

# PRAYERS FOR THE MARRIAGE SERVICE

## Prayers said together

The Lord's Prayer

*Usually said at the conclusion of the Prayers*

*There are two versions of the Lord's Prayer which may be used*

(traditional)

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, the power,  
and the glory  
for ever and ever. Amen.

(modern)

Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours  
now and for ever. Amen.

1. *This prayer may be said by all near the beginning of the service*

God of wonder and of joy:  
grace comes from you,  
and you alone are the source of life and love.

Without you, we cannot please you;  
without your love, our deeds are worth nothing.  
Send your Holy Spirit,  
and pour into our hearts  
that most excellent gift of love,  
that we may worship you now  
with thankful hearts  
and serve you always with willing minds;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.  
(*Common Worship*)

*2. This prayer may be said by all near the beginning of the service*

God of love,  
We thank you for the gift of marriage  
And for the joys it brings.  
Bless us as we share in this wedding.  
We thank you for the love  
Which has brought N and N to each other  
And for the desire to share that love  
For the rest of their lives.  
Amen.  
(*New Zealand Prayer Book*)

*3. This prayer may be said together by the couple after the exchange of vows*

God of tenderness and strength,  
You have brought our paths together  
And led us to this day;  
Go with us now as we travel through good times,  
Through trouble, or through change.  
Bless our home, our partings, and our meetings.  
Make us worthy of each other's best,  
And tender with each other's dreams,  
Trusting in your love in Jesus Christ.  
Amen.  
(*New Zealand Prayer Book*)

*4. This prayer may be said by all towards the end of the service*

Lord of the universe,  
all love, strength, and understanding come from you;  
so direct and govern us in body and soul  
that we may strive to live according to your word  
and to do everything that is agreeable to your will:

through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.  
(APBA First Order)

### **Various Prayers**

*The Anglican marriage service normally includes at least two or more of the following prayers (unless one of the Longer Prayers, below, is used)  
Couples may select one or more of the prayers below*

#### 5. For the blessing of eternal life

God of Abraham and Sarah,  
bless these your servants  
and sow the seed of eternal life in their hearts,  
that whatever they learn in your holy word  
they may indeed fulfil.  
Look in love upon them, and bless them,  
that, obeying your will and secure in your protection,  
they may abide in your love to their lives' end;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

#### 6. For faithfulness

God of all grace,  
friend and companion,  
look in favour on N and N,  
and all who are made one in marriage.  
In your love deepen their love,  
strengthen their wills  
to keep the promises they have made,  
that they may continue  
in life-long faithfulness to each other;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

#### 7. For the blessing of mutual love and faithfulness

O God,  
who by joining man and woman together  
taught us from the beginning  
that we should not separate what you have joined as one;  
we praise you that you have consecrated the state of  
matrimony to such an excellent purpose  
that in it is signified the spiritual marriage and unity  
between Christ and his Church.

Look mercifully on these your servants,  
that this man may love his wife, according to your word,  
as Christ loved his bride the Church,  
    and gave himself for it,  
    cherishing it as himself;  
and that this woman may love her husband,  
    according to your word,  
    being loyal and faithful.  
O Lord, bless them both,  
and grant them to inherit your everlasting kingdom;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

8. For the joy of companionship

All praise and blessing to you, God of love,  
creator of the universe,  
maker of man and woman in your likeness,  
source of blessing for married life.  
All praise to you, for you have created  
    courtship and marriage,  
    joy and gladness,  
    feasting and laughter,  
    pleasure and delight.  
May your blessing come in full upon N and N.  
May they know your presence  
in their joys and in their sorrows.  
May they reach old age in the company of friends  
and come at last to your eternal kingdom. Amen.

9. For the gift of love

God of wonder and of joy:  
grace comes from you,  
and you alone are the source of life and love.  
Without you, we cannot please you;  
without your love, our deeds are worth nothing.  
Send your Holy Spirit,  
and pour into our hearts  
that most excellent gift of love,  
that we may worship you now  
with thankful hearts  
and serve you always with willing minds;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

10. For discipleship

Eternal God,  
without your grace nothing is strong, nothing is sure.  
Strengthen N and N with patience, kindness, gentleness,  
and all other gifts of the Holy Spirit,  
so that they may fulfil 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.  
Make their life together a sign of Christ's love in this broken world,  
that unity may overcome estrangement,  
forgiveness heal guilt,  
and joy conquer despair;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

11. For grace to live well

Faithful God,  
giver of all good things,  
give N and N wisdom and devotion  
in the ordering of their life together.  
May they dwell together in love and peace  
all the days of their life,  
    seeking one another's welfare,  
    bearing one another's burdens,  
    and sharing one another's joys;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

12. For the blessing of children (i)

Merciful Lord and heavenly Father,  
by whose gracious gift the human race is maintained  
give to N and N the blessing of children,  
and grant them the wisdom and grace to bring them up  
in the discipline and instruction of the Lord,  
to your praise and honour;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

13. For the blessing of children (ii)

Lord of life,  
you shape us in your image,  
and by your gracious gift  
the human family is increased.  
To N and N grant the blessing of children.  
Fill them with wisdom and love

as they care for their family,  
so that they and their children  
may know and love you,  
through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

14. For the home

Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,  
who shared at Nazareth the life of an earthly home:  
reign in the home of these your servants as Lord and King;  
give them grace to minister to others  
as you have ministered to them,  
and grant that by deed and word  
they may be witnesses of your saving love  
to those among whom they live;  
for the sake of your holy name.  
Amen.

