



*the Blessing
of the Marriage of*

Emily Melson
&
Steven Thorp

Saturday, April 11th, 2026
12 pm



CHURCH OF
OUR SAVIOUR



Welcome to Church of Our Savior

Because this is a sacred service in the presence of God, in accordance with the custom of the Episcopal Church, we ask that no flash photography be taken once the service begins. Please turn off or silence cell phones and pagers. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

A wedding is one of life's great moments, a time for good wishes, feasting and joy. Saint John tells us how Jesus shared in such an occasion, and gave there a sign of new beginnings.

Marriage is intended by God to be a creative relationship - God's blessing enables two people to love and support each other in good times and bad. For Christians, marriage is also an invitation to share life together in the spirit of Jesus Christ. It is based upon a solemn, public and life-long covenant, made and celebrated in the presence of God and before a priest and congregation.

You, the congregation, are witnesses of the marriage, and express your support by your presence and your prayers. Your part is written in **bold** type.

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



THE BLESSING OF A MARRIAGE

Bridal Party Procession

Canon in D

Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706)

Bridal Entrance Procession

All things bright and beautiful

Royal Oak

The Officiant facing the people and the persons to be married, with the woman to the right and the man to the left, addresses the congregation and says

Dearly beloved: We have come together in the presence of God to bless the joining together of this man and this woman in Holy Matrimony. The bond and covenant of marriage was established by God in creation, and our Lord Jesus Christ adorned this manner of life by his presence and first miracle at a wedding in Cana of Galilee. It signifies to us the mystery of the union between Christ and his Church, and Holy Scripture commends it to be honored among all people.

The union of husband and wife 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 procreation 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.

Emily and Steven, you have come here today to seek the blessing of God and of his Church upon your marriage. I require, therefore, that you promise, with the help of God, to fulfill the obligations which Christian Marriage demands.

The Declaration of Consent

The Officiant says to the woman

Emily, you have taken Steven to be your husband. Do you promise to love him, comfort him, honor and keep him, in sickness and in health; and, forsaking all others, to be faithful to him as long as you both shall live?

The Woman answers I do.

The Officiant says to the man

Steven, you have taken Emily to be your wife. Do you promise to love her, comfort her, honor and keep her, in sickness and in health; and, forsaking all others, to be faithful to her as long as you both shall live?

The Man answers I do.

The Officiant 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.**

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Officiant Let us pray.

O gracious and everliving God, you have created us male and female in your image: Look mercifully upon this man and this woman 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.**

The people are seated for the Homily.

The Homily

The Rev. Jeffrey D. S. Thornberg

THE MARRIAGE

The people remain seated.

Emily and Steven exchange the vows they have written.

Emily and Steven's wedding rings are blessed and exchanged.

Bless, O Lord, these rings to be signs of the vows by which this man and this woman 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

Emily, 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.

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

Steven, 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.

The Officiant then joins the right hands of husband and wife and says

Now that Emily and Steven 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 husband and wife, in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Those whom God has joined together let no one separate. **Amen.**

The Prayers

The people stand, as they are able; the Officiant says,

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

People and Officiant

**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.**

The people respond to each petition, saying, Amen.

Eternal God, creator and preserver of all life, author of salvation, and giver of all grace: Give this man and this woman 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.

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.***

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.***

THE BLESSING OF THE MARRIAGE

The people remain standing, as they are able. The husband and wife stand or kneel, and the Priest says the following prayer

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 man and woman in his Name. By the power of your Holy Spirit, pour out the abundance of your blessing upon this man and this woman. 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 husband and wife still standing or 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 newly married couple kiss each other, after which the wedding party departs.

Postlude

Wedding March

Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

Wedding Party

OFFICIANT

The Rev. Jeffrey D. S. Thornberg

MAID OF HONOR

Rachel Melson

BEST MAN

Brandon Seay

PARENTS OF THE BRIDE

Tray Melson • Monica Zavala

FATHER OF THE GROOM

Mark Thorp

MUSICIAN

Alice Rucker





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