all love and honor, in all duty and service, in all faith and tenderness, to live with him, and cherish him, according to the ordinance of God, in the holy bond of marriage?

I WILL

The Giving of the Bride

Who giveth this woman to be married to this man?

I DO

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or

HER MOTHER AND I

Movement into Chancel

The Vows

The Groom

I, ^, take thee, %; to be my wedded wife; And I do promise and covenant; Before God and these witnesses; To be thy loving and faithful husband; In plenty and in want; In joy and in sorrow; In sickness and in health; As long as we both shall live.

or

I, ^, take thee, %; to be my wedded wife, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death us do part, according to God's holy ordinance; and thereto I plight thee my troth.

The Bride

I, %; take thee, ^; To be my wedded husband; And I do promise and covenant; Before God and these witnesses; To be thy loving and faithful wife; I plenty and in want; In joy and in sorrow; In sickness and in health; As long as we both shall live.

or

I, %, take thee, ^; to be my wedded husband,

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to have and to hold from this day forward,
for better for worse, for richer for poorer,
in sickness and in health, to love and to
cherish, till death us do part, according to
God's holy ordinance; and thereto I plight
thee my troth.

The Ring Ceremony

This ring I give thee; In token and pledge;
Of our constant faith; And abiding love.

or

With this ring I thee wed; In the name of the
Father; And of the Son; And of the Holy Spi-
rit. Amen.

Prayer

Bless, O Lord, these rings, and they who
where them, that they may abide in thy peace,
and continue in thy favor unto their life's
end; Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer

Let us pray:

Eternal God, creator and preserver of all
life, author of salvation and giver of all
grace: look with favor upon the world you
have made and redeemed, and especially upon ^
and %.

Give them wisdom and devotion in their common
life, that each may be to the other a stren-
gth in need, a comfort in sorrow, a counselor
in perplexity, and a companion in joy.

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Grant that their wills may be so knit together in your will, and their spirits in your Spirit, that they may grow in love and peace with you and each other all the days of their life.

Give them the courage, when they hurt each other to recognize and confess their fault, and the grace to seek your forgiveness, and to forgive each other.

Make their life together a sign of Christ's love to this sinful and broken world, that unity may overcome estrangement, forgiveness heal guilt, and joy conquer despair.

Give them such fulfillment of their mutual love that they may reach out in concern for others.

[Give to them, if it is your will, the gift of children, and the wisdom to bring them up to know you, to love you, and to serve you.]

Grant that all who have witnessed these vows today may find their lives strengthened, and that all who are married may depart with their own promises renewed.

Enrich with your grace all husbands and wives, parents and children, that, loving and supporting one another, they may serve those in need and be a sign of your kingdom.

Grant that the bonds of our common humanity, by which all your children are united one to another, may be so transformed by your spirit that your peace and justice may fill the

Solemnization of Marriage Service, page 7

earth, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

or

Eternal God who hast called all men and women to be thy children, dwelling in thy house and evermore praising thy holy name: Strengthen ^ and % with the gift of thy Spirit, so they may fulfill the vows they have taken. Keep them faithful to each other and to thee. fill them with such love and joy that they may build a home where no one is a stranger, and guide them by thy word to serve thee all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

We know, O Lord, that there will come times of disappointment and second thoughts:
when the changing seasons of life will draw them apart;
when the din of little ones and job responsibilities will compete for their lonely, leisure hours together;
when the glow of affection will be dark and cool;
Then in thy great mercy, Lord, speak to them in thy commanding love. When they are wounded and broken, bind them up. When they are emptied, fill them. And with thy gracious hand lead them and with thy right hand hold them. Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Confident of thy care for this man and this woman, we pray for ourselves: Humble us before the mystery of this day. Open thou our eyes to see thy work and care. And grant each of us a new heart which rejoices over what thou hast done in our midst. Through

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Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Lord's Prayer

The Announcement of Marriage

By the authority committed unto me as a Minister of the Church of Christ, I declare that ^ and % are now husband and wife, according to the ordinance of God, and the law of the State: in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Whom therefore God hath joined together, let no man put asunder.

Benediction

God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit, bless, preserve, and keep you; the Lord mercifully with his favor look upon you, and fill you with all spiritual benediction and grace; that ye may so live together in this life that in the world to come ye may have life everlasting. Amen.

The Embrace

The Recessional

THE WEDDING SERVICE

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and

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Sentences of Scripture

God is love, and those who abide in love
abide in God, and God abides in them.

or

This is the day the Lord has made. Let us
rejoice and be glad in it.

