

INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME

P WE HAVE COME REJOICING INTO THE HOUSE OF THE LORD
FOR THIS CELEBRATION, DEAR BROTHERS AND SISTERS,
AND NOW WE STAND WITH ALEXANDRA AND STEPHEN ON THE DAY
THEY INTEND TO FORM A HOME OF THEIR OWN.
FOR THEM THIS IS A MOMENT OF UNIQUE IMPORTANCE.
SO LET US SUPPORT THEM WITH OUR AFFECTION, WITH OUR FRIENDSHIP,
AND WITH OUR PRAYER AS THEIR BROTHERS AND SISTERS.
LET US LISTEN ATTENTIVELY WITH THEM TO THE WORD
THAT GOD SPEAKS TO US TODAY.
THEN, WITH HOLY CHURCH,
LET US HUMBLY PRAY TO GOD THE FATHER,
THROUGH CHRIST OUR LORD, FOR THIS COUPLE, HIS SERVANTS,
THAT HE LOVINGLY ACCEPT THEM, BLESS THEM,
AND MAKE THEM ALWAYS ONE.

OPENING PRAYER

P LET US PRAY.
O GOD, WHO IN CREATING THE HUMAN RACE
WILLED THAT MAN AND WIFE SHOULD BE ONE,
JOIN, WE PRAY, IN A BOND OF INSEPARABLE LOVE
THESE YOUR SERVANTS WHO ARE TO BE UNITED
IN THE COVENANT OF MARRIAGE,
SO THAT, AS YOU MAKE THEIR LOVE FRUITFUL,
THEY MAY BECOME, BY YOUR GRACE, WITNESSES TO CHARITY ITSELF.
WE ASK THIS THROUGH CHRIST OUR LORD.

ALL AMEN

PLEASE SIT

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

A READING FROM THE SONG OF SONGS 2: 8-10. 14. 15; 8: 6-7

I HEAR MY BELOVED.
SEE HOW HE COMES
LEAPING ON THE MOUNTAINS,
BOUNDED OVER THE HILLS.
MY BELOVED IS LIKE A GAZELLE,
LIKE A YOUNG STAG.
SEE WHERE HE STANDS
BEHIND OUR WALL.
HE LOOKS IN AT THE WINDOW,
HE PEERS THROUGH THE LATTICE.
MY BELOVED LIFTS UP HIS VOICE,
HE SAYS TO ME,
'COME THEN, MY LOVE,
MY LOVELY ONE, COME.
MY DOVE, HIDING IN THE CLEFTS OF THE ROCK.
IN THE COVERTS OF THE CLIFF, SHOW ME YOUR FACE,
LET ME HEAR YOUR VOICE,
FOR YOUR VOICE IS SWEET
AND YOUR FACE IS BEAUTIFUL.'
MY BELOVED IS MINE AND I AM HIS.

SET ME LIKE A SEAL ON YOUR HEART,
LIKE A SEAL ON YOUR ARM.
FOR LOVE IS STRONG AS DEATH,
JEALOUSY RELENTLESS AS SHEOL.
THE FLASH OF IT IS A FLASH OF FIRE,
A FLAME OF THE LORD HIMSELF.
LOVE NO FLOOD CAN QUENCH,
NO TORRENTS DROWN.

THE WORD OF THE LORD

ALL THANKS BE TO GOD.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM PSALM 145

ALL HOW GOOD IS THE LORD TO ALL.

THE LORD IS KIND AND FULL OF COMPASSION,
SLOW TO ANGER, ABOUNDING IN LOVE.
HOW GOOD IS THE LORD TO ALL,
COMPASSIONATE TO ALL HIS CREATURES.

ALL YOUR CREATURES SHALL THANK YOU, O LORD,
AND YOUR FRIENDS SHALL REPEAT THEIR BLESSING.
THE EYES OF ALL CREATURES LOOK TO YOU
AND YOU GIVE THEM THEIR FOOD IN DUE TIME.

THE LORD IS JUST IN ALL HIS WAYS
AND LOVING IN ALL HIS DEEDS.
HE IS CLOSE TO ALL WHO CALL HIM,
WHO CALL ON HIM FROM THEIR HEARTS.

