



Service Manual for Priest and Deacon

The Rite of Retrothal

Deacon: Bless, Master. Priest: Blessed is our God, always, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen. Deacon: In peace let us pray to the Lord. * Lord, have mercy. Deacon: For the peace from above and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord. * Lord, have mercy. Deacon: For the peace of the whole world, for the welfare of the holy churches of God, and for the union of all, let us pray to the Lord. [™] Lord, have mercy. Deacon: For this holy house and for those who enter with faith, reverence, and the fear of God, let us pray to the Lord. * Lord, have mercy. Deacon: For our most reverend Archbishop and Metropolitan _____, for our God-loving Bishop _____, for the honorable priesthood, the diaconate in Christ, for all the clergy and the people, let us pray to the Lord. * Lord, have mercy. Deacon: For servant of God ______, and for the handmaiden of God _____, who now plight each other their troth, and for their salvation, let us pray to the Lord. * Lord, have mercy. Deacon: That they may be granted children for the continuation of the race, and all their petitions which are unto salvation, let us pray to the Lord. * Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: That He will send down upon them perfect and peaceful love, and assistance, let us pray to the Lord.

* Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: That He will preserve them in oneness of mind, and in steadfast faith, let us pray to the Lord.

* Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: That He will preserve them in a blameless way of life, let us pray to the Lord.

* Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: That the Lord our God will grant to them an honorable marriage and a bed undefiled, let us pray to the Lord.

* Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and necessity, let us pray to the Lord.

* Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by your grace.

* Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Commemorating our most holy, most pure, most blessed and glorious Lady Theotokos and every-virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and each other, and all our life unto Christ our God.

₹ To You, O Lord.

Priest: For unto You are due all glory, honor, and worship: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Amen.

Priest: O eternal God, who has brought into unity those who were sundered, and has ordained for them an indissoluble bond of love, who blessed Isaac and Rebecca, and made them heirs of Your promise: Bless also these Your servants, _____ and _____, guiding them unto every good work. For You are a good God and love mankind, and unto You we ascribe glory: to the Father,

and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Amen.

Priest: Peace be unto all.

* And to your spirit.

Deacon: Bow your heads unto the Lord.

* To You, O Lord.

Priest: O Lord, our God, who has espoused the Church as a pure virgin from among the gentiles: Bless this betrothal, and unite and maintain these Your servants in peace and oneness of mind. For unto You are due all glory, honor, and worship: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Amen.

[Then taking the rings, the priest blesses the bridal pair, making the sign of the cross with the ring of the bride over the bridegroom, and with that of the bridegroom over the bride saying to the man:]

Priest: The servant of God, ______, is betrothed to the handmaiden of God, ______, in the name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

[And to the woman:]

Priest: The handmaiden of God, ______, is betrothed to servant of God, ______, in the name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

[And when he has said this to each of them three times, he places the rings on their right hands. Then the bridal pair exchanges the rings, and the priest says the following prayer:]

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

№ Lord, have mercy.

Priest: O Lord our God, who accompanied the servant of the patriarch Abraham into Mesopotamia, when he was sent to espouse a wife for his lord Isaac, and who, by means of the drawing of water, revealed to him that he should betroth

Rebecca: You, the same Lord, bless also the betrothal of these Your and servants. _____, and confirm the promise that they have made. Establish them in the holy union which is from You. For in the beginning You made them male and female, and by You the woman is joined unto the man as a helper and for the procreation of the human race. Therefore, O Lord our God, who has sent forth Your truth upon Your inheritance and Your covenant unto Your servants our fathers, Your elect from generation to generation: Look upon Your servant, _____ and Your handmaiden, _____, and establish and make firm their betrothal, in faith and in oneness of mind, in truth and in love. For You, O Lord, have declared that a pledge should be given and confirmed in all things. By a ring power was given to Joseph in Egypt; by a ring Daniel was glorified in the land of Babylon; by a ring the uprightness of Tamar was revealed; by a ring our heavenly Father showed His bounty upon His Son, for He said: Bring the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and make merry. By Your own right hand, O Lord, You armed Moses in the Red Sea; by Your true word the heavens were established, and the foundations of the earth were made firm; and the right hands of Your servants also shall be blessed by your mighty word and by Your upraised arm. Therefore, O Master, bless now this putting-on of rings with your heavenly blessing, and let Your angel go before them all the days of their life. For You are He that blesses and sanctifies all things, and unto You are due all glory, honor, and worship: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Amen.

The Rite of Growning

PSALM 127 LXX(128)

* Lord, have mercy.

Blessed is every one who fears the Lord, who walks in His ways. You shall eat the fruit of the labor of your hands; you shall be happy, and it shall be well with you. Your wife will be like a fruitful vine within your house; your children will be like olive shoots around your table. Lo, thus shall the man be blessed who fears the Lord. The Lord bless you from Zion. May you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days of your life! May you see your children's children! Peace be upon Israel.