15. For an existing family

God of all grace and goodness,  
we thank you for this new family,  
and for everything parents and children have to share;  
by your Spirit of peace draw them together  
and help them to be true friends to one another.  
Let your love surround them  
and your care protect them,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

16. For the families of the couple

Gracious Lord,  
bless the parents and families of N and N  
that they may grow in love and friendship.  
Grant that, as they have witnessed these vows today,  
they may find their lives enriched and strengthened  
and their loyalties confirmed. Amen.

17. For the support of friends

Holy Spirit of God,  
you know our strength  
and have compassion on our frailty.  
Be with N and N  
in all they undertake.  
And grant that we their friends,

with all who become their friends,  
may sense and understand their needs;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

18. For the healing of memory

Loving God,  
you are merciful and forgiving.  
Grant that those who are suffering the hurts of the past  
may experience your generous love.  
Heal their memories, comfort them,  
and send them all from here  
renewed and hopeful. Amen.

**Longer Prayers**

*One of these prayers may be used in place of a selection of prayers from the list above.  
One of these forms of prayer should be used where the service includes Holy Communion*

19.

Eternal God, creator of us all,  
We praise you for all the ways  
In which your love comes into our lives,  
And for all the joys  
That can come to men and women through marriage.

Today we especially pray for N and N  
As they begin their married life.  
With them we thank you for the love and care of their parents,  
Which has guided them to maturity  
And prepared them for this commitment.

Give them strength  
To keep the vows they have made,  
To be loyal and faithful to each other,  
And to support one another throughout their life,  
That they may bear each other's burdens  
And share each other's joys.  
Help them to be honest and patient with each other,  
And to welcome both friends and strangers into their home.

In all their future together

May they enjoy one another  
And grow through the love they share,  
Until, at the end of this life,  
You receive us all into your eternal kingdom,  
Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer.  
**Amen.**

*(New Zealand prayer Book)*

20.

Almighty God, look graciously on the world which you have made and for which your Son gave his life. Bless all whom you make one flesh in marriage. May their life together be a sign of your love to this broken world, so that unity may overcome estrangement, forgiveness heal guilt, and joy overcome despair.

Lord, in your mercy  
**hear our prayer.**

May N and N so live together that the strength of their love may reflect your love and enrich our com-mon life.

Lord, in your mercy  
**hear our prayer.**

May they be gentle and patient, ready to trust each other, and, when they fail, willing to recognise and acknowledge their fault and to ask each other's for-giveness.

Lord, in your mercy  
**hear our prayer.**

[May N and N be blessed with the gift of children. Fill them with wisdom and love as they care for their family.

Lord, in your mercy  
**hear our prayer.**

May the lonely, the bereaved, and all who suffer want or anxiety, be defended by you, O Lord.

Lord, in your mercy  
**hear our prayer.**

May those whose lives are today brought together be given wisdom, patience and courage to serve one another in Christ's name.

Lord, in your mercy  
**hear our prayer.**

May friends and family gathered here, and those se-parated by distance, be strengthened and blessed this day.

Lord, in your mercy



**hear our prayer.**

We praise you, merciful God, for those who have died in the faith of Christ. May we be strengthened by their example.

The prayers conclude with either

**Almighty God, you have promised to hear our prayers.**

**Grant that what we have asked in faith**

**we may by your grace receive,**

**through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

(APBA)

21.

Faithful God,

holy and eternal,

source of life and spring of love,

we thank and praise you for bringing N and N to this day,

and we pray for them.

Lord of life and love:

**hear our prayer.**

May their marriage be life-giving and life-long,

enriched by your presence and strengthened by your grace;

may they bring comfort and confidence to each other

in faithfulness and trust.

Lord of life and love:

**hear our prayer.**

May the hospitality of their home

bring refreshment and joy to all around them;

may their love overflow to neighbours in need

and embrace those in distress.

Lord of life and love:

**hear our prayer.**

May they discern in your word

order and purpose for their lives;

and may the power of your Holy Spirit

lead them in truth and defend them in adversity.

Lord of life and love:

**hear our prayer.**

May they nurture their family with devotion,

see their children grow in body, mind and spirit

and come at last to the end of their lives  
with hearts content and in joyful anticipation of heaven.  
Lord of life and love:  
**hear our prayer.**

The prayers conclude with the Lord's Prayer.

*(Common Worship)*

22.

Eternal God,  
creator and redeemer,  
from whom comes every good and perfect gift,  
fill N and N with the riches of your grace  
and breathe into their marriage  
the strength of your holy and life-giving Spirit.  
Lord, hear us:  
**Lord, graciously hear us.**

Send upon them the gift of love  
that puts no limit to its faith and forbearance.  
Lord, hear us:  
**Lord, graciously hear us.**

Sow in their lives the joy that comes from sharing  
and grows with giving.  
Lord, hear us:  
**Lord, graciously hear us.**

Let peace spring from their faithfulness to each other  
and flow deeper with the passing years.  
Lord, hear us:  
**Lord, graciously hear us.**

Give them patience with their failures  
and persistence with their hopes.  
Lord, hear us:  
**Lord, graciously hear us.**

May their kindness, born of a gracious heart,  
be shown to others in a generous spirit.  
Lord, hear us:  
**Lord, graciously hear us.**

Let goodness flower with forgiveness

and be the fruit of their married life.

Lord, hear us:

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

In gentleness let them be tender with each other's dreams  
and healing of each other's wounds.

Lord, hear us:

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

Gracious God,  
accept our prayers for N and N,  
that as their love ripens  
and their marriage matures  
they may reap the harvest of the Spirit,  
rejoice in your gifts  
and reflect your glory in Christ Jesus our Lord.  
**Amen.**

*(Common Worship)*