

Wedding Prayer

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Eternal God, Sacred Mystery,
Whose presence with us we celebrate
in this Holy Season –
indeed, *Immanuel* – God with us –
a God we believe to be Love,
Love we experience in our love one for another –

As family and intimate friends
we celebrate the love of Steffen and Debra
in this their home on the shore
of a seemingly boundless sea.
We hold them in our hearts;
we hold them in Your presence –
these two now one in the bonds of Holy Matrimony.

Oh God, we celebrate these two.
Having found themselves, having discovered each other,
let them now explore together life's larger purpose,
a purpose beyond personal ambition,
beyond achieving goals of only passing value.
Image in their hearts a grander picture, a larger dream,
that the end of the way they travel together
may be marked by deep joy and full satisfaction.

We give you thanks for the generations of faith
that have gone before them,
for those who have birthed them,
nurtured them, shaped them.
We give You thanks for all that has made them who they are.

Now, as the threads of each life begin to be woven
into a new, single tapestry,
give them wisdom, mantle them with grace,
embrace them in the abyss of Your love,
that their days may be full of joy,
their struggles such that they are deepened in confidence,
and disappointments the occasion for new accomplishments
they have not yet dreamed of.

Good and gracious God,
now in these beautiful and sacred moments,
sear their hearts with Your love.
Let them know here and now,
as they are conscious of belonging to each other,
that together they belong to You,
and that nothing will ever separate them from Your love
in Christ Jesus our Lord.

And so, as family and friends gathered here,
we who have loved them,
we launch them into a new world,
the first day of the rest of their lives.

Dear God, bless these two, now one,
our Steffen and our Debra.
Keep them in love; keep them in Your love.
Hear our prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who taught us to pray,

*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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory, forever.
Amen.*

The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you.
The Lord lift up his countenance upon you
and give you peace.
The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you now and forever.
Amen.