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Have you promised yourself to any other bride? 1: I have not promised myself, reverend father.							
and							
our							
ere							
before you? I have, reverend father.							
Have you promised yourself to any other man?							
I have not promised myself, reverend father.							
Bless, master. Blessed is the Kingdom of the Father, and of the Son, and							
of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.							
In peace let us pray to the Lord.							
our							

Deacon: For the peace of the whole world, for the welfare of the holy churches of God, and for the union of all, let us pray to the Lord.

* Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For this holy house and for those who enter with faith, reverence, and the fear of God, let us pray to the Lord.

* Lord, have mercy.

Deacon:	For	our	most	reverend	Archbishop	and	Metropolitan
	, for our God-loving Bishop						
	for the honorable priesthood, the diaconate in Christ, for all						
	the c	elergy	and th	ne people, I	let us pray to	the Lo	ord.

№ *Lord, have mercy.*

Deacon: For servant of God ______, and for the handmaiden of God ______, who now plight each other their troth, and for their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

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Deacon: That they may be granted children for the continuation of the race, and all their petitions which are unto salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

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Deacon: Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by your grace.

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Deacon: Commemorating our most holy, most pure, most blessed and glorious Lady Theotokos and every-virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and each other, and all our life unto Christ our God.

* To You, O Lord.

Priest: For unto You are due all glory, honor, and worship: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Amen.

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

№ Lord, have mercy.

O God most pure, fashioner of every creature, who Priest: transformed the rib of our forefather Adam into a wife, because of Your love towards mankind, and blessed them and said to them: Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; who made of the two one flesh: Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and cleaves to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh, and what God has joined together, let no man put asunder: You blessed Your servant Abraham, and opening the womb of Sarah, made him to be the father of many nations. You gave Isaac to Rebecca, and blessed her in childbearing. You joined Jacob unto Rachel, and from them brought forth the twelve patriarchs. You united Joseph and Aseneth giving them Ephraim and Manasseh as the fruit of their procreation. You accepted Zechariah and Elizabeth, and made their offspring to be the Forerunner. From the root of Jesse

according to the flesh, You did bud forth the ever-virgin one and was incarnate of her, and was born of her for the redemption of the human race. Through Your unutterable gift and manifold goodness, You came to Cana of Galilee, and blessed the marriage there, to make manifest that it is Your will that there should be lawful marriage and procreation. You, the same all-holy Master, accept the prayers of us Your servants. As You were present there, be also present here, with Your invisible protection. Bless this marriage, and grant to these Your _____, a peaceful life, and length of days, chastity, mutual love in the bond of peace, long-lived offspring, gratitude from their children, a crown of glory that does not fade away. Graciously grant that they may see their children's children. Preserve their bed unassailed, and give them of the dew of heaven from on high, and of the fatness of the earth. Fill their houses with wheat, wine, and oil and with every good thing, so that they may give in turn to those in need; and grant also to those here present with them all those petitions which are for their salvation. For You are the God of mercies, and of bounties, and of love towards mankind, unto You we ascribe glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

* Amen.

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

* Lord, have mercy.

Priest: Blessed are You, O Lord our God, priest of mystical and undefiled marriage, and ordainer of the law of the marriage of the body; preserver of immortality, and provider of the good things of life; the same master who in the beginning made man and established him as a king over creation, and

said: "It is not good that man should be alone upon the earth. Let us make a helper fit for him." Talking one of his ribs, you fashioned woman; and when Adam saw her he said: This is at last bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out Man." For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh; what therefore God has joined together, let no man put asunder: Now also, O Master, our Lord and our God, send down Your heavenly grace upon these Your servants, ______ and ______; grant that this Your handmaiden may be subject to her husband in all things, and that this Your servant may be the head of his wife, so that they may live according to Your will. Bless them, O Lord our God, as You blessed Abraham and Sarah. Bless them, O Lord our God, as You blessed Isaac and Rebecca. Bless them, O Lord our God, as You blessed Jacob and all the patriarchs. Bless them, O Lord our God, as You blessed Joseph and Aseneth. Bless them, O Lord our God, as You blessed Moses and Zipporah. Bless them, O Lord our God, as You blessed Joachim and Anna. Bless them, O Lord our God, as You blessed Zechariah and Preserve them, O Lord our God, as You Elizabeth. preserved Noah in the ark. Preserve them, O Lord our God, as You preserved Jonah in the belly of the whale. Preserve them, O Lord our God, as You reserved the three holy children from the fire, sending down upon them dew from heaven; and let that gladness come upon them which the blessed Helen had when she found the precious cross. Remember them, O Lord our God, as You remembered Enoch, Shem, Elijah. Remember them, O Lord our God, as You remembered Your forty holy martyrs, sending

