



**MARRIAGE AT  
ST. PAUL-REFORMATION**

*Preparing for Celebration*

BELOVED, LET US LOVE ONE ANOTHER,  
FOR LOVE IS OF GOD.

1 John 4:7

# WELCOME

Congratulations on your upcoming marriage! It is our hope and prayer for you, your family, and your friends that this time of preparation is a fruitful one full of joy, learning, and a deepening faith in the God who has brought great love into your life.

This booklet, *Marriage at St. Paul-Reformation: Preparing for Celebration* will serve as a blueprint for our planning process together. Please read through it and be familiar with it, as a great many questions are answered in these pages. It is our goal to make the planning process meaningful, clear, and helpful, and the staff of St. Paul-Reformation is always here to help you and answer any questions you may have.

Marriage is an important part of the Christian life and exhibits the commitment of two people to grow together in love. God indeed establishes this love as a reflection of the love shared between the original community: the Holy Trinity itself. It is from the Trinity that all other communities flow and find their meaning, including the community of the family. Because of this, it is important that proper preparation is made, including strategies for many successful years together.

It is our hope that, as you move towards the day of your marriage, God will continue to bless you and that you will, daily, grow deeper in love.

Grace and Peace,

Rev. Dr. Patrick H. Shebeck  
Senior Pastor  
St. Paul-Reformation Lutheran Church  
[www.stpaulref.org](http://www.stpaulref.org)

## TIMELINE

The time leading up to marriage can be very joyful; at the same time, there are a great number of details that require attention. The first steps towards the Wedding Day are laid out here:

- Six Months To A Year:** The couple regularly attends the Holy Eucharist at St. Paul-Reformation and have been received as full members;
- The couple contacts the pastor to set up an initial time for discussion and expresses the desire to be married at SPR;
- An appropriate date is chosen and reserved on the Parish Calendar;
- Contact is made with the Wedding Coordinator (Sandy Archer);
- Six Months Before:** A time is set up to begin counseling sessions (Pastor);
- The “Prepare/Enrich” Marriage Inventory is taken (Pastor);
- Counseling sessions take place (Pastor);
- Marriage Workshop is scheduled and attended;
- Two Months Before:** A time is set up with the Cantor (Director of Music) to set up a music consultation (Kalle Akkerman);
- Music Consultation takes place (Kalle Akkerman);
- Final preparations are reviewed with the Wedding Coordinator; (Sandy Archer)
- A Month Before:** A copy of the Service Order is produced in the parish office and edited in consultation with the couple (Jennifer Walding);
- Two Weeks Before:** Invoice is finalized and communicated to couple (Jennifer Walding);
- A Week Before:** Wedding License due in the Parish Office;
- Invoice paid and checks delivered to Parish Office;
- Day Before:** Rehearsal takes place at St. Paul-Reformation in the evening;
- Day Of Wedding:** Building opened at agreed-upon time, photos, and liturgy.

# PREPARATIONS IN DETAIL

Please review and be clear about the following preparatory details:

## Weddings Are For Members Of This Community

Because marriage is a public rite within the life of the community, it is the policy of St. Paul-Reformation Church to only marry members of this congregation. If you are not a member at St. Paul-Reformation and would like to be married, please contact the Pastor regarding the steps to becoming full members here. If you are not a member of St. Paul-Reformation and are still looking to get married, we recommend contacting Ramsey County to arrange for a Justice of the Peace to perform the ceremony.

## Contact The Pastor

Please drop an e-mail to the Pastor or call (pastorpatrick@stpaulref.org; 651-224-3371), and express that you would like to be married. You will be directed to read this booklet; please be familiar with it.

## A Date Is Chosen

In consultation with the Parish Administrator (Jennifer Walding; office@stpaulref.org), an appropriate date is chosen and cleared on the Parish Calendar. Weddings do not occur during Advent or Lent (see below).

## Contact Is Made With The Wedding Coordinator

St. Paul-Reformation has a Wedding Coordinator (Sandy Archer), whose job is to handle the *logistical* (i.e., non-liturgical) aspects of the day. This includes set-up, reception space, reception of food, space needs, etc. Sandy will help you walk through what you need and make sure that it happens.