Statement on the Gift of Marriage

We have gathered in the presence of God to
give thanks for the gift of marriage, to
witness the joining together of ^ and %, to
surround them with our prayers, and to ask
God's blessing upon them, so that they may be
strengthened for their life together and
nurtured in their love for God.

God created us male and female, and gave us
marriage so that husband and wife may help
and comfort each other, living faithfully
together in plenty and in want, in joy and in
sorrow, in sickness and in health, throughout
all their days.

God gave us marriage for the full expression
of the love between a man and a woman. In
marriage a woman and a man belong to each
other, and with affection and tenderness
freely give themselves to each other.

God gave us marriage for the well-being of

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human society, for the ordering of family life, and for the nurture of children.

God gave us marriage as a holy mystery in which a man and a woman are joined together, and become one, just as Christ is one with the church.

In marriage, husband and wife are called to a new way of life, created, ordered, and blessed by God. This way of life must not be entered into carelessly, or from selfish motives, but responsibly, and prayerfully.

We rejoice that marriage is given by God, blessed by our Lord Jesus Christ, and sustained by the Holy Spirit. Therefore, let marriage be held in honor among all.

Prayer

Let us pray:

Gracious God, you are always faithful in your love for us. Look mercifully upon ^ and %, who have come seeking your blessing. Let your Holy Spirit rest upon them so that with steadfast love they may honor the promises they make this day, through Jesus Christ our Savior. AMEN.

Declarations of Intent

^, having heard how God has created, ordered, and blessed the covenant of marriage, do you affirm your desire and intention to enter this covenant?

I DO.

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%, having heard how God has created, ordered, and blessed the covenant of marriage, do you affirm your desire and intention to enter this covenant?

I DO.

The Giving of the Bride

Who giveth this woman to be married to this man?

I DO

or

Affirmations of the Families

----,do you give your blessing to ^ and %, and promise to do everything in your power to uphold them in their marriage?

WE (I) GIVE OUR (MY) BLESSING AND PROMISE OUR (MY) LOVING SUPPORT.

or

WE DO

Affirmation of the Congregation

Will all of you witnessing these vows do everything in your power to uphold ^ and % in their marriage?

WE WILL

Scripture and Sermon

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Let us pray:

God of mercy, you have never broken your covenant with us, and you free us to live together in the power of your faithful love. Amid all the changing words of our generation, may we hear your eternal Word that does not change. Then may we respond to your gracious promises with faithful and obedient lives; through our Lord Jesus Christ.

AMEN.

Scripture Lesson: I Corinthians 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

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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.

Movement into Chancel

The Vows

^ and %, since it is your intention to marry, join your right hands, and with your promises bind yourselves to each other as husband and wife.

Husband

I, ^, take you, %, to be my wife; and I promise, before God and these witnesses, to be your loving and faithful husband; in plenty and in want; in joy and in sorrow; in sickness and in health; as long as we both shall live.

Wife

I, %, take you, ^, to be my husband; and I promise, before God and these witnesses, to be your loving and faithful wife; in plenty and in want; in joy and in sorrow; in sickness and in health; as long as we both shall live.

Exchange of Rings

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What do you bring as the sign of your promise?

Let us pray:

By your blessing, O God, may these rings be to ^ and % symbols of unending love and faithfulness, reminding them of the covenant they made this day, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Bride and Groom

This ring I give you, as a sign of our constant faith and abiding love, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Prayer

Let us pray:

Eternal God, creator and preserver of all life, author of salvation and giver of all grace: look with favor upon the world you have made and redeemed, and especially upon ^ and %.

Give them wisdom and devotion in their common life, that each may be to the other a strength in need, a comfort in sorrow, a counselor in perplexity, and a companion in joy.

Grant that their wills may be so knit together in your will, and their spirits in your Spirit, that they may grow in love and peace with you and each other all the days of their life.

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Give them the courage, when they hurt each other to recognize and confess their fault, and the grace to seek your forgiveness, and to forgive each other.

Make their life together a sign of Christ's love to this sinful and broken world, that unity may overcome estrangement, forgiveness heal guilt, and joy conquer despair.

Give them such fulfillment of their mutual love that they may reach out in concern for others.

[Give to them, if it is your will, the gift of children, and the wisdom to bring them up to know you, to love you, and to serve you.]

Grant that all who have witnessed these vows today may find their lives strengthened, and that all who are married may depart with their own promises renewed.

Enrich with your grace all husbands and wives, parents and children, that, loving and supporting one another, they may serve those in need and be a sign of your kingdom.

