

# The Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage



Joshua Edwards & Mitchell Mattingly



April 11, 2026  
5 pm

Hymn 401 *God of Abraham Praise*

1 The God of A - braham praise, who reigns en - throned a - bove;  
 2 He by him - self hath sworn: we on his oath de - pend;  
 3 There dwells the Lord, our King, the Lord, our Right - eous - ness,  
 4 The God who reigns on high the great arch - an - gels sing,  
 5 The whole tri - um - phant host give thanks to God on high;

1 An - cient of ev - er - last - ing days, and God of love;  
 2 we shall, on ea - gle - wings up - borne, to heaven a - scend:  
 3 tri - um - phant o'er the world and sin, the Prince of Peace;  
 4 and "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly," cry, "Al - might - y King!  
 5 "Hail, Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost" they ev - er cry;

1 the Lord, the great I AM, by earth and heaven con - fessed:  
 2 we shall be - hold his face, we shall his power a - dore,  
 3 on Zi - on's sa - cred height his king - dom he main - tains,  
 4 Who was, and is, the same, and ev - er - more shall be:  
 5 hail, A - braham's Lord di - vine! With heaven our songs we raise;

1 we bow and bless the sa - cred Name for ev - er blest.  
 2 and sing the won - ders of his grace for ev - er - more.  
 3 and, glo - rious with his saints in light, for ev - er reigns.  
 4 e - ter - nal Fa - ther, great I AM, we wor - ship thee."  
 5 all might and ma - jes - ty are thine, and end - less praise.

Words: Thomas Olivers (1725-1799), alt.

Music: Leoni, Hebrew melody; harm. *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, 1875, alt.

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- *the celebrant addresses the persons to be married and the congregation and says*

Dearly beloved: We have come together in the presence of God to witness and bless the joining together of Joshua and Mitchell in Holy Matrimony. The joining of two people in a life of mutual fidelity signifies to us the mystery of the union between Christ and his Church, and so it is worthy of being honored among all people.

The union of two people in heart, body, and mind is intended by God for their mutual joy; for the help and comfort given one another in prosperity and adversity; and, when it is God's will, for the gift of children and their nurture in the knowledge and love of the Lord. Therefore marriage is not to be entered into unadvisedly or lightly, but reverently, deliberately, and in accordance with the purposes for which it was instituted by God.

Into this holy union Mitchell and Joshua now come to be joined.

If any of you can show just cause why they may not lawfully be married, speak now; or else for ever hold your peace.

- *then the celebrant says to the persons to be married*

I require and charge you both, here in the presence of God, that if either of you knows any reason why you may not be united in marriage lawfully, and in accordance with God's Word, you do now confess it.

## The Declaration of Consent

- *the officiant says to one member of the couple, then to the other*

Joshua, will you have this person to be your spouse; to live together in the covenant of marriage? Will you love him, comfort him, honor and keep him, in sickness and in health, and, forsaking all others, be faithful to him as long as you both shall live?

- *answer*

I will.

Mitchell, will you have this person to be your spouse; to live together in the covenant of marriage? Will you love him, comfort him, honor and keep him, in sickness and in health, and, forsaking all others, be faithful to him as long as you both shall live?

- *answer*

I will.

- *the celebrant then addresses the congregation, saying*

Will all of you witnessing these promises do all in your power to uphold these two persons in their marriage?

- *people*

**We will.**

**Trisagon** • *sung by the choir*

Holy God,  
Holy and Mighty,  
Holy Immortal One,  
Have mercy upon us.

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

O gracious and everliving God, you have created humankind in your image: Look mercifully upon Mitchell and Joshua who come to you seeking your blessing, and assist them with your grace, that with true fidelity and steadfast love they may honor and keep the promises and vows they make; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

**Amen.**

**Reading**    Tobit 8:5b-8

Tobias said:

“We praise thee, O God of our fathers,

    We praise thy name for ever and ever.

Let the heavens and all thy creation praise thee for ever.

Thou madest Adam, and Eve his wife

    To be his helper and support;

    And those two were the parents of the human race.

This was thy word: ‘It is not good for the man to be alone;

    Let us make him a helper like him.’

I now take this my beloved to wife,

    Not out of lust

    but in true marriage.

Grant that she and I may find mercy

    and grow old together.”

They both said “Amen.”

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.

**Thanks be to God.**

1. Great is thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther,  
 2. Sum - mer and win - ter, and spring - time and har - vest,  
 3. Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth,

1. There is no shad - ow of turn - ing with thee;  
 2. Sun, moon and stars in their cours - es a - bove,  
 3. Thine own dear pres - ence to cheer and to guide;

1. Thou chang - est not, thy com - pas - sions, they fail not,  
 2. Join with all na - ture in man - i - fold wit - ness,  
 3. Strength for to - day and bright hope for to - mor - row,

1. As thou hast been thou for - ev - er wilt be.  
 2. To thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy and love.  
 3. Bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!

Great is thy faith - ful - ness! Great is thy faith - ful - ness!