down upon them crowns from heaven. Remember them, O Lord our God, and the parents who have nurtured them, for the prayers of parents make firm the foundations of houses. Remember them, O Lord our God, the [witnesses] of the bridal pair, who have come together in this joy. Remember. \mathbf{O} Lord God. Your servant. our Your and handmaiden. , and bless them. Grant them of the fruit of their bodies, fair children, concord of soul and body. Exalt them like the cedars of Lebanon, like a luxuriant vine. Give them offspring in number like unto full ears of grain; so that, having enough of all things, they may abound in every good work that is good and acceptable unto You. Let them see their children's children, like olive shoots around their table; so that finding favor in Your sight, they may shine like the stars of heaven, in You our God. For unto You are due all glory, honor, and worship: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Amen.

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

* Lord, have mercy.

Priest:

O holy God, who formed man from the dust, and fashioned woman from his ribs, and joined her unto him as a helper, for it seemed good to Your majesty that man should not be alone upon the earth: You, the same Lord, stretch out now also Your hand from Your holy dwelling-place, and unite this Your servant, ________, and Your handmaiden, _________; for by You is the husband joined unto the wife. Unite them in one mind; wed them into one flesh, granting to them the fruit of the body and the procreation of fair children. For Yours is the majesty,

and Yours is the Kingdom and the power and the glory: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Amen.

[The pri	iest takes the crowns, which re	call those with which the
martyrs	(witnesses) of Christ, are crown	ned in heaven, and crowns
first the b	bridegroom, saying:]	
Priest:	The servant of God,	, is crowned unto
	the handmaiden of God,	
	the Father, and of the Son, and of	of the Holy Spirit.
[So also	he crowns the bride saying:]	
Priest:	The handmaiden of God,	, is crowned
	unto the servant of God,	: in the name of
	the Father, and of the Son, and of	of the Holy Spirit.
[Then he	blesses them three times, saying	each time.]
O Lord o	our God, crown them glory and ho	onor.
Deacon:	Let us attend.	
Priest:	Peace be unto all.	
* And to yo	our spirit.	
Deacon:	Wisdom!	

PROKEIMENON (TONE 4)

You have set upon their heads crowns of precious stones; they have asked life of You, and You have given it to them.

* You will make them most blessed forever; * You will make them glad with the joy of Your presence.

EPISTLE (EPH 5:20-33)

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The reading is from the Epistle of the holy Apostle Paul to

the Ephesians.

Deacon: Let us attend.

[Brethren, give] thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another in the fear of God. Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church. For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church. Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

Priest: Peace be unto you, reader.

Reader: And to your spirit.

ALLELUIA (TONE 4)

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

^{*} You, O Lord, shall protect us and preserve us from this generation forever.

GOSPEL (JOHN 2:1-11)

Priest: Peace be unto all.

* And to your spirit.

Priest: The reading from the Holy Gospel according to Saint John.

R Glory to You, O Lord, Glory to You.

Deacon: Let us attend.

[In those days] there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Now both Jesus and His disciples were invited to the wedding. And when they ran out of wine, the mother of Jesus said to Him, "They have no wine." Jesus said to her, "Woman, what does your concern have to do with Me? My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servants, "Whatever He says to you, do it." Now there were set there six waterpots of stone, according to the manner of purification of the Jews, containing twenty or thirty gallons apiece. Jesus said to them, "Fill the waterpots with water." And they filled them up to the brim. And He said to them, "Draw some out now, and take it to the master of the feast." And they took it. When the master of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine, and did not know where it came from (but the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom. And he said to him, "Every man at the beginning sets out the good wine, and when the guests have well drunk, then the inferior. You have kept the good wine until now!" This beginning of signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory; and His disciples believed in Him.

* Glory to You, O Lord, Glory to You.

Deacon: Let us say with all our soul and with all our mind, let us say:

Deacon: O Lord Almighty, the God of our Fathers, we pray You, hearken us and have mercy.

^{*} Lord, have mercy.

^{*} Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Have mercy upon us, O God, according to Your great goodness, we beseech You, hearken and have mercy.

* Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy

Deacon: Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, and visitation for the servants of God, ______ and _____, ..., and for the pardon and remission of all their sins.

Priest: For You are a merciful God, and love mankind, and unto You we ascribe glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever unto ages of ages.

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

* Lord, have mercy.

O Lord our God, who in Your saving dispensation did Priest: vouchsafe by Your presence in Cana of Galilee to declare marriage honorable: You, the same Lord, now also maintain peace and concord Your in servants. , whom You and have been pleased to join together. Cause their marriage to be honorable. Preserve their bed blameless. Mercifully grant that they may live together in purity; and enable them reach a ripe old age, walking in Your commandments with a pure heart. For You are our God, the God of mercy and salvation, and unto You we ascribe glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Deacon: Help us, save us, have mercy upon us, and keep us, O God, by Your grace.