Grant that the bonds of our common humanity, by which all your children are united one to another, may be so transformed by your spirit that your peace and justice may fill the earth, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

or

Eternal God, without your grace no promise is sure. Strengthen ^ and % with patience,

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kindness, gentleness, and all other gifts of your Spirit, so that they may fulfill the vows they have made. Keep them faithful to each other and to you. Fill them with such love and joy that they may build a home of peace and welcome. Guide them by your word to serve you all their days.

Enable us all, O God, in each of our home and lives to do your will. Enrich us with your grace so that, encouraging and supporting one another, we may serve those in need and hasten the coming of peace, love, and justice on earth, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Lord's Prayer

The Announcement of Marriage

Before God and in the presence of this congregation, ^ and % have made their solemn vows to each other. They have confirmed their promises by the joining of hands and by the giving and receiving of rings. Therefore, I proclaim that they are now husband and wife.

Blessed be the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit not and forever.

Whom therefore God hath joined together let no one put asunder.

Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you his peace. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and

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of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The Embrace

The Recessional

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Alternative Scriptural Texts

Scripture Readings for Christian Marriage

The following readings are particularly appropriate for use in the service of Christian marriage. An asterisk * indicates that the text of that particular reading is included in this resource (pp. 895-902).

List of Suggested Readings

Old Testament

- Gen. 1:26-31 Humankind created in the image of God
* Gen. 2:18-24 Bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh
* Song of Sol. 8:6-7 Set me as a seal upon your heart
* Prov. 3:3-6 Trust the Lord with all your heart
* Isa. 54:5-8 Your Maker is your husband
Jer. 31:31-34 The Lord will make a new covenant

Psalms

The following psalms are appropriate for singing or reading in the service. For another translation of the psalms see pages 611-783.

- Ps. 8 Mortals crowned with glory and honor
* Ps. 67 May God be gracious to us
* Ps. 95:1-7 O come, let us sing to the Lord
* Ps. 100 Make a joyful noise to the Lord
* Ps. 103:1-5, 15-18 Bless the Lord, O my soul
Ps. 117 Great is God's steadfast love
Ps. 121 Lift up my eyes to the hills
Ps. 128 Happy is everyone who fears the Lord
* Ps. 136:1-9, 26 O give thanks, for God is good
* Ps. 145 I will exalt you, O God my King
Ps. 148 Praise the Lord
Ps. 150 Everything that breathes praise the Lord

Epistles

- * Rom. 12:1-2, 9-18 A living sacrifice . . . let love be genuine
* 1 Cor. 13:1-13 Faith, hope, love . . . greatest is love

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Col. 3:12-17 Clothe yourselves with love

1 John 4:7-12 Let us love one another . . . God is love

Rev. 19:1, 5-9 Rejoicing at the marriage of the Lamb

Gospels

* Matt. 5:1-10 The Beatitudes

* Matt. 5:13-16 Salt of the earth . . . light of the world

Matt. 19:3-6 No longer two, but one flesh

* Matt. 22:35-40 Love the Lord with all your heart, soul, mind

* Mark 10:6-9 What God has joined, let no one separate

John 2:1-11 The wedding at Cana

* John 15:1-17 Jesus, the true vine

Scripture Readings

All readings are from the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible.

Old Testament

I

Genesis 2:18-24

The Lord God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as

his partner." So out of the ground the Lord God formed every animal of the field and every

bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever

the man called every living creature, that was its name. The man gave names to all cattle, and

to the birds of the air, and to every animal of the field; but for the man there was not found a

helper as his partner. So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he

slept; then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the Lord

God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. Then the

man said,

"This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh;

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this one shall be called Woman, for out of Man this one was taken."

Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh.

2

Song of Solomon 8:6-7

Set me as a seal upon your heart,
as a seal upon your arm;
for love is strong as death,
passion fierce as the grave.
Its flashes are flashes of fire,
a raging flame.

Many waters cannot quench love,
neither can floods drown it.

If one offered for love
all the wealth of his house,
it would be utterly scorned.

3

Proverbs 3:3-6

Do not let loyalty and faithfulness forsake you;
bind them around your neck,
write them on the tablet of your heart.
So you will find favor and good repute
in the sight of God and of people.

Trust in the Lord with all your heart,
and do not rely on your own insight.
In all your ways acknowledge him,
and he will make straight your paths.

