

Ten Weddings of Those Who Have Lost a Spouse

The emphasis of the liturgy is on the joy of marriage, renewed companionship, gratitude, hope, and God's blessing on a new chapter of life. The tone is celebratory and uplifting while still remaining pastorally sensitive and spiritually meaningful.

1. Love Renewed by Grace - "God Makes All Things New."

Isaiah 43:18–19; John 21:15–19

INTRODUCTION

Today we gather in joy and thanksgiving before God, who is the source of all love and the giver of every blessing. Human life unfolds through many seasons — times of waiting, growth, challenges, and unexpected grace — yet through every season the Lord remains faithful.

The readings today speak beautifully of renewal, hope, and the courage to embrace the future with trust. Through the prophet Isaiah, the Lord says: "See, I am doing something new." God delights in bringing new beginnings into our lives and leading His children toward deeper love and happiness.

In the Gospel, Jesus asks Peter, "Do you love me?" Love becomes the foundation of Peter's renewed life and mission. In the same way, every marriage rooted in faith, tenderness, fidelity, and mutual care becomes a sign of God's continuing grace in the world.

Today, therefore, we celebrate not the past, but the goodness of God in the present and His promise for the future. We rejoice in the gift of companionship, the blessing of shared life, and the joy of hearts willing to walk together in love.

As we prepare to celebrate these sacred mysteries, let us thank God for His countless blessings and ask pardon for our sins.

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, You bless human love and call us to walk together in faith: Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, You renew our hearts with Your grace and mercy: Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, You remain with us through every season of life: Lord, have mercy.

ABSOLUTION

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

COLLECT

O God, source of all love and joy, who continually renew Your people through grace, look kindly upon Your servants gathered here today. Bless them with peace, companionship, and lasting happiness. May their shared life reflect the tenderness of Christ, and may their love grow ever deeper through faith, patience, and mutual care.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

HOMILY

There is a beautiful saying: “Every sunrise is God’s way of saying that life can begin again.”

Today’s celebration is filled with that spirit of hope and gratitude. We gather to rejoice in the gift of love — a love that has matured through life’s experiences and now stands before God seeking His blessing and guidance.

The first reading from Isaiah contains one of the most encouraging promises in all of Scripture: “See, I am doing something new.” These words remind us that God is never finished writing His blessings into our lives. No matter our age or our journey, the Lord continues to open new paths of joy, companionship, and grace.

Sometimes people think that the most beautiful love stories belong only to youth. But very often love that blossoms later in life carries a special depth and serenity. It is marked by gratitude, understanding, patience, and appreciation for the simple gifts of each day.

An elderly man once said after his wedding, “At this stage of life, happiness is not found in grand promises but in having someone with whom to share prayer, meals, silence, and laughter.” That is the beauty of mature companionship.

In today’s Gospel, Jesus asks Peter three times, “Do you love me?” The heart of Christian life is love — faithful love, patient love, forgiving love, enduring love. Jesus teaches us that true love is not merely emotion; it is a daily choice to care, to remain faithful, and to walk together.

Marriage is one of God’s most beautiful gifts because it allows two people to become companions in life’s journey. They support one

another in moments of joy and difficulty, encourage one another in faith, and become signs of God’s tenderness in the world.

A woman once described her marriage by saying, “The greatest blessing is knowing that someone thanks God every day for your presence.” That simple statement captures the spirit of Christian marriage.

Today is therefore a celebration of gratitude:

- gratitude for the gift of love,
- gratitude for companionship,
- gratitude for family and friendship,
- gratitude for the courage to begin a new chapter with trust in God.

The Lord who says, “I am doing something new,” also promises to remain close to those who place their lives in His hands.

And so today we pray that this shared life may be filled with kindness, patience, good health, mutual respect, laughter, prayer, and peace. May this union continue to reveal that God never ceases to bless those who walk in love.

For wherever love is faithful, generous, and life-giving, God Himself is present.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Confident in God's love and goodness, let us offer Him our prayers.

1. For the Church, that she may continue to proclaim the beauty of faithful love and the sacred dignity of marriage, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, hear our prayer.
2. For all married couples, that their homes may be filled with peace, understanding, patience, and joy, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, hear our prayer.
3. For those beginning a new chapter of life together, that God may bless them with good health, companionship, and lasting happiness, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, hear our prayer.
4. For families and friends gathered here today, that this celebration may strengthen bonds of love, unity, and gratitude, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, hear our prayer.
5. For our departed loved ones, that they may rejoice forever in the peace and joy of God's Kingdom, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, hear our prayer.

Loving Father, You are the source of every blessing. Hear the prayers we offer today and guide us always in the way of love. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Pray, brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours, celebrated with gratitude for God's many blessings, may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

PREFACE

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give You thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For You created us in love
and called us to walk together in mutual care and companionship.
Through every season of life,
You continue to guide Your people with wisdom and tenderness.

In Christ Your Son, You revealed the fullness of faithful love,
a love that strengthens hearts, renews hope,
and brings joy to all who trust in You.

Today we thank You especially for the blessing of companionship,
for the gift of shared life, and for the grace of new beginnings.

And so, with Angels and Archangels, with Thrones and Dominions,
and with all the hosts and Powers of heaven,
we sing the hymn of Your glory, as without end we acclaim:

INVITATION TO THE OUR FATHER

At the Savior's command and formed by divine teaching,
with grateful hearts for the gift of love and companionship,
we dare to say:

EMBOLISM

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,
and graciously grant peace in our days,
that, by the help of Your mercy,
we may be always free from sin and safe from all distress,
and may Your blessing remain upon all families,

so that hearts joined in love may continue to grow
in faith, kindness, and peace,
as we await the blessed hope
and the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord Jesus Christ, who said to Your Apostles:
Peace I leave you, my peace I give you,
look not on our sins, but on the faith of Your Church,
and graciously grant her peace and unity
in accordance with Your will.
Bless all couples and families with harmony and joy,
and make their homes places of love, prayer, and mutual care.
Who live and reign for ever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Behold the Lamb of God,
behold Him who takes away the sins of the world.
In Christ we receive the strength to love faithfully,
to walk together with trust,
and to rejoice in the blessings God gives each day.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

Lord, we thank You for the gift of love, for companionship,
and for the joy of sharing life with others.
Remain with us in every season, strengthen us in faith,
and teach us always to cherish one another with kindness,
gratitude, and peace.

Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

May the Sacrament we have received,
O Lord, strengthen us in love and gratitude.
Bless all who seek to walk together in faith,
and fill their homes with peace, joy, and mutual care.
May Your grace continue to renew hearts
and guide all families in the way of holiness.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

FINAL BLESSING

May the Lord bless you and keep you in His love. Amen.

May He fill your hearts with joy, your homes with peace,
and your lives with lasting companionship. Amen.

May He guide you always in faith, strengthen you in every season,
and renew you daily through His grace. Amen.

And may almighty God bless you, the Father, ✠ and the Son,
and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go forth in peace, rejoicing in the goodness of God, and continue to
walk together in faith, love, and gratitude.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

May we always remember that God never ceases to bless hearts
that remain open to love, hope, and faithful companionship.

2. A Second Spring of Love

“Those Who Hope in the Lord Shall Renew Their Strength.”

Isaiah 40:28–31; John 15:9–12

INTRODUCTION

A woman once shared that after many quiet years alone, she had forgotten what it felt like to laugh freely again. One afternoon, while sitting with a close companion over coffee, she caught herself smiling without effort. Later she said, “I realized that God had quietly opened a new window in my life.” Sometimes the Lord surprises us with unexpected joy just when we think certain seasons have already passed.

Today’s celebration reminds us that God never stops renewing the human heart. Love does not belong only to the young. With time, love can become gentler, wiser, more patient, and more grateful. The Lord who carried His people through every joy and sorrow now blesses a new chapter marked by companionship, trust, faith, and hope.

As we gather around this altar, we thank God for the gift of renewed love and for the grace that allows hearts to bloom again in every season of life. And because we know that we have not always loved perfectly, let us now acknowledge our sins and prepare ourselves to celebrate these sacred mysteries.

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, You renew our strength when we place our hope in You:
Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, You call us to remain in Your love through kindness and faithfulness: **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, You bless Your people with companionship, peace, and new beginnings: **Lord, have mercy.**

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May almighty God have mercy on us,
forgive us our sins,
strengthen us in faith, hope, and love,
and bring us to everlasting life.

Amen.

COLLECT

Heavenly Father,
You never cease to renew the hearts of those who trust in You.
In Your goodness You bless Your people with companionship, joy,
and hope for the future.

Grant that, strengthened by Your grace,
they may remain faithful in love, patient in difficulties,
grateful in daily life,
and joyful in the new blessings You provide.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son,
who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

HOMILY

A man visiting a botanical garden noticed an elderly gardener carefully watering a rose bush that had only recently begun to bloom again after a harsh winter. The visitor asked, “Why spend so much care on an old plant?”

The gardener smiled and replied, “Because sometimes the most beautiful flowers bloom later than expected.”

Dear friends, that simple wisdom touches the heart of today’s celebration. Life does not always unfold in straight lines. There are seasons of joy, seasons of sorrow, seasons of waiting, and seasons of unexpected grace. Yet through every chapter, God remains faithful. The Lord never stops bringing new life where hope still remains.

The prophet Isaiah tells us:

“Those who hope in the Lord shall renew their strength.”

What beautiful words for today. Notice that Isaiah does not say people will avoid difficulties or never grow tired. Rather, he says that those who place their hope in God will find renewed strength. Hope is one of God’s greatest gifts. Hope allows people to begin again. Hope opens the heart to joy after sorrow, companionship after loneliness, and gratitude after many difficult days.

In the Gospel, Jesus says:

“Remain in my love.”

Those words are the foundation of every Christian relationship. Love is not only a feeling; it is a decision renewed each day through patience, gentleness, forgiveness, and care. Mature love understands something very important: happiness is often found not in grand moments, but in simple faithfulness.

A grandfather once told his grandson, “Real love is when someone remembers how you take your tea.” That may sound small, but it speaks of attentiveness, tenderness, and daily kindness. The strongest relationships are often built quietly—in shared meals, thoughtful words, listening hearts, and peaceful companionship.