SECOND READING

A READING FROM THE FIRST LETTER OF ST. PAUL TO THE CORTHINTHIANS
12:31-13

BE AMBITIOUS FOR THE HIGHER GIFTS. AND I AM GOING TO SHOW YOU A WAY THAT IS BETTER THAN ANY OF THEM. IF I HAVE ALL THE ELOQUENCE OF MEN OR OF ANGELS, BUT SPEAK WITHOUT LOVE, I AM SIMPLY A GONG BOOMING OR A CYMBAL CLASHING. IF I HAVE THE GIFT OF PROPHECY, UNDERSTANDING ALL THE MYSTERIES THERE ARE, AND KNOWING EVERYTHING, AND IF I HAVE FAITH IN ALL ITS FULLNESS, TO MOVE MOUNTAINS, BUT WITHOUT LOVE, THEN I AM NOTHING AT ALL. IF I GIVE AWAY ALL THAT I POSSESS, PIECE BY PIECE, AND IF I EVEN LET THEM TAKE MY BODY TO BURN IT, BUT AM WITHOUT LOVE, IT WILL DO ME NO GOOD WHATEVER.

LOVE IS ALWAYS PATIENT AND KIND; IT IS NEVER JEALOUS; LOVE IS NEVER BOASTFUL OR CONCEITED; IT IS NEVER RUDE OR SELFISH; IT DOES NOT TAKE OFFENCE, AND IS NOT RESENTFUL. LOVE TAKES NO PLEASURE IN OTHER PEOPLE'S SINS BUT DELIGHTS IN THE TRUTH: IT IS ALWAYS READY TO EXCUSE, TO TRUST, TO HOPE, AND TO ENDURE WHATEVER COMES. LOVE DOES NOT COME TO AN END.

THE WORD OF THE LORD.

ALL THANKS BE TO GOD.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION
PLEASE STAND

ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA.
ANYONE WHO LIVES IN LOVE
LIVES IN GOD, AND GOD LIVES IN HIM. ALLELUIA.

GOSPEL
JOHN 15: 9-12

P THE LORD BE WITH YOU.
ALL AND WITH YOUR SPIRIT.

P A READING FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN
ALL GLORY TO YOU, O LORD.

JESUS SAID TO HIS DISCIPLES:
'AS THE FATHER HAS LOVED ME,
SO I HAVE LOVED YOU.
REMAIN IN MY LOVE.
IF YOU KEEP MY COMMANDMENTS
YOU WILL REMAIN IN MY LOVE,
JUST AS I HAVE KEPT MY FATHER'S COMMANDMENTS
AND REMAIN IN HIS LOVE.
I HAVE TOLD YOU THIS
SO THAT MY OWN JOY MAY BE IN YOU
AND YOUR JOY BE COMPLETE.
THIS IS MY COMMANDMENT:
LOVE ONE ANOTHER,
AS I LOVED YOU.'

THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD.
ALL PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS CHRIST.

PLEASE SIT

HOMILY

CANON CHRISTOPHER WHITEHEAD

THE RITE OF MARRIAGE

P DEARLY BELOVED, YOU HAVE COME TOGETHER INTO THE HOUSE OF THE CHURCH SO THAT IN THE PRESENCE OF THE CHURCH'S MINISTER AND THE COMMUNITY YOUR INTENTION TO ENTER INTO MARRIAGE MAY BE STRENGTHENED BY THE LORD WITH A SACRED SEAL, AND YOUR LOVE BE ENRICHED WITH HIS BLESSING YOU, SO THAT YOU MAY HAVE STRENGTH TO BE FAITHFUL TO EACH OTHER FOR EVER AND ASSUME ALL THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF MARRIED LIFE. AND SO, IN THE PRESENCE OF THE CHURCH, I ASK YOU TO STATE YOUR INTENTIONS.

QUESTIONS BEFORE THE CONSENT

P STEPHEN AND ALEXANDRA, HAVE YOU COME HERE TO ENTER INTO MARRIAGE WITHOUT COERCION, FREELY AND WHOLEHEARTEDLY?

I HAVE.

P STEPHEN, ARE YOU RESOLVED TO TAKE ALEXANDRA TO BE YOUR WIFE: TO LOVE HER, COMFORT HER, HONOUR AND PROTECT HER, AND FORSAKING ALL OTHERS, TO BE FAITHFUL TO HER AS LONG AS YOU BOTH SHALL LIVE?

I AM.

P ALEXANDRA, ARE YOU RESOLVED TO TAKE STEPHEN TO BE YOUR HUSBAND: TO LOVE HIM, COMFORT HIM, HONOUR AND PROTECT HIM, AND FORSAKING ALL OTHERS, TO BE FAITHFUL TO HIM AS LONG AS YOU BOTH SHALL LIVE?

I AM.

P ARE YOU PREPARED TO ACCEPT CHILDREN LOVINGLY FROM GOD AND TO BRING THEM UP ACCORDING TO THE LAW OF CHRIST AND HIS CHURCH?

I AM.

I AM.

CIVIL DECLARATION OF FREEDOM

I DO SOLEMNLY DECLARE THAT I KNOW NOT
OF ANY LAWFUL IMPEDIMENT
WHY I, STEPHEN JAMES DU PLESSIS,
MAY NOT BE JOINED IN MATRIMONY
TO ALEXANDRA LEAH GUSHURST-MOORE.