4

Isaiah 54:5-8

For your Maker is your husband,
the Lord of hosts is his name;
the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer,

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the God of the whole earth he is called.
For the Lord has called you
like a wife forsaken and grieved in spirit,
like the wife of a man's youth when she is cast off,
says your God.
For a brief moment I abandoned you,
but with great compassion I will gather you.
In overflowing wrath for a moment
I hid my face from you,
but with everlasting love I will have compassion on you,
says the Lord, your Redeemer.

Psalms

For another translation of the psalms see pages 611-783.

5

Psalm 67

May God be gracious to us and bless us
and make his face to shine upon us,
that your way may be known upon earth,
your saving power among all nations.
Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.
Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,
for you judge the peoples with equity
and guide the nations upon earth.
Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.
The earth has yielded its increase;
God, our God, has blessed us.
May God continue to bless us;

let all the ends of the earth revere him.

6

Psalm 95:1-7

O come, let us sing to the Lord;

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let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!
Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;
let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!
For the Lord is a great God,
and a great King above all gods.
In his hand are the depths of the earth;
the heights of the mountains are his also.
The sea is his, for he made it,
and the dry land, which his hands have formed.
O come, let us worship and bow down,
let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!
For he is our God,
and we are the people of his pasture,
and the sheep of his hand.
O that today you would listen to his voice!

7

Psalm 100

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.
Worship the Lord with gladness;
come into his presence with singing.
Know that the Lord is God.
It is he that made us, and we are his;
we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.
Enter his gates with thanksgiving,
and his courts with praise.
Give thanks to him, bless his name.
For the Lord is good;
his steadfast love endures forever,
and his faithfulness to all generations.

8

Psalm 103:1-5, 15-18

Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and all that is within me,
bless his holy name.

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Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and do not forget all his benefits—
who forgives all your iniquity,
who heals all your diseases,
who redeems your life from the Pit,
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,
who satisfies you with good as long as you live
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.
As for mortals, their days are like grass;
they flourish like a flower of the field;
for the wind passes over it, and it is gone,
and its place knows it no more.
But the steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting
on those who fear him,
and his righteousness to children's children,
to those who keep his covenant
and remember to do his commandments.

9

Psalm 136:1-9, 26

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures forever.
O give thanks to the God of gods,
for his steadfast love endures forever.
O give thanks to the Lord of lords,
for his steadfast love endures forever;
who alone does great wonders,
for his steadfast love endures forever;
who by understanding made the heavens,
for his steadfast love endures forever;
who spread out the earth on the waters,
for his steadfast love endures forever;
who made the great lights,
for his steadfast love endures forever;
the sun to rule over the day,

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for his steadfast love endures forever;
the moon and stars to rule over the night,
for his steadfast love endures forever;
O give thanks to the God of heaven,
for his steadfast love endures forever.

10

Psalm 145

I will extol you, my God and King,
and bless your name forever and ever.
Every day I will bless you,
and praise your name forever and ever.
Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised;
his greatness is unsearchable.
One generation shall laud your works to another,
and shall declare your mighty acts.
On the glorious splendor of your majesty,
and on your wondrous works, I will meditate.
The might of your awesome deeds shall be proclaimed,
and I will declare your greatness.
They shall celebrate the fame of your abundant goodness,
and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.
The Lord is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
The Lord is good to all,
and his compassion is over all that he has made.
All your works shall give thanks to you, O Lord,
and all your faithful shall bless you.
They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom,
and tell of your power,
to make known to all people your mighty deeds,
and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.
Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,
and your dominion endures throughout all generations.

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The Lord is faithful in all his words,
and gracious in all his deeds.
The Lord upholds all who are falling,
and raises up all who are bowed down.
The eyes of all look to you,
and you give them their food in due season.
You open your hand,
satisfying the desire of every living thing.
The Lord is just in all his ways,
and kind in all his doings.
The Lord is near to all who call on him,
to all who call on him in truth.
He fulfills the desire of all who fear him;
he also hears their cry, and saves them.
The Lord watches over all who love him,
but all the wicked he will destroy.

My mouth will speak the praise of the Lord,
and all flesh will bless his holy name forever and ever.

Epistles

11

Romans 12:1-2, 9-18

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.
Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit,

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serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

12

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have 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 do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing. Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy

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only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

Gospels

13

Matthew 5:1-10

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:
"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.
"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.
"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.
"Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.
"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.
"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.
"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

14

Matthew 5:13-16

You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It

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is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

15

Matthew 22:35-40

A lawyer asked him a question to test him. "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

16

Mark 10:6-9

From the beginning of creation, "God made them male and female." "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.

17

John 15:1-17

I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that

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bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples. As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I

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appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the
Father will give you
whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these
commands so that you may love
one another.