## Counseling Sessions And Marriage Workshop

St. Paul-Reformation requires counseling for all those preparing to be married. This includes not only counseling sessions with the Pastor, but also attendance at a Marriage Retreat which continues to lay the foundations for Christian understandings of commitment. We make use of the “Prepare/Enrich” Inventory that can be taken online; the inventory is then discussed over several sessions with the Senior Pastor.

The State of Minnesota recognizes that Pre-Marital counseling prepares couples for success in their marriage. Accordingly, the Wedding License Fee is reduced when the couple presents a certification of completion from the Pastor. This is given at the final counseling session, and all sessions and the Marriage Workshop are **required** in order to receive both the certification and final approval for marriage at St. Paul-Reformation.

In addition, couples are required to attend the Marriage Workshop, facilitated by the Rev. Karen Stevenson, an ordained Lutheran pastor. These run on Saturdays from 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. and are generally held at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in South Minneapolis. More information can be found at <http://www.karenstevensen.com/pre-marriage-workshops/class-schedule/>

You are free to schedule this at any time prior to your wedding; simply drop the Pastor at St. Paul-Reformation an e-mail letting us know that you have completed it.

### **Music Consultation**

Musical choices in accordance with the norms of the liturgy are a collaborative process between the Cantor (Director of Music) and the couple. Final decisions must be approved by the Cantor, and – see below – no secular music is permitted. The Cantor is a skilled professional musician who will present options, suggestions, and guidance in the choices of music. The Cantor will contact the couple to set up a time to meet, which takes approximately an hour.

### **Final Preparations Reviewed**

The staff meets to review changes, suggestions, etc. and makes any necessary modifications.

### **Service Order Produced**

Because the liturgy is intricate, the Service Order Bulletins are produced in the parish office; this is part of the administrative fee on the fee schedule. The couple will work with the pastoral and office staff to include items important to them.

### **Fee Schedule/Invoice Prepared and Communicated**

**Two weeks** before the wedding, the final invoice – based upon the fee schedule – is sent to the couple via e-mail (or post). Payment (individual checks) is due the following week when the Wedding License is due in the parish office.

### **Wedding License Procured and Due, Invoice Paid**

**One Week** before the wedding, the Marriage License is due in the parish office as well as invoice payment.

### **Rehearsal The Evening Before**

The evening before the wedding, a rehearsal is scheduled. These take place at 5:45 p.m. This lasts an hour or less and is a chance for us to walk through, as a group, the wedding liturgy.

### **Wedding Liturgy**

Congratulations! You've made it!

### **A note on the use of alcohol:**

Please be aware that consumption of alcohol prior to the rehearsal or service may cancel the wedding; it is necessary that all members of the Wedding Party be sober, attentive, and respectful of both the rehearsal and the liturgy. In short: please communicate to the entire Wedding Party that partying is for...after the business at hand has been attended to!

# LITURGY

The celebration of marriage at St. Paul-Reformation Church is a public liturgy of the Church. It is important that the couple understand this clearly: the liturgical celebration belongs *to the Church as a supportive community of faith in Jesus Christ, not to the couple as an individual unit*. Because of this, the couple is participating in the communal life of the Church at large, and thus, follows the norms for liturgical celebration by which the community worships.

## Ordo Of The Liturgy

At St. Paul-Reformation, the marriage liturgy follows the liturgy of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America as laid out in *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (pp. 286, ff). Please read through this (contained at the end of this booklet) and be familiar with it. Certain choices are possible, but the basic structure of the liturgy does not change.

## Holy Eucharist Is Celebrated

Because the marriage liturgy is a continuation of the “...wedding feast that has no end,” the Holy Eucharist is celebrated at all marriage liturgies if both of the couple are baptized Christian (they do not both need to be Lutheran). If one of the couple is *not* baptized, the Holy Eucharist is not celebrated, and the appropriate liturgical modifications to the marriage Rite are made. The couple is invited to help the Presider serve Holy Communion, and the table of Christ is open to all the baptized, regardless of if they are Lutheran or not.