Today we celebrate precisely that kind of love. A love that has learned wisdom through life itself. A love rooted not simply in emotion, but in gratitude. A love that knows how precious every day together truly is.

There is a beautiful saying:

“Life becomes lighter when someone walks beside you.”

God never intended human hearts to carry life alone. Companionship is one of His blessings. To have someone with whom to pray, speak, laugh, remember, and dream again is a gift worthy of thanksgiving.

A music teacher once asked her students which instrument was the most beautiful in an orchestra. One child answered, “The violin.” Another said, “The piano.” But one quiet student replied, “The most beautiful instrument is the one that knows how to play with the others.” That is the beauty of companionship—learning to walk together in harmony, patience, and mutual care.

Today’s celebration is not simply about the past. It is about the future God is still unfolding. The Lord who sustained His people through many experiences now invites them to embrace this new chapter with joy and trust. God’s blessings are never exhausted. His love continues to renew hearts in every season.

And so I end with this story.

Near a walking path in a small park stood a bench beneath a flowering tree. Every morning two older people would sit there quietly together, sometimes talking, sometimes simply enjoying the silence. One day a child passing by asked her mother, "Why do they always smile even when they are not speaking?"

The mother answered, "Because some people discover that the greatest happiness is simply knowing they no longer walk alone."

When hearts remain rooted in God's love, every season of life can bloom with unexpected beauty.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Trusting in God, who renews the hearts of His people with love, hope, and peace, let us bring before Him our prayers.

For the Church, that she may continue to proclaim God's faithful love and bring hope to all who seek new beginnings, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For couples joined in marriage, that their lives may be filled with patience, understanding, gratitude, and enduring companionship, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For those entering a new chapter of life, that God may bless them with courage, joy, and peaceful hearts, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For families and friends gathered here today, that we may treasure one another more deeply and grow in kindness and love, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For our departed loved ones, that they may rest forever in the peace and joy of God's eternal kingdom, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father,

You are the source of every blessing and every new beginning. Hear the prayers we place before You today with confidence and gratitude, through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Pray, brothers and sisters,
that this sacrifice, offered in thanksgiving for God's renewing love and faithful care,
may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

PREFACE

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give You thanks,
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For You are the God of every season of life,
the source of hope that never fades
and the giver of every good gift.

In Your wisdom You created us for companionship,
to strengthen one another in faith,
to share both joy and sorrow,
and to discover the beauty of love renewed through Your grace.

Through Christ Your Son,
You teach us to remain in love through patience,
kindness, and faithfulness.

In Him, hearts find courage to begin again,
and lives are filled with gratitude
for the blessings You continue to provide.

And so, with Angels and Archangels, with Thrones and Dominions,
and with all the hosts and Powers of heaven,
we sing the hymn of Your glory, as without end we acclaim:

INVITATION TO THE OUR FATHER

At the Savior's command and formed by divine teaching,
with hearts renewed by God's love
and united in gratitude and hope, we dare to say:

EMBOLISM

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,
and graciously grant peace in our days,
that, by the help of Your mercy,
we may be always free from sin and safe from all distress,
as we await the blessed hope
and the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.
Renew our hearts with confidence in Your goodness,
strengthen all who walk together in love,
and guide every home with peace, patience, and joy.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord Jesus Christ, who said to Your Apostles:
Peace I leave you, my peace I give you,
look not on our sins, but on the faith of Your Church,
and graciously grant her peace and unity
in accordance with Your will.
May Your peace rest upon every heart gathered here today,
strengthen all relationships with understanding and faithful love,
and help us always to walk together in gratitude, hope, and joy.

Who live and reign for ever and ever. **Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Behold the Lamb of God,
behold Him who takes away the sins of the world.
Through Him, God renews our hearts with love, hope, and peace.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

Lord, today we thank You
for the blessing of companionship,
for hearts renewed by hope,
and for the joy of walking together in faith.
Remain with us in every season of life.
Teach us to cherish one another,
to live with grateful hearts,
and to trust always in Your faithful love.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord our God,
through this holy Eucharist
You have renewed us with the Bread of Life
and strengthened us with Your grace.

Continue to bless Your people with faithful companionship,
peaceful hearts, and joyful hope for the future.
May every day be lived in gratitude
and every home become a sign of Your love and presence.
Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

FINAL BLESSING

May the Lord,
who renews strength in those who hope in Him,
fill your hearts with peace and gratitude.

May He bless you with faithful companionship,
guide you always in love and understanding,
and grant you joy in every season of life.

And may almighty God bless you,
the Father, ✠ and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go forth in peace,
rejoicing in the goodness of the Lord
and trusting always in His renewing love.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

“God’s love can make every season of life bloom again with hope,
companionship, and joy.”

3. Companions on the Journey

“Two Are Better Than One.”

Readings: Ecclesiastes 4:9–12; Luke 24:13–35

INTRODUCTION

A married couple celebrating their fiftieth wedding anniversary were once asked, “What has kept your love alive all these years?” The husband smiled and answered, “We discovered long ago that happiness is not found in walking ahead of each other, but in walking together.”

Today we gather in joy and gratitude to celebrate the beautiful gift of companionship and the blessing of shared life. Marriage is one of God’s most precious gifts — a sacred journey in which two people walk side by side, supporting one another through every season of life. In today’s first reading we hear the wisdom of Ecclesiastes: “Two are better than one.” Love becomes stronger when burdens are shared, joys are celebrated together, and hearts remain faithful through changing times.

In the Gospel, the Risen Lord walks beside the disciples on the road to Emmaus. Their hearts, once troubled, were renewed with hope because Christ journeyed with them. In the same way, the Lord walks beside every couple who entrusts their lives to Him. He blesses love that is patient, faithful, forgiving, and joyful.

Today is not simply a remembrance of the past, but a celebration of a new chapter filled with gratitude, renewed companionship, and hope for the future. As we begin this Eucharist, let us thank God for the gift of love, for the people who walk beside us, and for the many ways His grace continues to make all things new.

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, You bless those who walk together in love and faithfulness: **Lord, have mercy.**

Christ Jesus, You renew our hearts with joy, hope, and gratitude: **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, You remain with us always and guide us in every season of life: **Lord, have mercy.**

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, renew our hearts in love and gratitude, strengthen us in faithfulness and joy, and bring us to everlasting life. **Amen.**

COLLECT

Loving and gracious God,
You created us for communion and joy,
and You bless those who walk together in love.
Look kindly upon Your children gathered here today
as they celebrate the gift of companionship
and the beginning of a new chapter of life.
May Christ Your Son,
who walked beside the disciples on the road to Emmaus,
continue to walk beside them always,
filling their hearts with peace, gratitude, and hope.
Strengthen them in faithfulness,
deepen their love through every season of life,
and make their home a reflection of Your kindness and joy.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son...Amen.

HOMILY

A little girl once watched her grandparents walking slowly through a park hand in hand. She asked her grandmother, "Why do you still hold Grandpa's hand after all these years?" Her grandmother smiled and replied, "Because after all these years, I still want to walk through life with him."

That simple answer captures the beauty of today's celebration. Marriage is not only about a wedding day; it is about a lifelong journey of companionship. It is about choosing each other again and again through every season of life — in laughter and tears, in strength and weakness, in ordinary days and extraordinary moments.

The Book of Ecclesiastes tells us: "Two are better than one... If one falls, the other lifts up the companion."

These words are deeply practical and deeply spiritual. God never intended human life to be lived in isolation. He created us to share life, to encourage one another, and to become a source of strength and joy for each other.

In today's Gospel, the disciples were walking to Emmaus carrying confusion and disappointment. But something beautiful happened: Jesus came and walked beside them. Their journey changed because Christ was present with them.

That is the secret of every strong marriage: not simply that two people walk together, but that Christ walks with them.

There is a lovely story about a couple celebrating sixty years of marriage. Someone asked the husband, "What is the greatest lesson you have learned?" He answered, "Love is not only finding the right

person. It is learning every day to be the right person for the one you love.”

That is the wisdom that sustains relationships: kindness, patience, forgiveness, gratitude, and the willingness to begin again each day with love.

Today we celebrate not only companionship, but renewed companionship — the courage to embrace life with hope, gratitude, and trust in God’s providence. Love that has passed through life’s experiences often becomes gentler, wiser, and more appreciative of simple blessings. It understands that every shared meal, every conversation, every quiet moment together is a gift.

The Eucharist we celebrate today is itself a sign of this love. Christ gives Himself completely for His people. In every lasting marriage there is also this spirit of self-giving: the daily offering of time, care, understanding, and presence. And perhaps that is one of the greatest blessings of love — knowing that someone walks beside you, prays for you, believes in you, and shares your journey.

Let me end with this story. A man once planted two young trees close beside each other in his garden. Over the years the winds grew strong, and storms came often. But the trees survived because their roots gradually intertwined beneath the earth, strengthening one another against every storm.

So it is with love rooted in God. When hearts grow together in faith, gratitude, and companionship, they become strong enough to weather every season of life.

May the Lord bless all who walk this journey together, fill their days with peace and laughter, and keep their hearts forever united in love.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Trusting in the Lord who blesses His people with love, companionship, and hope, let us bring our prayers before Him.

1. For the Church throughout the world, that she may continue to proclaim the beauty of faithful love, the dignity of marriage, and the joy of family life, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
2. For all married couples, especially those beginning a new chapter of life together, that their homes may be filled with peace, gratitude, laughter, and enduring love, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
3. For families and friends gathered in celebration today, that their presence and support may strengthen the bonds of unity and joy, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
4. For those who seek companionship, encouragement, or hope in their lives, that God may guide them with His wisdom and surround them with caring hearts, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
5. For all of us gathered here, that nourished by the Eucharist, we may become signs of kindness, fidelity, and joyful love in the world, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father,

You are the source of all love and blessing.

Hear the prayers we place before You today

and keep us united in faith, hope, and joy.

Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Pray, brothers and sisters,
that this sacrifice, offered in thanksgiving
for the gift of love and companionship,
may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

PREFACE

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give You thanks,
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For You created man and woman in love
and called them to walk together in faithfulness and joy.
Through the gift of companionship,
You lighten the burdens of life,
multiply its joys,
and reveal the beauty of self-giving love.

In every season of life, You remain near to Your people,
guiding them with wisdom, strengthening them with grace,
and renewing their hearts with hope.

Through Christ our Lord,
You teach us that love is patient and enduring,
that true happiness is found in mutual care and fidelity,
and that homes built upon faith become signs of Your presence in
the world.

And so, with Angels and Archangels, with Thrones and Dominions,
and with all the hosts and Powers of heaven,
we sing the hymn of Your glory, as without end we acclaim:

INVITATION TO THE OUR FATHER

United as God's family
and grateful for the gift of love
that sustains us through every season of life,
we pray with confidence in the words our Savior gave us:

EMBOLISM

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,
and graciously grant peace in our days,
that, by the help of Your mercy,
we may be always free from sin and safe from all distress.
Bless all who walk together in love.
Strengthen them with patience, understanding, and joy,
and keep their hearts faithful through every season of life,
as we await the blessed hope
and the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord Jesus Christ,
who said to Your Apostles:
Peace I leave you, my peace I give you,
look not on our sins,
but on the faith of Your Church,
and graciously grant her peace and unity
in accordance with Your will.
Bless all homes and families with harmony and joy,
and may all who share life together
grow daily in love, gratitude, and mutual care.
Who live and reign for ever and ever. **Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Behold the Lamb of God,
who walks beside His people
and fills their hearts with joy and peace.
Behold Him who takes away the sins of the world.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

Lord Jesus, You remain with us always
and bless us with the gift of companionship.

Thank You for the joy of shared life,
for hearts that encourage one another,
for homes filled with kindness and peace,
and for the hope of new beginnings.

Walk beside us in every season of life.
Deepen our love, strengthen our faith,
and teach us always to treasure one another as Your gift.

Stay with us, Lord,
and let our hearts always rejoice in Your presence.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord our God, we thank You for nourishing us
with the Body and Blood of Christ
and for blessing us with the gift of human love and companionship.
Grant that, strengthened by this holy Sacrament,
we may continue to walk together in faith, hope, and joy,
supporting one another with generosity and tenderness,
and reflecting Your love in our homes and communities.
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

FINAL BLESSING

May the Lord who blesses faithful love
fill your hearts with joy and gratitude.

Amen.

May He strengthen your companionship,
guide you through every season of life,
and keep your home filled with peace.

Amen.

And may almighty God bless you,
the Father, ✠ and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go forth in peace,
rejoicing in the gift of love and companionship.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

“Joy grows deeper when life is shared with someone who walks
beside us in love, faith, and gratitude.”

4. Healing Hearts, Building Hope

“The Lord Has Done Great Things for Us.”

Readings: Psalm 147:1–6; Matthew 11:28–30

INTRODUCTION

A gardener once showed a visitor two rose bushes growing side by side. One had survived a harsh storm and looked worn and fragile. Yet when spring arrived, it blossomed more beautifully than before. The gardener smiled and said, “Sometimes the strongest flowers bloom after difficult seasons.”

Life often leads people through unexpected paths — moments of joy, sorrow, waiting, and renewal. Yet God, in His goodness, continues to guide His children toward new beginnings and fresh blessings. Today we gather not to dwell on past burdens, but to rejoice in the gift of love, companionship, and the hope that God places before His people.

The Psalm reminds us: “The Lord rebuilds Jerusalem... He heals the broken-hearted.” And in the Gospel, Jesus gently says: “Come to me... and I will give you rest.” Christ is the One who restores joy, renews strength, and teaches hearts to love again with gratitude and trust.

Today is a celebration of God’s faithful presence through every season of life. It is a day of thanksgiving for companionship rediscovered, for hearts renewed by grace, and for the blessing of walking together into a new chapter filled with hope.

As we gather around this altar with joyful and grateful hearts, let us acknowledge our sins and prepare ourselves to celebrate these sacred mysteries.

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, You bless Your people with love, companionship, and peace: **Lord, have mercy.**

Christ Jesus, You renew our hearts with hope and joyful gratitude: **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, You walk beside us through every season of life and lead us into new beginnings: **Lord, have mercy.**

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May Almighty God, who fills our hearts with hope, renews us through His love, and blesses all who walk in His ways, have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

COLLECT

O God, source of all love and joy,
You never cease to guide Your people through every season of life.
With grateful hearts we thank You today
for the gift of companionship, for love renewed by grace,
and for the hope of new beginnings.
Bless those who now walk together in faith and affection.
Grant them patience in difficulties, strength in times of trial,
laughter in moments of joy,
and hearts always open to Your presence.
May their lives reflect the tenderness of Christ
and become a witness to the beauty of enduring love.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son,
who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

HOMILY

A man once planted a small tree beside his house shortly after retirement. His friends laughed and said, “Why plant a tree now? You may never sit in its shade.”

But the man replied, “Hope always plants something for tomorrow.”

That is what love does. Love believes in tomorrow. Love dares to begin again. Love trusts that God still has blessings waiting ahead.

Today’s celebration is not simply about two people finding companionship. It is about God’s faithfulness through every season of life. The Lord who walked with His people through joys and sorrows now leads them into a new chapter marked by gratitude, peace, and renewed hope.

In the Gospel, Jesus says:

“Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest.”

These words are not only for moments of sorrow. They are also an invitation to discover that true rest is found in loving and walking with one another in God’s presence.

Marriage is one of God’s beautiful gifts because it reminds us that no one is meant to journey through life alone. Companionship brings strength to weary days, laughter to ordinary moments, and comfort during trials. Even simple things — sharing a meal, taking a walk, praying together, or sitting quietly beside one another — become signs of God’s grace.

A woman once said after many years of life’s ups and downs, “The greatest blessing is having someone who still asks how your day was.”

That simple sentence reveals something profound. Love is often expressed not in grand gestures, but in faithful presence.

The Psalm today tells us:

“The Lord delights in those who hope in His merciful love.”

Hope is deeply present here today. Not a naïve hope that ignores life’s difficulties, but a mature and grateful hope that knows God remains faithful through every season.

There is a beautiful truth in Christian life: God never stops creating new beginnings. Sometimes people think blessings belong only to youth or to earlier chapters of life. But throughout Scripture, God repeatedly surprises His people with fresh joy at unexpected moments. Abraham and Sarah discovered new promises in old age. The disciples on the road to Emmaus discovered Christ walking beside them when they least expected it.

So today we rejoice in a love strengthened by experience, deepened by faith, and enriched by gratitude. We celebrate companionship that brings peace, encouragement, and renewed purpose.

A grandfather once told his grandchildren:

“The secret of a happy marriage is simple — never stop being thankful for the person beside you.”

Gratitude keeps love alive. Gratitude transforms ordinary days into blessings.

As this couple begins a new chapter together, the Church prays that their home may be filled with kindness, patience, laughter, prayer, and peace. May Christ remain at the centre of their journey, guiding them gently through all the years ahead.

And may all of us leave this celebration remembering that God is a God of renewal, joy, and hope — a God who still writes beautiful stories in every season of life.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

With hearts filled with gratitude for God's blessings and trusting in His loving care, let us bring our prayers before Him.

1. For the Church throughout the world, that she may continue to proclaim the joy of faithful love and the hope found in Christ, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
2. For this couple, that God may bless their companionship with peace, patience, joy, and enduring affection, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
3. For families and married couples, that their homes may be strengthened by mutual respect, forgiveness, and prayer, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
4. For those who long for companionship or carry hidden loneliness, that they may experience God's comfort and the support of caring hearts, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
5. For all gathered here today, that we may cherish the gift of love, treasure one another deeply, and walk forward with hope and gratitude, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Loving Father,
You are the source of every blessing and every joyful beginning.
Hear the prayers we offer You today,
and guide us always in the ways of faith, hope, and love.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Pray, brothers and sisters,
that these gifts, offered with grateful and joyful hearts,
may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

PREFACE

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give You thanks,
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For You never cease to care for Your people
and to guide them lovingly through every season of life.

In Your goodness
You bless human hearts with companionship,
renew joy through faithful love,
and fill Your children with hope for the future.

In Christ Your Son,
You reveal a love that is patient, gentle, and enduring —
a love that strengthens the weary,
unites hearts in peace,
and teaches us the beauty of walking together in faith.

Through Him,
ordinary moments become signs of grace,
homes become places of blessing,
and lives are renewed by gratitude and joy.

And so, with Angels and Archangels,
with Thrones and Dominions,
and with all the hosts and Powers of heaven,
we sing the hymn of Your glory, as without end we acclaim:

INVITATION TO THE OUR FATHER

At the Savior's command
and formed by divine teaching,
with grateful hearts trusting in the Father
who blesses His children with love and peace,
we dare to say:

EMBOLISM

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,
and graciously grant peace in our days,
that, by the help of Your mercy,
we may be strengthened in faithful love,
renewed in gratitude and joy,
and guided always in the way of peace,
as we await the blessed hope
and the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord Jesus Christ, who said to Your Apostles:
Peace I leave you, my peace I give you,
look not on our sins,
but on the faith of Your Church,
and graciously grant her peace and unity
in accordance with Your will.
Bless all couples and families with harmony and mutual care.
Teach us to walk beside one another with patience and tenderness,
and make our homes reflections of Your faithful love.
Who live and reign for ever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Behold the Lamb of God,
behold Him who calls us to live in love, joy, and peace.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

Lord Jesus, You have nourished us today
with the bread of life and the joy of Your presence.

Remain with us in every season of our journey.
Bless our homes with peace, our hearts with gratitude,
and our relationships with enduring love.

Teach us to cherish one another deeply,
to walk together faithfully,
and to trust always in Your gentle guidance.

May every new beginning draw us closer to You
and to one another.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

May this heavenly Sacrament, O Lord,
strengthen the bonds of love and friendship among us,
renew our hearts with gratitude and hope,
and guide us always in the ways of peace.