I DO SOLEMNLY DECLARE THAT I KNOW NOT
OF ANY LAWFUL IMPEDIMENT
WHY I, ALEXANDRA LEAH GUSHURST-MOORE,
MAY NOT BE JOINED IN MATRIMONY
TO STEPHEN JAMES DU PLESSIS.

THE CONSENT

P SINCE IT IS YOUR INTENTION TO ENTER THE COVENANT OF HOLY
MATRIMONY, JOIN YOUR RIGHT HANDS AND DECLARE YOUR CONSENT
BEFORE GOD AND HIS CHURCH.

ALEXANDRA'S RIGHT HAND IS PLACED INTO THE RIGHT HAND OF
STEPHEN.

I CALL UPON THESE PERSONS HERE PRESENT, TO
WITNESS THAT I, STEPHEN JAMES DU PLESSIS DO TAKE
THEE, ALEXANDRA LEAH GUSHURST-MOORE, TO BE MY
LAWFUL WEDDED WIFE 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, TILL DEATH DO US
PART.

ALEXANDRA AND STEPHEN NOW SEPARATE THEIR HANDS FOR A MOMENT AND THEN REJOIN THEM.

I CALL UPON THESE PERSONS HERE PRESENT, TO WITNESS THAT I, ALEXANDRA LEAH GUSHURST-MOORE, DO TAKE THEE, STEPHEN JAMES DU PLESSIS TO BE MY LAWFUL WEDDED HUSBAND 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, TILL DEATH DO US PART.

P MAY THE GOD OF ABRAHAM, THE GOD OF ISAAC, THE GOD OF JACOB, THE GOD WHO JOINED TOGETHER OUR FIRST PARENTS IN PARADISE, STRENGTHEN AND BLESS IN CHRIST THE CONSENT YOU HAVE DECLARED BEFORE THE CHURCH, SO THAT WHAT GOD JOINS TOGETHER, NO ONE MAY PUT ASUNDER.

ALL THANKS BE TO GOD.

BLESSING AND EXCHANGE OF RINGS

P BLESS, O LORD, THESE RINGS WHICH WE BLESS IN YOUR NAME. SO THAT THOSE WHO WEAR THEM MAY REMAIN ENTIRELY FAITHFUL TO EACH OTHER, ABIDE IN PEACE AND IN YOUR WILL, AND LIVE ALWAYS IN MUTUAL CHARITY. THROUGH CHRIST OUR LORD.

ALL AMEN.

I GIVE YOU THIS RING AS A SIGN OF OUR MARRIAGE. WITH MY BODY I HONOUR YOU, ALL THAT I AM I GIVE TO YOU, AND ALL THAT I HAVE I SHARE WITH YOU, WITHIN THE LOVE OF GOD, FATHER, SON AND HOLY SPIRIT.

HYMN

BE THOU MY VISION, O LORD OF MY HEART;
BE ALL ELSE BUT NAUGHT TO ME, SAVE THAT THOU ART;
BE THOU MY BEST THOUGHT IN THE DAY AND THE NIGHT,
BOTH WAKING AND SLEEPING, THY PRESENCE MY LIGHT.

BE THOU MY WISDOM, BE THOU MY TRUE WORD;
BE THOU EVER WITH ME AND I WITH THEE, LORD;
BE THOU MY GREAT FATHER, AND I THY TRUE SON,
BE THOU IN ME DWELLING, AND I WITH THEE ONE.

BE THOU MY BREASTPLATE, MY SWORD FOR THE FIGHT;
BE THOU MY WHOLE ARMOUR, BE THOU MY TRUE MIGHT;
BE THOU MY SOUL'S SHELTER, BE THOU MY STRONG TOW'R,
O RAISE THOU ME HEAV'NWARD, GREAT POW'R OF MY POW'R.

RICHES I HEED NOT, NOR MAN'S EMPTY PRAISE,
BE THOU MINE INHERITANCE, NOW AND ALWAYS;
BE THOU AND THOU ONLY THE FIRST IN MY HEART,
O HIGH KING OF HEAVEN, MY TREASURE THOU ART.

HIGH KING OF HEAVEN, THOU HEAVEN'S BRIGHT SUN,
O GRANT ME ITS JOYS, AFTER VICT'RY IS WON;
GREAT HEART OF MY OWN HEART, WHATEVER BEFALL,
STILL BE THOU MY VISION, O RULER OF ALL.

BIDDING PRAYERS

LORD IN YOUR MERCY.

ALL HEAR OUR PRAYER.

THE NUPTIAL BLESSING

OUR FATHER

**ALL 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.**