## Weddings Do Not Happen During Advent or Lent

Because of the penitential nature of both Advent and Lent, weddings are not scheduled during these times. Advent is the four weeks preceding Christmas (usually starting at the end of November), and Lent is the six weeks prior to Easter, beginning on Ash Wednesday. Though Advent is always at the same time, Lent moves depending on the date of Easter. Please check with the Pastor *before* you pick a date to ensure that these times maintain their integrity.

## Options Within The Liturgy

The couple is invited to choose:

- Music appropriate to the celebration, including music for a soloist, if any;
- Readings and Psalm
- Hymns
- Text at the Vows from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (pg. 288)
- Text at the Giving of Rings from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (pg. 288)

## The Unity Candle/Sand/Etc.

The practice of having a “Unity Candle” is – though common in much of American Protestantism – not a part of the Lutheran liturgy. It is not permitted during the wedding liturgy at St. Paul-Reformation. Other variations (sand, etc.) are likewise not a part of the liturgical celebration and are best left for the reception, and – if you would like to include this – we urge you to be creative in finding ways that this can be worked into your reception with family and friends.

### **Participation of Family and Friends**

There are three places within the liturgy where we invite the participation of family and friends of the couple:

- The Readings (first and second reading; one or two people);
- The Prayers of Intercession (one person);
- Presentation of the Gifts at the Altar (Bread and Wine; one or two people)

These can be slightly modified to determine if it is possible to have family and friends participate, please be in consultation with the Pastor about this.

### **Visiting Clergy**

Visiting clergy are invited to participate in the liturgy as homilists (preachers); the Pastor of St. Paul-Reformation Church presides at the altar and over all liturgies celebrated here.

### **Interfaith Celebrations**

Clergy and members of other faith traditions are invited to participate insofar as they are comfortable in the liturgy. Please bear in mind, however, that the liturgy remains a Christian one, and can only be modified insofar as the integrity of the Christian tradition is maintained.

### **The Color Of The Day**

The Lutheran Church practices the use of liturgical colors corresponding to the day and/or festival being observed. This color is not always white, and the color of the altar cloths, pulpit falls, and vestments are the assigned ones for the day; this is not changeable.

### **Length of the Liturgy**

The Celebration of the Holy Eucharist requires 1 hour and 15 minutes to accomplish. Please plan receptions, etc. with this in mind; it cannot be abbreviated.

## PHYSICAL SPACE

The sanctuary is the proper place for the Holy Eucharist to take place, and it is the gathering place of the community. The community – including those to be married – gather around the “Means of Grace” of the Christian tradition: the Word preached and the sacraments celebrated.

### **Decorations**

Modifications and decorations to the sanctuary are possible insofar as they do not interfere with the liturgical functions that will take place during the celebration. Please consult the Wedding Coordinator and/or Pastor if you have questions about this, and be sure that florists and other participants are clear about these requirements. An aisle runner is a possibility, but must be provided by the couple and/or florist, as the parish does not own one.

### **Pew Candles**

St. Paul-Reformation owns a set of pew torches that attach to the ends of the pews along the main aisle. These are available for use, and – particularly for evening weddings – add a nice touch. These are available for an additional fee.

### **Photography**

Photos can be done either before or after the liturgy, but – if done before – must be finished twenty-minutes before the liturgy is to begin. Photographers are welcome to take non-flash photography during the liturgy, but need to be discreet and – again – not block or obtrude the view of the altar.

### **Chancel and Altar**

Because the altar is the theological center around which the community gathers, it is not possible for it to be moved. Decorations of the High Altar reredos is possible; please speak with the Pastor and Wedding Coordinator about this.