Having shared at the table of Your Son,
may we continue our journey with joyful hearts,
trusting in Your constant blessing and care.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

FINAL BLESSING

May the Lord fill your hearts and homes
with lasting joy and peace.

Amen.

May Christ bless your companionship
with faithful love and enduring hope.

Amen.

And may Almighty God bless you,
the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace,
rejoicing in the goodness of God,
walking together in faith and love,
and trusting in the blessings of every new beginning.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

“God never stops creating new beginnings.
When hearts walk together in faith,
ordinary days become sacred blessings.”

5. Love That Has Learned Wisdom

“Clothe Yourselves with Compassion and Love.”

Readings: Colossians 3:12–17; John 13:34–35

INTRODUCTION

A little boy once asked his grandfather, “After all these years, why do you still hold Grandma’s hand when you walk?”

The old man smiled and replied, “Because every day with her is still a gift from God.”

Today we gather not to dwell on what life has taken away, but to rejoice in what God continues to give: companionship, renewed love, shared hope, and the blessing of walking through life together. Love that has matured through life’s experiences becomes deeper, gentler, and wiser. It learns gratitude. It treasures simple moments. It discovers that joy is not found in perfection, but in faithful hearts that continue to choose one another each day.

In today’s readings, Saint Paul invites us to clothe ourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, patience, and above all, love. These virtues become the foundation of joyful relationships and peaceful homes. And Jesus gives us the heart of Christian life: “Love one another as I have loved you.”

As we gather around this altar in thanksgiving, we celebrate God’s goodness and the gift of love renewed. We thank Him for companionship, for second beginnings, for faithful hearts, and for the grace to continue life’s journey with hope and joy. Let us now prepare ourselves to celebrate these sacred mysteries.

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, You bless those who walk together in love and faithfulness: **Lord, have mercy.**

Christ Jesus, You renew our hearts with hope, joy, and peace: **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, You call us to love one another as You have loved us: **Lord, have mercy.**

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May Almighty God have mercy on us,
forgive us our sins,
renew our hearts with His grace and peace,
and bring us to everlasting life.

Amen.

COLLECT

Loving and faithful Father,
You are the source of every blessing
and the author of every true love.
With grateful hearts we thank You
for the gift of companionship, renewed hope, and joyful love.
Bless all couples and families gathered here today.
May their lives reflect the patience, kindness, and peace of Christ.
Strengthen them to walk together in faith,
to support one another with tenderness,
and to rejoice always in the gift of shared life.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son,
who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

HOMILY

A woman once planted a small jasmine vine beside her doorway. At first it seemed weak and fragile. But over the years it grew slowly, climbing higher with each season. Eventually it covered the entrance of the house with beautiful flowers and sweet fragrance. Visitors would often stop and admire it. The woman would simply smile and say, “Beautiful things grow when they are cared for patiently.” That is very true of love.

The love we celebrate today is not merely youthful excitement or passing emotion. It is love that has grown stronger through life itself. It is love that has learned gratitude, tenderness, patience, and joy. It is love that understands the beauty of companionship — having someone beside you to share laughter, prayer, memories, hopes, and ordinary daily life.

In today’s Gospel, Jesus gives His disciples a new commandment: “Love one another as I have loved you.”

Jesus speaks these words not as a burden, but as an invitation into joy. Christ-centred love brings peace to the heart and meaning to life. It teaches us that the greatest happiness is found not in possessions or achievements, but in caring for one another with kindness and fidelity.

Saint Paul describes the qualities that make love beautiful: compassion, humility, gentleness, patience, forgiveness, and thankfulness. These are the virtues that create strong marriages and joyful homes. They are the small daily acts that keep love alive — listening patiently, speaking kindly, encouraging one another, praying together, forgiving quickly, and never taking each other for granted.

A married couple celebrating their fiftieth anniversary was once asked the secret of their happiness. The wife laughed and replied, “We decided long ago that we would never stop being grateful for each other.” Gratitude kept their love young.

And perhaps that is one of the great lessons of mature love: to recognize that companionship itself is a blessing. After many years of life’s journeys, disappointments, responsibilities, and changes, to still have someone with whom to walk, pray, laugh, and hope is truly one of God’s most beautiful gifts.

Today we celebrate not only love itself, but also the courage to begin new chapters with trust in God. The Lord is always a God of new beginnings. He delights in bringing joy where there has been loneliness, companionship where there has been emptiness, and hope where there has been uncertainty.

There is an old saying: “Joy shared is doubled.” That is the beauty of marriage and faithful companionship. Life becomes lighter when carried together. Even ordinary moments become sacred when shared with love.

And so today, let this celebration be filled not with fear about the future, but with gratitude and hope. God walks ahead of every couple who place their lives in His hands. He blesses homes where kindness lives, where forgiveness is practiced, where laughter is welcomed, and where love continues to grow wiser with time.

A grandfather once told his grandson, “When you are young, you look for excitement in love. But when you grow older, you discover that the greatest joy is simply finding someone who stays beside you with a peaceful heart.” That peaceful and faithful companionship is one of God’s greatest blessings.

May the Lord bless every loving relationship gathered here today. May He strengthen every heart with joy and gratitude. And may every home become a living witness that love — patient, faithful, joyful, and enduring — is truly a gift from God. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Trusting in God, who blesses His people with love, companionship, and hope, let us now offer Him our prayers.

1. For the Church, that she may continue to proclaim the joy of faithful love and the beauty of Christian marriage, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
2. For couples and families, that their homes may be filled with kindness, patience, gratitude, and peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
3. For those beginning new chapters in life, that God may bless them with courage, companionship, and hope for the future, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
4. For elderly couples and all who witness to enduring love through years of faithfulness, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
5. For all gathered here, that we may grow daily in compassion, joy, and gratitude for the people God places in our lives, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Loving Father, receive the prayers we offer with grateful hearts. Bless our homes and relationships with Your peace and joy, and teach us always to walk in the way of love. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Pray, brothers and sisters,
that this sacrifice, offered in thanksgiving for the gift of love
and companionship,
may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

PREFACE

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give You thanks,
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For You created us not to walk alone,
but to share our lives in love, friendship, and faithful companionship.
In every joyful and enduring relationship,
You reveal something of Your own faithful and tender love.

You bless homes with peace, strengthen hearts with hope,
and renew Your people with the joy of new beginnings.
Through Christ Your Son,
You teach us that love becomes most beautiful
when it is patient, generous, forgiving, and steadfast.

And so, with Angels and Saints,
we praise You, as without end we acclaim:

INVITATION TO THE OUR FATHER

At the Savior's command
and formed by divine teaching,
with grateful hearts for the blessings of love and companionship,
we dare to say:

EMBOLISM

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,
and graciously grant peace in our days,
that, by the help of Your mercy,
we may be always free from sin and safe from all distress,
as we await the blessed hope
and the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Strengthen all couples and families in love and unity.
Teach us to cherish one another with gratitude,
to support one another with patience,
and to rejoice always in the gift of shared life.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord Jesus Christ, who said to Your Apostles:
Peace I leave you, My peace I give you,
look not on our sins, but on the faith of Your Church,
and graciously grant her peace and unity
in accordance with Your will.
May Your peace dwell within every home and relationship.
May Your joy strengthen loving hearts,
and may Your presence guide
all who walk together in faith and hope.
Who live and reign for ever and ever.
Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Behold the Lamb of God,
behold Him who blesses us with faithful love,
joyful companionship, and peace.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

Love becomes beautiful when it is shared with gratitude.
Today Christ has nourished us with His own life and love.
May His presence strengthen every couple and every family,
fill hearts with renewed joy and peace,
and remind us that every new beginning blessed by God
is a gift filled with hope.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord our God,
having shared in this Eucharist,
we thank You for the many blessings You pour into our lives.
Continue to strengthen all loving relationships with Your grace.
May our homes be filled with kindness and peace,
our hearts with gratitude and hope,
and our lives with the joy that comes from walking together in love.
Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

FINAL BLESSING

May the Lord bless you and keep you.
May He fill your hearts with joy and gratitude.
May He strengthen you in love and faithful companionship.
May He guide your steps together in peace, hope, and tenderness all
the days of your life.

And may Almighty God bless you,
the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go forth in peace,
rejoicing in the gift of love and companionship.
And may your lives become joyful witnesses
to the faithful and enduring love of God.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

The deepest joy in life is not found in walking alone,
but in discovering someone with whom to share faith, hope, love,
and the journey ahead.

6. Gratitude for Yesterday, Joy for Tomorrow

“Give Thanks in All Circumstances.”

Readings: 1 Thessalonians 5:16–18; Luke 17:11–19

INTRODUCTION

A married couple celebrating their fiftieth anniversary were once asked the secret of their happiness.

The husband smiled and said, “We learned long ago that love is not only about finding the right person. It is about thanking God every day for the person beside you.”

Marriage is one of God’s most beautiful gifts — a companionship that grows deeper through time, gentler through forgiveness, and richer through shared joys and sorrows. The years may change many things, but faithful love teaches two hearts how to walk together with gratitude, patience, and hope.

In today’s Gospel, only one of the ten healed lepers returned to give thanks. Gratitude transformed his healing into a relationship. And Saint Paul reminds us: “Give thanks in all circumstances.” Gratitude opens our hearts to recognize how generously God continues to bless our lives.

Today we gather with joyful hearts to thank God for the gift of love, for companionship renewed through the years, for memories shared, and for the grace of a new chapter of life together. We rejoice that God, who has guided the journey until now, continues to walk beside His people with tenderness and blessing.

And so, trusting in His mercy and love, let us prepare ourselves to celebrate these sacred mysteries.

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, You bless human love and call hearts into faithful companionship: **Lord, have mercy.**

Christ Jesus, You renew joy within families and strengthen us through every season of life: **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, You fill our future with hope and Your abiding presence: **Lord, have mercy.**

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, renew within us grateful and joyful hearts, strengthen us in love and hope, and bring us to everlasting life. **Amen.**

COLLECT

Gracious and loving God,
You are the source of every blessing and the author of faithful love.
We thank You for the gift of companionship,
for the joy of shared memories, and for the hope of new beginnings.
Renew our hearts with gratitude,
strengthen the bonds of love and friendship among us,
and bless this new chapter of life with peace, laughter,
and enduring joy.