Morn - ing by morn - ing new mer - cies I see;

All I have need - ed thy hand hath pro - vid - ed,

Great is Thy faith - ful - ness, Lord un - to me!

Words: Thomas O. Chisholm (1866-1960)

Music: William M. Runyan (1870-1957)

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## Gospel Matthew 5:1-10

The Holy Gospel of our Savior, Jesus Christ, according to John.

**Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. And 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 the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

The Gospel of our Savior.

**Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

## **The Marriage**

- *each member of the couple, in turn, takes the right hand of the other and says*

In the Name of God, I, Joshua, take you, Mitchell, to be my spouse, 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, until we are parted by death. This is my solemn vow.

In the Name of God, I, Mitchell, take you, Joshua, to be my spouse, 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, until we are parted by death. This is my solemn vow.

- *the priest may ask God's blessing on rings as follows*

Bless, O Lord, these rings to be signs of the vows by which Joshua and Mitchell have bound themselves to each other; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

- *the giver places the ring on the ring finger of the other's hand and says*

Joshua, I give you this ring as a symbol of my vow, and 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.

Mitchell, I give you this ring as a symbol of my vow, and 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.

- *then the celebrant joins the right hands of the couple and says*

Now that Joshua and Mitchell have given themselves to each other by solemn vows, with the joining of hands and the giving and receiving of rings, I pronounce that they are wed to one another, in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Those whom God has joined together let no one put asunder.

**Amen.**

## Prayers

Let us pray together in the words our Savior taught us.

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.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever.

**Amen.**

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 for which your Son gave his life, and especially upon Mitchell and Joshua whom you make one flesh in Holy Matrimony.

**Amen.**

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

**Amen.**

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 one another all the days of their life.

**Amen.**

Give them grace, when they hurt each other, to recognize and acknowledge their fault, and to seek each other's forgiveness and yours.

**Amen.**

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.

**Amen.**

Bestow on them, if it is your will, the gift and heritage of children, and the grace to bring them up to know you, to love you, and to serve you.

**Amen.**

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

**Amen.**

Grant that all married persons who have witnessed these vows may find their lives strengthened and their loyalties confirmed.

**Amen.**

Grant that the bonds of our common humanity, by which all your children are united one to another, and the living to the dead, may be so transformed by your grace, that your will may be done on earth as it is in heaven; where, O Father, with your Son and the Holy Spirit, you live and reign in perfect unity, now and for ever.

**Amen.**

## **The Blessing of the Marriage**

- *the people remain standing; the couple kneel, and the priest says one of the following prayers*

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 make the way of the cross to be the way of life. We thank you, also, for consecrating the union of two people in his Name. By the power of your Holy Spirit, pour out the abundance of your blessing upon Joshua and Mitchell. Defend them from every enemy. Lead them into all peace. Let their love for each other be a seal upon their hearts, a mantle about their shoulders, and a crown upon their foreheads. 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 for ever in your heavenly home; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever.

**Amen.**

- *the couple still kneeling, the priest adds this blessing*

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 you may faithfully live together in this life, and in the age to come have life everlasting.

**Amen.**

## **The Peace** • *all greet one another in the name of the Lord*

The peace of Christ be always with you.

**And also with you.**

- *the newly married couple then greet each other.*

Hymn 657 *Love Divine all Loves Excelling*

1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cell - ing, joy of heaven, to  
 2 Come, al - might - y to de - liv - er, let us all thy  
 3 Fi - nish then thy new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less

earth come down, fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy  
 life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -  
 let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -

faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion,  
 more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - way bless - ing,  
 ly re - stored in thee: changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,

pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with  
 serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee  
 till in heaven we take our place, till we cast our

thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.  
 with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.  
 crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

Music: *Hyfrydol*, Rowland Hugh Prichard (1811-1887)

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The Very Rev. Matthew Bradley, *celebrant*

The Rev. Charles Myers, *associate dean*

Austin Echols, *organist & choir director*

Jessica Edwards, *best woman*

Henry Mattingly, *best man*

Kai Seitz, Michael Todd, Jay Lee, Kenn Mayo, Ross Jones, Kaitlyn Witt, *attendants*

Carla Edwards, Doug Edwards, Renee Mattingly, Mitchell Mattingly, *parents of the grooms*

Hunter Lumbatis, *lector*

David Deacon, *trumpet*

Hunter Lumbatis, Bill Shelton, Louise Isaacs, *acolytes*

Tyler Hampton, *thurifer*

Tom Thill, *altar guild*

Tim Tice, *live stream*



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## Episcopal Diocese of Kentucky

The Rt. Rev. Terry Allen White, Bishop

The Very Rev. Matthew Bradley, Dean

The Rev. Charles Myers, Associate Dean

The Rev. Dr. Eva Markham, Deacon

Austin Echols, Music Director & Organist

Susan Shockey, Parish Coordinator

Thomas Thill, Sacristan

421 South Second Street, Louisville, KY 40202

502-587-1354

ccclou.org • info@ccclou.org