# MUSIC

Music is an integral part of the marriage celebration, and choosing music that is appropriate to the celebration is key in celebrating the liturgy. Bearing that in mind, we begin at St. Paul-Reformation from the following understandings of music in the marriage liturgy:

- Music is for the purposes of facilitating the liturgy as the “work of the people” (*leitourgia*). This is its *primary purpose*.
- Secular music is not permitted in the celebration, including prelude and postlude;
- Pre-recorded music is not permitted, as we value the integrity, gifts, and offerings of our Cantor and the theology of incarnation that celebrates the creation of music as inspired act among the assembly;
- The Cantor (Director of Music) and the Pastor approve all choices of music;
- The Ordinary of the Mass (Kyrie, Gloria, Sanctus, Agnus Dei) are chosen by the Cantor;

## Steps for Choosing Music:

- The couple reads through *Marriage At St. Paul-Reformation: Preparing for Celebration*;
- The couple meets with the Pastor, and is sent a list of suggested readings.
- Once the Psalm has been chosen, the Cantor picks the psalm setting;
- The Cantor initiates a consultation meeting with the couple to choose music;
- Music is confirmed and approved by the Pastor;
- Any instrumentalists, etc. are booked through the Cantor;
- Rehearsals are set up as necessary prior to the wedding liturgy.

## Soloists, cantors, and instrumentalists:

- A cantor to sing the liturgical parts of the mass is scheduled by the Cantor (Director of Music); this person receives a stipend for their work, and – though the couple determines if they would like a male or female voice – the staffing of this position is left to the Director of Music, since staff-cantors are familiar with the flow of the liturgy at St. Paul-Reformation. The cantor sings the Psalm and the Gospel Acclamation, and may sing other music, if the couple chooses.
- If the couple determines that they would like a soloist, this person can either be scheduled and chosen by the Cantor, or if there is a friend/family member who would like to do this, that is fine as well, assuming that the performer is of competent ability and of high quality. ***Please note: a soloist does not replace the need for a liturgical cantor.***
- If the couple would like instrumentalists, these also can be arranged with the Cantor. ***Please note: there are additional (union) fees for these instruments***, but almost any combination is possible; this is arranged through the Cantor’s office.
- Visiting musicians are invited to participate in the liturgy, but the planning remains the responsibility of the Cantor. In accordance with the American Guild of Organists guides for employment, the Cantor of St. Paul-Reformation is paid their regular “Bench fee,” even if a different musician performs the service. Please be clear about this, should you choose this option.

## SUGGESTED READINGS AND HYMNS

Couples are invited to choose two readings and a Psalm. The First Reading is always from the Old Testament, and the Second Reading is always from the New Testament letters (not the Gospel). The Pastor chooses the Gospel, since they will be preaching on that text.

### Readings From The Old Testament

Genesis 1:26-28 *Woman and man created in God's image*  
Genesis 2:18-24 *Companionship rather than loneliness*  
Proverbs 3:3-6 *Loyalty and faithfulness written on the heart*  
Song of Solomon 2:10-13 *The voice of the beloved*  
Song of Solomon 8:6-7 *Many waters cannot quench love*  
Isaiah 63:7-9 *God's steadfast love lifts up the people*  
Jeremiah 31:31-34 *The new covenant of the people of God*

### Psalms

Psalm 67 *May God be merciful to us and bless us*  
Psalm 100 *We are God's people*  
Psalm 117: *The steadfast love of the Lord*  
Psalm 121 *The Lord keeps watch over you*  
Psalm 127 *Unless the Lord builds the house*  
Psalm 128 *Happy are they who follow in God's ways*  
Psalm 150 *Let everything that has breath praise the Lord*

### Readings From The New Testament

Romans 8:31-35, 37-39 *If God is for us, who is against us?*  
Romans 12:1-2, 9-18 *A living sacrifice and genuine love*  
1 Corinthians 12:31—13:13 *The greatest gift is love*  
Ephesians 3:14-19 *The greatness of Christ's love*  
Ephesians 5:1-2 *Live in love, as Christ loved us*  
Philippians 4:4-9 *Rejoice in the Lord always*  
Colossians 3:12-17 *Clothed in gifts of God*  
1 John 3:18-24 *Let us love in truth and action*  
1 John 4:7-16 *Let us love one another, for love is of God*