May Your presence continue to guide every step we take together,
so that our lives may reflect the goodness
and faithfulness of Your love.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son,
who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

HOMILY

A grandfather once told his grandson, “When people are young, they dream about adventure. But when they grow older, they discover that the greatest adventure is having someone beside you through all the seasons of life.”

That is the beauty we celebrate today.

In the Gospel, ten lepers received healing, but only one returned to give thanks. The miracle was given to all ten, but gratitude opened the heart of only one. Gratitude changes not only what we see, but how we live.

And gratitude is at the heart of every joyful marriage.

A happy marriage is not built only on grand moments. It is built quietly over time:

- in daily kindness,
- in patience during difficult days,
- in forgiveness after misunderstandings,
- in laughter shared at the dinner table,
- in the comfort of simply knowing someone walks beside you.

The deepest companionship often grows strongest not in perfect moments, but through life’s ordinary seasons faithfully shared together.

A woman celebrating many years of marriage once said, “When we were young, we held hands because we were in love. Now we hold hands because we have carried life together.”

That is love that has matured into gratitude.

Saint Paul says today, “Give thanks in all circumstances.” Not because every moment is easy, but because God’s grace remains present through every season. The years bring joys and challenges, surprises and changes, yet faithful love learns to recognize God’s blessing woven through them all.

Marriage is not simply surviving the years together. It is discovering new reasons to cherish one another as the years unfold.

One elderly husband was asked, “After all these years, what do you love most about your wife?”

He answered, “That after all life has brought us, she is still the person I most want to talk to at the end of the day.”

That is companionship — one of heaven’s quiet miracles.

And today is not simply about looking backward with gratitude. It is also about looking forward with hope. God is always a God of new beginnings. Love does not stop growing simply because years have passed. Some of the most beautiful chapters of life are written later — when love becomes gentler, freer, wiser, and more deeply rooted in faith.

There is joy in knowing:

- there are still memories to create,
- still laughter to share,
- still blessings to receive,
- still ways to love one another more fully.

A priest once visited an elderly couple sitting quietly on their porch. They were not speaking; they were simply watching the sunset together. The priest remarked, "You seem very content."

The wife smiled and replied, "Father, after all these years, we no longer need many words. We have become each other's peace."

That is what God desires for love — not only romance, but peace, trust, friendship, and joy.

And this Eucharist — this thanksgiving — reminds us that every good gift comes from God. The love we celebrate today is not merely human achievement; it is grace. God has sustained it, healed it, strengthened it, and blessed it.

So today we thank Him:

- for yesterday's memories,
- for today's companionship,
- and for tomorrow's hope.

And perhaps the most beautiful prayer any married couple can offer is simply this:

"Lord, thank You for giving me someone with whom to walk through life."

For where gratitude lives, joy grows.

Where love is renewed, hope is born again.

And where God remains at the centre, every new chapter becomes a blessing.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Grateful for the gift of love and trusting in God's faithful care, let us now bring our prayers before Him.

1. For the Church throughout the world, that she may continue to strengthen families and proclaim the joy and beauty of faithful love, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
2. For married couples everywhere, especially those celebrating milestones and new beginnings, that God may deepen their love, friendship, and joy, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
3. For families and friends gathered here, that gratitude, peace, and mutual care may always fill their homes and relationships, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
4. For those who long for companionship or who carry loneliness in their hearts, that God may surround them with comfort, friendship, and hope, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
5. For our departed loved ones, who shared life and love with us on earth, that they may rejoice forever in the eternal banquet of heaven, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father,

with thankful hearts we place these prayers before You.

Continue to bless our lives with love, peace, and joyful hope for the future. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Pray, brothers and sisters, that our sacrifice, offered with grateful hearts for the gift of love and joyful hope for the future, may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

PREFACE

It is truly right and just,
our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give You thanks,
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For You created us in love
and called us to walk together in companionship and peace.
Through every season of life
You remain faithful to Your people,
blessing homes with laughter,
hearts with tenderness,
and relationships with the grace to endure and flourish.

In Jesus Christ, Your Son,
You revealed the beauty of self-giving love
and taught us that grateful hearts
discover joy even in ordinary moments.

And so, with Angels and Archangels,
with Thrones and Dominions,
and with all the hosts and Powers of heaven,
we sing the hymn of Your glory,
as without end we acclaim:

INVITATION TO THE OUR FATHER

At the Savior's command
and formed by divine teaching,
with grateful hearts for the love we have received
and joyful hope for the years ahead, we dare to say:

Reformulate to conclude with: as we await the blessed hope
and the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

EMBOLISM

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,
and graciously grant peace in our days,
that, by the help of Your mercy,
we may be always free from sin
and safe from all distress.
Bless our homes with harmony,
our relationships with kindness,
and our future with the confidence
that Your love will continue to guide us each day,
as we await the blessed hope
and the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord Jesus Christ,
who said to Your Apostles:
Peace I leave you, my peace I give you,
look not on our sins, but on the faith of Your Church,
and graciously grant her peace and unity
in accordance with Your will.

Teach us to become people of joyful and grateful hearts,
so that our homes may reflect Your peace
and our lives may become signs of hope to one another.
Who live and reign for ever and ever.

Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Behold the Lamb of God,
behold Him who takes away the sins of the world.
In this sacred meal, Christ renews our hearts with love,
strengthens us in faithful companionship,
and fills us with hope for every new beginning.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

Lord, thank You for the gift of love that grows through the years,
for hands that still reach for one another,
for laughter that lightens the heart,
and for memories that become treasures of grace.

Remain with us in every season ahead.
Bless our companionship with peace, our homes with joy,
and our future with hope.

Teach us always to walk together in gratitude and love.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord our God,
having shared in this holy Eucharist,
we thank You for nourishing us with the Bread of Life.
Continue to bless us with grateful hearts,
renewed companionship,
and joyful trust in the future You prepare for us.
May our lives reflect the beauty of faithful love
and become a witness of hope and joy to the world.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

FINAL BLESSING

May the Lord bless your lives with enduring love and joyful
companionship.

Amen.

May He fill your hearts with gratitude for the past and hope for the
future.

Amen.

May He bless your homes with peace, laughter, and every grace
needed for this new chapter of life.

Amen.

And may Almighty God bless you,
the Father, ✠ and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go forth in peace,
rejoicing in God's blessings,
cherishing one another in love,
and walking joyfully into the future.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

The happiest marriages are not those without difficulties,
but those where two people continue choosing gratitude,
companionship, and love — day after day, with God beside them.

7. Together in Joy and Faithfulness

“The Lord Is Kind and Merciful.”

Readings: Philippians 4:4–9; John 14:23–29

INTRODUCTION

A journalist once asked an elderly couple who were celebrating sixty years of marriage, “What has kept your love alive for so long?” The husband smiled and replied, “We never stopped enjoying each other’s company.” His wife laughed and added, “And we learned that happiness grows when gratitude grows.” Their words capture the spirit of today’s celebration.

Marriage is not only about enduring difficulties; it is also about discovering joy in companionship, peace in faithfulness, and hope in walking through life together. Through changing seasons, God continues to bless couples with new beginnings, deeper understanding, and the quiet happiness that comes from shared love.

In today’s readings, Saint Paul encourages us: “Rejoice in the Lord always.” Jesus, in the Gospel, gives His disciples the gift of peace — not a peace that depends on circumstances, but a peace rooted in His abiding presence.

Today we give thanks for love that has endured, matured, and become a source of strength and blessing. We celebrate companionship renewed by grace, hearts sustained by faith, and the promise that God still walks ahead, preparing new joys for the journey yet to come.

As we gather around this altar, let us open our hearts with gratitude and ask the Lord to continue blessing this new chapter of life with peace, laughter, tenderness, and hope.

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, You bless our lives with the gift of love and companionship: **Lord, have mercy.**

Christ Jesus, You teach us to rejoice in gratitude and remain faithful in love: **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, You fill our hearts with peace and lead us into new beginnings with hope: **Lord, have mercy.**

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May Almighty God,
who has guided us through every season of life with mercy and love,
forgive our sins, deepen our gratitude,
strengthen us in faithful companionship,
and bring us to everlasting life. **Amen.**

COLLECT

O God,
source of all love, joy, and peace,
we thank You for the gift of faithful companionship
and for the blessings You pour upon those who walk together in love.
Renew their hearts with gratitude,
strengthen them in tenderness and understanding,
and fill their home with laughter, hope, and peace.
May the presence of Christ remain always among them,
guiding them into this new chapter of life
with confidence, serenity, and joy.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son,
who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

HOMILY

A grandfather once told his grandson, “When I was young, I thought love was excitement. As I grew older, I discovered that love is companionship — having someone beside you who makes every ordinary day meaningful.”

That is the beauty of marriage.

The joy of marriage is not found only in grand moments, but in thousands of small acts of love: shared meals, quiet conversations, prayers whispered together, laughter after difficult days, and the comfort of knowing that someone walks beside you through life.

Today Saint Paul tells us: “Rejoice in the Lord always.” Notice he does not say, “Rejoice only when life is easy.” Christian joy is deeper than passing happiness. It is the quiet confidence that God remains faithful and continues to bless our lives in every season.

Jesus says in the Gospel: “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.”

This peace becomes the foundation of lasting companionship. It allows two people not only to live together, but to grow together — with patience, forgiveness, gentleness, and gratitude.

There is a lovely story about an elderly couple who walked together every evening for decades. One evening someone asked them, “After all these years, do you never get tired of walking the same road?”

The husband answered, “The road is never the same because we are walking it together.”

That is love transformed by faithfulness.

Over time, marriage becomes more than romance. It becomes friendship. It becomes trust. It becomes the joy of knowing another person deeply and still choosing each other every day.

And perhaps that is one of God’s greatest blessings: not simply giving us years to live, but giving us someone with whom to share those years.

A teacher once asked her students, “What makes a happy marriage?”

One child answered, “When two people help each other smile.”

There is wisdom in that simple answer.