Deacon: That the whole day be perfect, holy, peaceful, and sinless, let us ask of the Lord.

^{*} Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy

Amen.

Amen.

[№] Lord, have mercy.

R. Grant it, O Lord.

Deacon: An angel of peace, a faithful guide, a guardian of our souls and bodies, let us ask of the Lord.

* Grant it, O Lord.

Deacon: Pardon and remission of our sins and transgressions, let us ask of the Lord.

* Grant it, O Lord.

Deacon: All things that are good and beneficial for our souls, and peace for the world, let us ask of the Lord.

* Grant it, O Lord.

Deacon: That we may complete the remaining time of our life in peace and repentance, let us ask of the Lord.

* Grant it, O Lord.

Deacon: A Christian end to our lives: painless, blameless and peaceful, and a good defense before the dread judgment seat of Christ, let us ask of the Lord.

* Grant it, O Lord.

Deacon: Having asked for the unity of the Faith, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, let us commend ourselves and each other, and all our life to Christ our God.

* To You, O Lord.

Priest: And make us worthy, O Master, that with boldness and without condemnation we may dare call on, You, the heavenly God, as Father, and to say:

* Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your 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 the evil one.

Priest: For Yours is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and ever and unto ages of ages.

Amen.

Priest: Peace be unto all.

And to your spirit.

Deacon: Bow your heads unto the Lord.

* To You, O Lord.

[The common cup is brought and the priest blesses it.]

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

* Lord, have mercy.

Priest: O God, who created all things by Your might, and made firm the world, and adorns the crown of all that You have made: Bless now, with Your spiritual blessing, this common cup, which You give to those who are now united for the community of marriage. For blessed is Your name, and glorified is Your Kingdom, of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Amen.

[Taking the cup, the priest gives it to them three times: first to the bridegroom and then to the bride. Then immediately the priest takes them and leads them in a circle three time around the tetrapod while all sing]

O Lord, O Lord, look down from heaven and see, and visit this vineyard, and perfect this vine, which Your right hand has planted.

O holy martyrs, who fought the good fight and have received your crowns: Entreat the Lord, that He will have mercy on our souls. Glory to you O Christ God, the Apostle's Boast, the martyr's joy, whose preaching was the consubstantial Trinity.

Rejoice, O Isaiah, a virgin is with child and shall bear a Son, Emanuel. He is both God and man; And Orient is his name. Magnifying Him, we call the virgin blessed.

[Taking the crown of the bridegroom, the priest says:]

Priest: Be exalted like Abraham, O Bridegroom, and be blessed like Isaac, and multiply like Jacob, walking in peace, and keeping God's commandments in righteousness.

[Taking the crown of the bride, the priest says:]

Priest: Bride, be exalted like Sarah, and exult like Rebecca, and multiply like Rachel; and rejoice in your husband, fulfilling the conditions of the law, for this is well-pleasing to God.

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

* Lord, have mercy.

Priest: O God, our God, who came to Cana of Galilee, and blessed there the marriage feast: Bless also these Your servants, who through Your good providence now are united in wedlock. Bless their goings out and their comings in. Fill their life with good things. Receive their crowns into Your Kingdom, preserving them spotless, blameless, and without reproach, unto ages of ages.

Amen.

Priest: Peace be unto all.

* And to your spirit.

Deacon: Bow your heads unto the Lord.

R To You, O Lord.

Priest: May the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, the all-holy, consubstantial, and life-giving Trinity, one Godhead and one Kingdom, bless you; and grant you length of days, fair children, progress in life and faith; and fill you with all earthly good things, and make you worthy to enjoy the good things of the promise; through the prayers of the holy Theotokos and of all the saints.

Amen.

Deacon: Most holy Theotokos, save us!

* More honorable than the cherubim and more glorious beyond compare than the seraphim. Without corruption you gave birth to God the Word. True Theotokos, we magnify you!

Priest: Glory to You, O Christ our God and our hope, glory to You.

* Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Father, bless!

Priest: May He who by His presence in Cana of Galilee declared marriage to be honorable, Christ our true God, through the prayers of His most pure mother; of the holy, glorious, and all-laudable apostles, Peter and Paul, whom we commemorate today, and all the apostles; of the holy, Godcrowned kings Constantine and Helen, equal to the apostles; of the holy great martyr Procopius; and of all the saints: have mercy on us and save us, for He is good and loves mankind.

Amen.

Priest: Grant, O Lord, to your newly-wed servants,
_____ and _____, many happy
years.

^{*} God grant them many years. God grant them happy years. God grant them many, happy years. In health and salvation, in health and salvation, God grant them many happy years.



Text of Service adapted from texts of the Orthodox Church in America.

The readings from Ephesians 3:20-33 and John 2:1-11 taken from the New King James Version.

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