### Suggested Hymns

308 O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright!  
312 Jesus, Come! For We Invite You  
436 Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying  
460 Now the Silence  
488, 489 Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness  
585 Hear Us Now, Our God and Father  
586 This Is a Day, Lord, Gladly Awaited  
631 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling  
642 Ubi caritas et amor  
644 Although I Speak with Angel's Tongue

648 Beloved, God's Chosen  
816 Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life  
836 Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee  
839, 840 Now Thank We All Our God  
879 For the Beauty of the Earth  
881 Let All Things Now Living

## STAFF

Please do not hesitate to contact any of the clergy or staff at St. Paul-Reformation if you have questions, need clarification, or if we can be of help. The Parish Office phone number is 651-224-3371.

The Rev. Dr. Patrick H. Shebeck  
*Senior Pastor*  
pastorpatrick@stpaulref.org

Kalle Akkerman  
*Cantor/Director of Music*  
music@stpaulref.org

Jennifer Walding  
*Parish Administrator*  
office@stpaulref.org

Sandy Archer  
*Wedding Coordinator*  
Sandra.J.Archer@HealthPartners.com

## FEE SCHEDULE

Fees are determined based upon the fee schedule below; this fee schedule establishes the final invoice:

BUILDING USE	
Sanctuary	No Charge
Candelabra (aisle or free-standing)	\$50/set
Tideman Hall Fellowship Room	No Charge
Lower Auditorium (Reception/meeting maximum 150 people)	No Charge
Lower Auditorium Large Kitchen	No Charge

STAFF	Members
Pastor	\$200.00
Wedding Coordinator	\$200.00
<i>Per hour fee above 3 hours:</i>	\$25.00/hr
Director of Music/Organist	\$175.00
Liturgical Cantor	\$100.00
Vocalist	<i>Varies</i>
Custodian	\$75.00
<i>If reception, add:</i>	\$100.00
Bulletin Printing Fee	\$25.00/per 100
Prepare/Enrich Evaluation	\$35.00, paid online

*Once the invoice has been received by the couple, checks may be made out to individual staff people; instructions for this are included with the invoice.*

*Re: receptions/dinners: No alcohol can be served on the property. Any Saturday reception or dinner must conclude by 7:00 p.m.*

# Evangelical Lutheran Worship

## Holy Eucharist and Celebration of Marriage

### ENTRANCE

*The assembly stands as the ministers and the wedding group enter. Music—hymn, song, psalm, instrumental music—may accompany the entrance.*

### GREETING

*During this time, the presiding minister and the assembly greet each other.*

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

### INTRODUCTION

*The minister may introduce the liturgy.*

### DECLARATION OF INTENTION

*Those who are declaring their intention to marry may be accompanied by their parents. The parents may place a hand on the shoulders of their children while responding to the question addressed to families.*

*The minister addresses the couple in these or similar words, asking each person in turn:*

#### OPTION A:

Name, will you have name to be your wife/husband,  
to live together in the covenant of marriage?  
Will you love *her/him*, comfort *her/him*,  
honor and keep *her/him*, in sickness and in  
health,  
and, forsaking all others, be faithful to  
*her/him*  
as long as you both shall live?

*Response:* I will.

#### OPTION B:

Name, will you receive name as your wife/husband  
and bind yourself to *her/him* in the covenant  
of marriage?

Will you promise  
to love and honor *her/him* in true devotion,  
to rejoice with *her/him* in times of gladness,  
to grieve with *her/him* in times of sorrow,  
and to be faithful to *her/him* as long as you  
both shall live?

*Response:* I will.

#### OPTION C:

Name, living in the promise of God,  
[joined to Christ in baptism,]  
will you give yourself to name in love and  
faithfulness?

Will you share your life with *her/him*,  
in joy and in sorrow, in health and in  
sickness,  
for richer, for poorer, for better, for worse,  
and will you be faithful to *her/him* as long as  
you both shall live?

*Response:* I will.

*If pastorally advisable, the minister may address the families of the couple in these or similar words.*

Will you, the families of name and name,  
give your love and blessing to this new  
family?