The happiest homes are not the ones without problems, but the ones filled with kindness, gratitude, humour, forgiveness, and prayer. Joy grows wherever people choose appreciation over criticism and tenderness over pride.

Today we also celebrate something beautiful: the grace of a new chapter. Life continues to unfold, and God continues to lead His children forward. There are still blessings to receive, memories to create, and moments of peace and companionship yet to be discovered.

A woman celebrating her anniversary once said, “The older we became, the more we realized that love is less about holding tightly and more about walking gently together.”

That is mature love.

It is love that has learned patience.

Love that has survived difficulties.

Love that has discovered gratitude.

Love that has become peaceful and wise.

And through it all, Christ remains at the center.

A priest visiting a couple celebrating many years of marriage asked them what secret had sustained them. The wife smiled and pointed to a crucifix hanging in their home. “Whenever life became difficult,” she said, “we remembered that Christ stayed with us, and so we stayed with each other.”

That is Christian marriage.

Not perfect people, but faithful hearts.

Not a life without storms, but a life blessed by God’s presence within them.

And so today we give thanks — not only for the years that have passed, but for the grace still to come.

For companionship renewed.

For peace deepened.

For joy rediscovered.

And for the faithful God who continues to bless every season of love.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

With grateful hearts and trusting in God’s faithful love, let us bring our prayers before Him.

1. For the Church throughout the world, that she may radiate the joy of the Gospel and become a sign of hope, peace, and faithful love, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

2. For married couples, especially those celebrating anniversaries and new beginnings, that their love may continue to deepen in tenderness, joy, and companionship, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

3. For families, that their homes may be filled with gratitude, patience, laughter, and prayer, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

4. For those who feel lonely, discouraged, or burdened by life’s struggles, that they may discover comfort, friendship, and renewed hope through God’s love, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

5. For all gathered here today, that we may cherish one another more deeply and walk into the future with peace and confidence in God’s blessings, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Father of love and joy,

receive the prayers we offer with grateful hearts.

Continue to guide us in peace and faithfulness,

through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Pray, brothers and sisters,

that this sacrifice, offered in thanksgiving for the gift of faithful love, joyful companionship, and God’s many blessings, may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

PREFACE

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give You thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For You are the source of every blessing and the giver of every good gift.

Through the gift of marriage,
You teach us the beauty of faithful companionship
and the joy of lives shared in love.

You remain present in every season of life,
strengthening hearts with peace,
renewing hope through grace,
and filling homes with gratitude and laughter.

In Christ Your Son,
You reveal a love that never grows weary,
a peace that endures through every change,
and a joy that continues to blossom with time.

And so, with Angels and Archangels,
with Thrones and Dominions,
and with all the hosts and Powers of heaven,
we sing the hymn of Your glory,
as without end we acclaim:

INVITATION TO THE OUR FATHER

At the Savior's command and formed by divine teaching,
with grateful hearts rejoicing in God's faithful love,
we dare to say:

EMBOLISM

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,
and graciously grant peace in our days,
that, by the help of Your mercy,
we may be always free from sin and safe from all distress.
May Your peace fill every home with joy,
strengthen every loving relationship,

and guide us together into a future blessed with hope and
companionship,
as we await the blessed hope
and the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord Jesus Christ,
who said to Your Apostles:
Peace I leave you, my peace I give you,
look not on our sins, but on the faith of Your Church,
and graciously grant her peace and unity
in accordance with Your will.

Bless all couples and families with lasting joy,
patient understanding, and hearts filled with gratitude,
so that their homes may reflect the beauty of Your love.
Who live and reign for ever and ever.

Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Behold the Lamb of God,
behold Him who takes away the sins of the world.
In this Eucharist, Christ comes to renew our hearts with peace,
strengthen us in faithful love, and fill us with the joy of His presence.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

Lord Jesus, thank You for walking beside us
through every season of life.

Thank You for the gift of companionship,
for laughter shared, for love renewed,

and for the peace that grows
when hearts remain close to You.

Bless this new chapter with hope and serenity.
Keep our homes filled with kindness and gratitude,
and may Your presence remain with us always.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord our God, we thank You for nourishing us
with the Body and Blood of Your Son.
Through this holy Sacrament,
renew our hearts in joy and gratitude,
strengthen us in faithful companionship,
and bless us with peace in every season of life.
May we continue to walk together in love and hope
until we rejoice forever in Your heavenly Kingdom. Through Christ
our Lord.

Amen.

FINAL BLESSING

May the Lord,
who has blessed you with faithful love and enduring companionship,
fill your hearts with joy and peace.

May He continue to guide your lives with hope,
strengthen you in tenderness and gratitude,
and bless your home with laughter and love.

And may Almighty God bless you,
the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go forth in peace,
rejoicing in the Lord and sharing His love with one another.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

“Joy grows wherever love is shared with gratitude,
peace, and faithfulness.”

8. Love Matured Through Life's Seasons

“There Is a Time for Every Matter Under Heaven.”

Readings: Ecclesiastes 3:1–14; John 2:1–11

INTRODUCTION

A grandfather once planted a small vine in the backyard on the day of his wedding. Over the years, the vine grew slowly — through storms, dry seasons, and long winters. Many years later, his grandchildren sat beneath its wide branches sharing laughter, stories, and meals together. One child asked him, “How did this vine become so beautiful?” He smiled and replied, “It stayed rooted through every season.”

Today we gather to celebrate a love that has remained rooted through the changing seasons of life. The years have brought joys and challenges, beginnings and endings, laughter and tears — yet through it all, God has remained faithful. Love that endures becomes richer, gentler, wiser, and more radiant with time.

In the Gospel at Cana, Jesus blesses a wedding feast by transforming water into wine, revealing that He delights in human joy and companionship. He enters ordinary life not to diminish its happiness, but to deepen it with grace. The miracle reminds us that God continues to renew love, restore joy, and bless every new chapter placed before Him.

Today, with grateful hearts, we thank God for the gift of faithful companionship, for memories cherished, for love strengthened by time, and for the hope that still lies ahead. As we prepare to

celebrate these sacred mysteries, let us open our hearts to God's mercy and rejoice in His enduring goodness.

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, You bless the joy of marriage and fill faithful hearts with lasting companionship: **Lord, have mercy.**

Christ Jesus, You transform ordinary moments with the new wine of Your grace and joy: **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, You remain with us through every season of life, guiding us with love and hope: **Lord, have mercy.**

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May Almighty God,
who has accompanied us with love through every season of life,
forgive our sins, renew our hearts with joy and gratitude,
strengthen us in faithful love and lasting hope,
and bring us to everlasting life. **Amen.**

COLLECT

O God, source of all love and joy,
You bless Your people through the changing seasons of life
and fill faithful hearts with enduring companionship.
As Your Son brought joy to the wedding feast at Cana,
renew us now with the grace of Your presence.
Deepen within us gratitude for the past,
peace in the present, and hope for the future.
May our lives continue to bear witness
to the beauty of faithful love strengthened by time.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

HOMILY

A young couple once visited an elderly husband and wife who had been married for over sixty years. They expected to hear dramatic stories or great secrets about lasting love. Instead, they found something simple: shared laughter, quiet understanding, and deep peace in one another's presence.

As they were leaving, the young wife asked, "What kept your marriage strong all these years?"

The elderly woman smiled gently and replied, "We never stopped choosing each other — especially in ordinary days."

That is the beauty of love matured through life's seasons.

The Book of Ecclesiastes reminds us that life unfolds in many seasons: "a time to laugh and a time to weep... a time to embrace... a time to heal." No life remains unchanged. The years shape us. Yet faithful love learns not merely to survive those changes, but to grow through them.

Today is not simply about remembering the past. It is about celebrating a love that continues to live, deepen, and give joy.

In the Gospel, Jesus attends a wedding feast at Cana. This is significant. The first public sign of Christ takes place not in a temple or palace, but at a celebration of human love and companionship. God delights in joy. He blesses relationships that are faithful, generous, and life-giving.

When the wine runs out, Mary notices the need before anyone else. Quietly, she brings it to Jesus. And Christ transforms ordinary water into abundant wine — not merely enough, but overflowing with goodness.

That miracle speaks to every marriage and every enduring relationship. Over time, love changes shape. The excitement of youth becomes something deeper: trust, patience, friendship, shared memories, and quiet devotion. What begins as romance matures into companionship rich with wisdom and tenderness.

A man once said about his wife after many decades together, "She still makes my life brighter — not because everything was always easy, but because we walked through everything together."

That is the kind of love that reflects God's faithfulness.

The world often admires what is new and flawless. But the Gospel teaches us to treasure what has endured. A love strengthened through years becomes a witness to hope. It reminds younger generations that lasting commitment is possible, that forgiveness heals, that patience matters, and that joy can deepen with time.

And there is great joy in beginning a new chapter together. The later seasons of life are not empty seasons. They can become seasons of freedom, gratitude, wisdom, renewed closeness, and deeper appreciation for life's simple blessings.

One elderly husband was once asked what he enjoyed most after so many years of marriage. He answered, "Now we no longer need many words. We simply enjoy being together."

That quiet companionship is one of God's most beautiful gifts.

At Cana, the miracle happened quietly. Yet it transformed the whole celebration. God often works that way in our lives too — through small daily acts of kindness, shared meals, patient listening, forgiveness offered, hands held in silence, prayers whispered together, and faithful presence through every season.

Today we give thanks for all the moments — joyful and difficult alike — that have shaped this journey of love. We thank God for the memories that bring laughter, for the burdens carried together, for the grace that sustained hope, and for the joy that still remains alive today.

And as this new chapter unfolds, we trust that Christ continues to walk beside us. The same Lord who blessed the wedding feast at Cana still pours new wine into faithful hearts — renewing joy, strengthening love, and filling the future with hope.

A final story: A musician once played two violins. One was new and polished. The other was old, worn, and marked by years of use. Yet when the older violin was played, its music was fuller, warmer, and more beautiful. Someone asked why. The musician replied, "Because time taught it how to sing."

So it is with faithful love.

The years may leave marks, but they also create beauty — a beauty shaped by grace, perseverance, gratitude, and enduring companionship. And that is the joy we celebrate today.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

With grateful hearts for God's blessings through every season of life, let us now place our prayers before Him.

