

Lord, when we fail, you give us new life. Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

May God in his goodness forgive us our sins, grant us strength in our weakness, and bring us to eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen

The Collect

God our Father, you have taught us through your Son that love is the fulfilling of the law. Grant to your servants that, loving one another, they may continue in your love until their lives' end: through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

All: Amen.

FIRST READING

A reading from Matthew 5. 1-10, by Elizabeth Emson

The Dedication:

Nicholas and Susannah, you have committed yourselves to each other in marriage, and your marriage is recognised by law. The Church of Christ understands marriage to be, in the will of God, the union of a man and a woman, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till parted by death. Is this your understanding of the covenant and promise that you have made?

Nick & Susannah: It is

Nicholas, have you resolved to be faithful to your wife, forsaking all others, so long as you both shall live?

Nick: That is my resolve, with the help of God.

Susannah, have you resolved to be faithful to your husband, forsaking all others, so long as you both shall live?

Susannah: That is my resolve, with the help of God.

Heavenly Father, by your blessing let these rings be to Nick and Susannah a symbol of unending love and faithfulness and of the promises they have made to each other; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen

Nick and Susannah have here affirmed their Christian understanding and resolve in the marriage which they have begun. Will you, their families and friends, support and uphold them in their marriage, now and in the years to come?

All: We will.

Congregation remains standing. Nick and Susannah kneel and say together:

Heavenly Father, we offer you our souls and bodies, our thoughts and words and deeds, our love for one another. Unite our wills in your will, that we may grow together in love and peace all the days of our life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

May Almighty God give you grace to persevere, that he may complete in you the work he has already begun, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

May the Lord bless and watch over you, the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you, the Lord look kindly on you and give you peace all the days of your life.

All: Amen.

SECOND READING

The Alchemist by Paula Coelho read by Tania Haycocks

Prayers

Almighty God, you send your Holy Spirit to be the life and light of all your people. Open the hearts of these your servants to the riches of his grace, that they may bring forth the fruit of the Spirit in love and joy and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Eternal God, true and loving Father, in holy marriage you make your servants one. May their life together witness to your love in this troubled world; may unity overcome division, forgiveness heal injury and joy triumph over sorrow, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

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

Final Blessing:

May God the Holy Trinity make you strong in faith and love, defend you on every side, and guide you in truth and peace; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

All: Amen