*The families respond:* We will.

*The minister may address the assembly in these or similar words.*

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

*The presiding minister prays the prayer of the day.*

Let us pray.

*A brief silence is kept.*

## WORD

### READINGS

*The assembly is seated. Two or three scripture readings are proclaimed. When the service includes communion, the last is a reading from the gospels. Responses may include a psalm in response to a reading from the Old Testament, a sung acclamation preceding the reading of the gospel, or other appropriate hymns, songs, and psalms.*

### SERMON

*The assembly is seated.*

*Silence for reflection follows the sermon.*

### HYMN OF THE DAY

*The assembly stands to proclaim the word of God in song.*

## MARRIAGE

### VOWS

*The presiding minister may address the couple in these or similar words.*

*Name* and *name* I invite you to declare your vows to one another.

*The couple may join hands. Each promises faithfulness to the other in these or similar words.*

#### OPTION A:

I take you, *name*, to be my wife/husband from this day forward, to join with you and share all that is to come, and I promise to be faithful to you until death parts us.

#### OPTION B:

In the presence of God and this community, I, *name*, take you, *name*, to be my wife/husband; to have and to hold from this day forward, in joy and in sorrow, in plenty and in want, in sickness and in health,

to love and to cherish, as long as we both shall live.  
This is my solemn vow.

### GIVING OF RINGS

*When rings are to be exchanged, the presiding minister may say this prayer.*

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God of grace, for your love and faithfulness to your people.

May these rings be symbols of the promise *name* and *name* have made with each other; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

*The couple may exchange rings with these or similar words.*

#### OPTION A:

*Name*, I give you this ring as a sign of my love and faithfulness.

#### OPTION B:

*Name*, I give you this ring as a symbol of my vow.

With all that I am, and all that I have, I honor you, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

### ACCLAMATION

*The presiding minister addresses the assembly. In places where the announcement of marriage is prescribed by law, that form should be used instead.*

*Name* and *name*, by their promises before God and in the presence of this assembly, have joined themselves to one another as husband and wife. Those whom God has joined together let no one separate.

**Amen. Thanks be to God.**

*The assembly may offer acclamation with applause. A sung acclamation, hymn, or other music may follow.*

*Other symbols of marriage may be given or used at this time.*

## MARRIAGE BLESSING

*The couple may kneel. The presiding minister may extend a hand over the couple while praying for God's blessing in the following or similar words.*

### OPTION A:

Most gracious God,  
we give you thanks for your tender love  
in sending Jesus Christ to come among us,  
to be born of a human mother,  
and to endure the cross for our sake,  
that we may have abundance of life.  
By the power of your Holy Spirit  
pour out the abundance of your blessing  
on *name* and *name*.  
Defend them from every enemy.  
Lead them into all peace.  
Let your love be a seal upon their hearts,  
a mantle about their shoulders,  
and a crown upon their foreheads.  
Bless them so that their lives together may  
bear witness to your love.  
Bless them in their work and in their  
companionship;  
in their sleeping and in their waking;  
in their joys and in their sorrows;  
in their life and in their death.  
Finally, in your mercy,  
bring them to that table  
where your saints feast forever in your  
heavenly home,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy  
Spirit,  
one God, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

### OPTION B:

The Lord God,  
who created our first parents and established  
them in marriage,  
establish and sustain you,  
that you may find delight in each other  
and grow in holy love until your life's end.  
**Amen.**

*Parents or others may speak additional words of blessing and encouragement at this time.*

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*The assembly stands. Prayers of intercession for the world and its needs may be prayed. These prayers, prepared or adapted for the particular occasion, may include the following or similar petitions. An assisting minister may lead the prayers.*

### OPTION A:

Seeing how greatly God has loved us,  
let us pray for the whole world.  
For the Christian community everywhere;  
for the life and ministry of the baptized,  
and for all servants of the gospel,  
that the church may be the risen body of  
Christ in the world.  
Gracious and faithful God,  
**hear our prayer.**

For all who are joined by bonds of marriage,  
kinship, and friendship,  
and for communities everywhere;  
for the nations, for all those who govern,  
and for justice and peace throughout the  
world.  
Gracious and faithful God,  
**hear our prayer.**

For those we love easily,  
and for those with whom we struggle,  
for those different from us  
and for those familiar to us,  
that we might be instruments of God's peace.  
Gracious and faithful God,  
**hear our prayer.**

For those who suffer in any way,  
and those who are lonely,  
for the sick, the dying, and those who are  
bereaved,  
for those who are poor, hungry,  
homeless, or unemployed,

for the victims of violence, hatred, and intolerance.