1. For the Church throughout the world, that she may continue to proclaim the joy of faithful love, enduring companionship, and Christian hope, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
2. For married couples and families, that their homes may be filled with gratitude, peace, forgiveness, and lasting joy, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
3. For those beginning new chapters in life, that God may bless them with courage, companionship, and renewed hope for the future, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
4. For older members of our communities, that their wisdom, faithfulness, and witness of enduring love may continue to inspire younger generations, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
5. For all gathered here today, that we may recognize God's blessings in every season and live with joyful and grateful hearts, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Father of goodness and joy,
You bless us through every season of life
and renew our hearts with hope.
Hear the prayers we offer today
through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Pray, brothers and sisters,
that these gifts, offered with grateful hearts for lives blessed by
faithful love and enduring companionship,
may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

PREFACE

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give You thanks,
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For You are the source of every blessing
and the giver of enduring love.

Through the changing seasons of life,
You remain faithful to Your people,
guiding them with wisdom, strengthening them with hope,
and filling their hearts with joy.

In the wedding feast at Cana, Your Son revealed His glory
by transforming water into wine,
showing that human love and companionship
are precious in Your sight.

Through years of shared life,
You continue to deepen love through patience, gratitude,
forgiveness, and trust.

You teach us that faithful companionship
becomes a living sign of Your abiding presence.

And so, with Angels and Saints,
we proclaim Your glory, as without end we acclaim:

INVITATION TO THE OUR FATHER

Trusting in the Father
whose love remains faithful through every season of life,
and rejoicing in Christ who renews our hearts with hope and joy,
we dare to say:

EMBOLISM

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,
and graciously grant peace in our days,
that, sustained by Your mercy,
we may live with joyful hearts, grateful spirits, and steadfast hope,
as we await the blessed hope
and the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord Jesus Christ, You said to Your Apostles:
Peace I leave you, my peace I give you.
Look not on our sins, but on the faith of Your Church,
and graciously grant her peace and unity
in accordance with Your will.
As You brought joy to the wedding feast at Cana,
fill our hearts and homes with peace, gratitude, and enduring love.
Who live and reign for ever and ever. **Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Behold the Lamb of God,
behold Him who takes away the sins of the world.
Behold Him who nourishes us with the joy of His love
and the hope of eternal life.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb,

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

Lord,
through every season of life You have walked beside us —
in moments of celebration, quiet companionship, and faithful love.
Today we thank You
for memories cherished,
for joy renewed,
and for the blessing of sharing life together.
Remain with us in the years ahead,
that our hearts may always rejoice in Your goodness
and rest in Your peace.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord our God,
through this holy sacrament
You have renewed us with the joy of Your presence.

Continue to bless us in every season of life.
Deepen within us gratitude for the past,
peace for the present,
and hope for the future.

May the love we celebrate today
continue to grow in wisdom, tenderness, and joy,
until we rejoice together at Your heavenly banquet.
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

FINAL BLESSING

May the Lord,
who has blessed your lives with faithful companionship
and enduring love,
fill your hearts with joy and gratitude.

May He renew your hope for the years ahead,
strengthen you in peace,
and surround your homes with His blessing.

And may Almighty God bless you,
the Father, ✠ and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go forth in peace,
rejoicing in the Lord and giving thanks for the gift of faithful love.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

The most beautiful love is not the love that never changed,
but the love that grew deeper, wiser, and more joyful
through every season of life.

9. The Gift of Companionship

“I Will Be with You.”

Readings: Ruth 1:16–17; John 17:20–23

INTRODUCTION

A husband celebrating fifty years of marriage was once asked the secret of lasting happiness. He smiled and replied, “We learned that marriage is not only about growing older together—it is about continuing to discover joy in one another through every season of life.” Then he added, “The greatest gift was knowing that God walked with us through it all.”

Today we gather to celebrate the beauty of faithful companionship and the blessing of love renewed. The readings speak of enduring commitment, joyful unity, and hearts joined together in God’s care. Ruth speaks words of steadfast devotion: “Where you go, I will go.” In the Gospel, Jesus prays that His followers may live united in love, reflecting the communion of God Himself.

Marriage is one of God’s precious gifts—a journey of shared laughter, perseverance, tenderness, and hope. Through changing seasons, the Lord continues to bless those who walk together in faith, deepening their companionship and opening before them new chapters filled with grace.

As we gather around this altar, we give thanks for love that has endured, for friendship that continues to grow, and for the joy of beginning each new day together under God’s blessing. Let us now acknowledge our sins and ask the Lord for His mercy and peace.

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, You bless our lives with the gift of faithful love and companionship: **Lord, have mercy.**

Christ Jesus, You renew our hearts with joy, gratitude, and hope: **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, You remain with us and guide us into every new season of life: **Lord, have mercy.**

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

Amen.

COLLECT

O God,
source of all love and joy,
You created us to walk together in faithful companionship
and to rejoice in the gift of one another.

Look kindly upon Your people gathered here today.
Renew within us hearts of gratitude,
strengthen the bonds of love and friendship,
and bless every new chapter of life with peace, hope, and joy.

May we always recognize Your presence beside us
as we continue our journey together in faith.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son,
who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

HOMILY

There is a beautiful story about an elderly couple celebrating their sixtieth wedding anniversary. During the celebration, someone asked the wife, “After all these years, what has kept your marriage strong?” She laughed softly and said, “We never stopped being grateful for each other.” Her husband nodded and added, “And we never forgot that God was part of our story.”

That spirit of gratitude and companionship lies at the heart of today’s readings.

In the First Reading, Ruth speaks words that have inspired generations: “Where you go I will go; your people shall be my people.”

These words are not simply romantic—they are deeply faithful. Ruth speaks of choosing to remain close, to continue the journey together, and to walk forward with trust. Love, in Scripture, is not merely emotion. It is companionship. Presence. Fidelity.

And in the Gospel, Jesus prays that His disciples “may all be one.” Before His Passion, Jesus prays for unity, love, and communion. He reveals that the deepest joy of life is found in relationships rooted in God.

Marriage reflects this divine gift in a beautiful way.

A couple once shared that when they were younger, they thought love was about grand celebrations and dramatic moments. But after many years together, they discovered that real joy often lives in simple things: morning coffee shared in silence, familiar laughter, caring for one another through illness, finishing each other’s stories,

and knowing that someone walks beside you no matter what life brings.

That is the quiet miracle of companionship.

And perhaps one of the greatest blessings of mature love is this: it grows deeper with time. What begins with excitement becomes trust. What begins with attraction becomes friendship. What begins with promise becomes steadfast joy.

One man celebrating many years of marriage said, “In our younger years, we held hands because we were in love. Now we hold hands because we cannot imagine walking through life any other way.”

That is a beautiful image of Christian marriage.

The Lord never intended us to journey through life alone. From the beginning, God created us for communion—with Him and with one another. Through every season of life, He continues to bless couples with opportunities to grow in patience, tenderness, forgiveness, laughter, and hope.

And even when life brings challenges, love becomes stronger when it is rooted in faith.

There is a story of a couple who renewed their marriage vows late in life. After the ceremony, their granddaughter asked, “Why did you marry each other again?” The grandfather smiled and replied, “Because every new season deserves a new ‘yes.’”

What a beautiful understanding of marriage.

Love is never static. It continues to grow. God continues to bless. And every new chapter becomes an invitation to deeper joy.

Today we celebrate not only years shared, but also the future still unfolding. The Lord who has guided every step until now will continue to walk beside those who place their trust in Him.

And so we give thanks:
for companionship that brings comfort,
for friendship that brings laughter,
for faith that sustains love,
and for God's grace that makes all things new.

May every couple here know this truth deeply:
the love that God blesses continues to bear fruit in every season of life.

And may Christ, who prays that we may remain united in love, continue to bless every home with peace, gratitude, renewed joy, and enduring hope. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Trusting in God, who blesses every season of life with His love and grace, let us present our prayers before Him.

1. For the Church, that she may continue to proclaim the beauty of faithful love, joyful companionship, and Christian marriage, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
2. For married couples, especially those celebrating many years together, that their love may continue to deepen in joy, gratitude, and peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
3. For families, friends, and communities, that they may support and encourage one another with kindness, patience, and understanding, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

4. For those beginning new chapters in life, that the Lord may bless them with hope, courage, and faithful companions along the way, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

5. For our departed loved ones, that the God of eternal love may welcome them into the joy and peace of His heavenly kingdom, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Father of love and mercy,
You bless us with companionship, faith, and hope.
Hear the prayers we offer today
and guide us always in the joy of Your presence.
Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Pray, brothers and sisters,
that our sacrifice may express our gratitude for the gift of marriage, faithful companionship, and the joy of God's blessings through every season of life,
and may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

PREFACE

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give You thanks,
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For You created us in love
and called us to walk together in joy and faithfulness.
In marriage You reveal the beauty of companionship,
the strength of mutual care,
and the blessing of hearts united in love.

Through the changing seasons of life,
You remain the source of hope and renewal,
guiding Your people with tenderness and grace.

In Jesus Christ, Your Son,
You have shown us a love that is faithful and life-giving,
a love that strengthens families, deepens friendship,
and fills hearts with lasting joy.

And so, with Angels and Archangels,
with Thrones and Dominions,
and with all the hosts and Powers of heaven,
we sing the hymn of Your glory,
as without end we acclaim:

INVITATION TO THE OUR FATHER

United in Christ's love and grateful for the gift of faithful
companionship, let us pray with confidence to the Father
who walks beside us through every season of life:

EMBOLISM

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,
graciously grant peace in our days,
that, by the help of Your mercy,
we may always be free from sin and safe from all distress,
as we await the blessed hope
and the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

For You continue to guide us with Your faithful love
and bless our lives with peace, companionship, and hope.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord Jesus Christ,
who said to Your Apostles:
Peace I leave you, my peace I give you,
look not on our sins,
but on the faith of Your Church,
and graciously grant her peace and unity
in accordance with Your will.