Gracious and faithful God,  
**hear our prayer.**

For all those who are joined to us in love;  
for our families, friends, and neighbors,  
for those separated from us by distance or discord,  
and giving thanks also for those who have gone before us  
(especially name/s).  
Gracious and faithful God,  
**hear our prayer.**

*Other intercessions may be added.*

*The presiding minister concludes the prayers.*

Creator of all,  
you make us in your image and likeness  
and fill us with everlasting life.  
Hear the prayers of your people  
and grant to name and name  
grace to live in unity and joy  
all the days of their lives;  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,  
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,  
be honor and praise forever.

**Amen.**

**OPTION B:**

On this day of rejoicing, let us bless God  
for divine love made flesh in Jesus Christ.  
We praise you, O God,  
for the joy that name and name  
have found in each other,  
and we pray that their love and faithfulness  
may reflect your gracious love and enrich  
our common life.  
Gracious and faithful God,  
**hear our prayer.**  
Give them gentleness and patience,  
affection and understanding,  
readiness to trust one another,  
and, when they hurt each other,  
grace to acknowledge their fault  
and to give and receive forgiveness.

Gracious and faithful God,  
**hear our prayer.**

*If pastorally advisable:*

Give to name and name the gift and heritage  
of children  
in accordance with your will; make their  
home a haven of peace.  
Gracious and faithful God,  
**hear our prayer.**

**OR**

You have given name and name the gift and  
heritage of children;  
make their home a haven of peace.  
Gracious and faithful God,  
**hear our prayer.**

*Continue:*

Use us to support name and name in their  
lives together.  
Give us such a sense of your constant love  
that we may employ all our strength in a life  
of praise of you.  
Gracious and faithful God,  
**hear our prayer.**

Strengthen and bless friends and family  
gathered here,  
even as we call to mind those who are absent  
from us.  
Console those who mourn the loss of loved  
ones,  
and be present with those for whom love is a  
stranger.  
Gracious and faithful God,  
**hear our prayer.**

Look graciously on the world you have made  
and for which your Son gave his life.  
Strengthen marriages, families, and  
communities everywhere.  
Defend and guide all who suffer want or  
anxiety.  
Gracious and faithful God,  
**hear our prayer.**

*Other intercessions may be added.*

We give thanks to you, merciful God,  
for those who have died (especially *name/s*).  
Strengthen us by the example of the saints,  
and bring us all to the marriage feast of the  
Lamb.

Gracious and faithful God,  
**hear our prayer.**

*The presiding minister concludes the prayers.*

Most gracious God,  
you have made us in your image  
and given us over to one another's care.  
Hear the prayers of your people,  
that unity may overcome division,  
hope vanquish despair,  
and joy conquer sorrow;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

## LAMB OF GOD

### PRAYER

### BLESSING

### DISMISSAL

*The assisting minister may send the assembly forth in  
these or similar words.*

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*A hymn may be sung or instrumental music played as  
the wedding group and the ministers depart.*

## PEACE

*The presiding minister and the assembly greet  
each other in the peace of the risen Christ.*

The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

*The couple may greet one another with the kiss of  
peace. All present may greet one another with a  
gesture of peace, and may say, "Peace be with  
you," or similar words.*

## MEAL

### GREAT THANKSGIVING

### EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

*The presiding minister greets the assembly and  
invites all present to give thanks.*

### THE LORD'S PRAYER





ST. PAUL-REFORMATION  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

AMERICA'S FIRST WELCOMING LUTHERAN CONGREGATION