Bless all married couples and families with harmony and joy,
and make our homes places of welcome, gratitude, and love.
Who live and reign for ever and ever.

Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Behold the Lamb of God,
behold Him who takes away the sins of the world.
Behold Him who nourishes us with His love and strengthens us to
walk together in faith, joy, and faithful companionship.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

Lord,
thank You for the gift of love that grows through every season of life.
Thank You for companionship that brings comfort,
laughter, and hope.
Remain with us in every new beginning,
and help us to reflect Your joy
and kindness to one another each day.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Nourished by these sacred mysteries,
we ask You, Lord,
to strengthen within us the grace of joyful companionship.
May this Eucharist renew our hearts with gratitude,
deepen the bonds of love and friendship,
and guide us with confidence and hope
into every new chapter You prepare for us.
Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

FINAL BLESSING

May the Lord,
who has blessed you with the gift of faithful companionship,
fill your hearts with lasting joy and gratitude.

May He strengthen your love through every season of life,
renew your hope for the future,
and bless your homes with peace and laughter.

And may almighty God bless you,
the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Go forth in peace, rejoicing in the gift of love, and continue to walk
together in the blessing and companionship of the Lord.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

“Marriage is God’s gift of joyful companionship,
where love grows deeper through gratitude, hope, and the blessing
of walking together with the Lord through every season of life.”

10. Walking Together Toward the Evening of Life

“**Remain in My Love.**” - Psalm 92:13–16; John 15:4–11

INTRODUCTION

There is a beautiful story of an elderly couple who celebrated sixty years of marriage. During the celebration, someone asked them the secret of their long and joyful life together. The husband smiled warmly and said, “We never stopped choosing each other.” His wife added gently, “And God never stopped walking with us.”

That is the spirit of today’s Gospel. Jesus says, “Remain in my love.” Love is not only found in great moments or dramatic gestures. It grows quietly through daily faithfulness, shared laughter, forgiveness, patience, prayer, and companionship. Over the years, love becomes deeper, gentler, and more beautiful because it learns to endure and to give thanks.

The Psalm today tells us that those planted in the house of the Lord “still bear fruit in old age.” What a hopeful promise. In God’s eyes, life never loses meaning. Every season carries its own grace. The later years are not simply a time of looking back, but also a season of wisdom, gratitude, peace, and renewed closeness — with one another and with the Lord.

Today we gather around this altar with thankful hearts. We thank God for the gift of marriage, for faithful companionship, for memories shared across many years, and for the blessing of still walking together. We ask the Lord to bless this new chapter of life with renewed joy, serenity, good health, and abiding hope. And because we have not always loved perfectly, let us first acknowledge our sins and prepare ourselves to celebrate these sacred mysteries.

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, You bless our lives with the gift of faithful love and lasting companionship: **Lord, have mercy.**

Christ Jesus, You fill our hearts with joy when we remain in Your love: **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, You continue to guide us with hope and peace through every season of life: **Lord, have mercy.**

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, renew us in His love, fill our hearts with lasting joy and peace, and bring us to everlasting life.

Amen.

COLLECT

Loving and faithful God,
You have blessed Your children
with the gift of companionship and enduring love.
Through every season of life
You remain close to those who trust in You.
As we gather with grateful hearts,
renew within us the joy of loving and being loved.
Strengthen the bonds of family and friendship,
fill our homes with peace and laughter,
and help us continue bearing fruits of kindness, wisdom, and hope.
May the years ahead be filled with Your blessing,
and may our hearts remain always rooted in Christ,
who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

HOMILY

A grandfather celebrating his wedding anniversary once held his wife's hand during the family meal and quietly said, "After all these years, I still thank God that we found each other." Everyone at the table smiled, but his words carried something profound. Love that has lasted through many seasons is never ordinary. It becomes a living testimony to grace.

In today's Gospel, Jesus says, "Remain in my love." These words are not only about enduring difficulties. They are also an invitation to live in joy. Jesus goes on to say, "I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and your joy may be complete." Christian love is meant to grow richer, warmer, and more peaceful with time.

Many people think of the later years of life only in terms of slowing down. But faith teaches us something more beautiful. The evening of life can become a season of ripened love — a time when companionship is treasured more deeply, when gratitude becomes more sincere, and when ordinary moments are recognized as sacred gifts.

Psalm 92 says: "They still bear fruit in old age." What wonderful words. God never stops bringing beauty out of faithful lives. The fruits may look different now — perhaps quieter than before — but they are no less precious. A kind word, a shared prayer, patient listening, welcoming children and grandchildren, encouraging younger families, remaining faithful to one another: these are beautiful fruits in God's eyes.

There is a lovely story about an elderly husband who visited his wife in a care home every single morning. One day a nurse asked him, “Does your wife still recognize you?” He smiled and replied, “She may not always know who I am, but I still know who she is.” That is love matured through time — steadfast, tender, faithful, and full of grace.

The joy of marriage is not found in perfection. It is found in perseverance, forgiveness, humour, sacrifice, and shared faith. Over many years, couples learn that happiness is often hidden in simple things: meals shared together, conversations at the end of the day, holding hands during prayer, caring for one another in sickness, and thanking God for another ordinary morning together.

And through it all, Christ remains at the centre. He is the vine; we are the branches. Love remains alive when it stays connected to Him. Couples who pray together, forgive generously, and continue choosing kindness discover that God quietly sustains their journey.

There is also a beautiful hope in today’s Gospel. Jesus does not simply ask us to remain in His love; He promises His own joy. Not a passing happiness dependent on circumstances, but a deeper joy born from knowing that we are loved by God and never abandoned by Him.

One elderly woman once said, “The older I become, the more grateful I am — grateful for the years, the tears, the laughter, and especially for the people who stayed beside me.” Gratitude transforms the heart. It helps us see life not as a list of losses, but as a story filled with blessings.

Today, then, is not simply about growing older. It is about celebrating love that has endured, companionship that has deepened, and faith that continues to shine. It is about giving thanks for all the ways God has remained faithful through every season.

And perhaps this is the greatest lesson of all: when people remain in Christ’s love, their lives become a quiet light for others. Younger generations see that faithful love is possible. Families learn the beauty of commitment. The Church witnesses the joy that grows when lives are rooted in God.

Let me end with this simple image. An elderly couple were once seen walking slowly together after Mass, helping one another down the church steps. Someone watching remarked, “They walk so carefully now.” Another person replied, “Yes — because after all these years, they know how precious it is to walk together.”

That is the blessing we celebrate today: not merely long years, but hearts still united in love, gratitude, companionship, and hope. And as long as Christ remains with us, every new season of life can still be filled with grace and joy.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

With grateful hearts for the gift of love, companionship, and God’s faithful presence through every season of life, let us bring our prayers before our heavenly Father.

1. For the Church, that she may continue to proclaim the joy of faithful love and accompany families with wisdom, compassion, and hope, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

2. For married couples, especially those celebrating many years together, that God may renew their joy, deepen their companionship, and bless them with peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

3. For families gathered across generations, that homes may be filled with gratitude, mutual care, laughter, and faith, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

4. For elderly persons, that they may know how deeply valued they are and continue to share wisdom, kindness, and encouragement with those around them, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

5. For all of us gathered here, that remaining rooted in Christ we may continue walking forward with hope, serenity, and joyful trust in God's goodness, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Father of love and joy,
You bless us with companions for the journey
and remain faithful through every season of life.
Hear the prayers we offer today
and keep us always united in Your peace.
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Pray, brothers and sisters, that these gifts,
and the gratitude and love we place upon this altar,
may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

PREFACE

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give You thanks,
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For You are the source of every blessing
and the faithful companion of Your people throughout their lives.
In Your wisdom You created us for love,
for friendship, and for communion with one another.

Through the years You sustain families with Your grace,
strengthen hearts through trials,
and fill ordinary days with countless signs of Your goodness.

In Jesus Christ, Your Son,
You reveal a love that remains constant and life-giving.
Through Him, faithful companionship
becomes a reflection of Your own enduring love,
and lives rooted in faith continue to bear fruits of joy,
peace, wisdom, and hope.

And so, with Angels and Saints,
and with grateful hearts rejoicing in Your goodness,
we proclaim Your glory as we sing:

INVITATION TO THE OUR FATHER

United in gratitude and trust,
and rejoicing in the faithful love of our heavenly Father,
let us pray with confidence in the words our Saviour gave us.

EMBOLISM

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,
and graciously grant peace in our days,
that, by the help of Your mercy,
we may be always free from sin
and safe from all distress,
as we await the blessed hope
and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.
Bless especially all families and married couples.
Renew their strength, deepen their love,
and fill the years ahead with serenity, gratitude, and hope.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord Jesus Christ, who said to Your Apostles:
Peace I leave you, my peace I give you,
look not on our sins, but on the faith of Your Church,
and graciously grant her peace and unity
in accordance with Your will.
Bless all who walk together through life in love and fidelity.
May homes be places of welcome, joy, patience, and understanding,
and may Your peace remain always in our hearts.
Who live and reign for ever and ever.
Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Behold the Lamb of God,
behold Him who remains with us in every season of life and fills our
hearts with lasting joy.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

Lord Jesus,
You are the faithful companion of our lives.
You bless us with love that grows deeper through the years
and with joy that remains even in quiet moments.

Stay close to us always.
Teach us to treasure one another,
to live with grateful hearts,
and to walk forward in hope and peace.

May our homes be filled with kindness and laughter,
and may every new season of life
draw us closer to You and to one another.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Having shared in these sacred mysteries,
we thank You, O Lord,
for the gift of Your abiding love.

Renew our hearts with gratitude and joy,
strengthen us in faithful companionship,
and bless the years ahead with peace and serenity.

May we continue to bear fruits of kindness, wisdom, and hope,
and may our lives always reflect the goodness of Christ,
who lives and reigns for ever and ever.
Amen.

FINAL BLESSING

May the Lord who has blessed you with faithful love and enduring companionship fill your hearts with gratitude and joy.

Amen.

May He renew your strength, deepen your peace, and bless the years ahead with hope and serenity.

Amen.

And may almighty God bless you,
the Father, and the Son ✠, and the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go forth in peace, rejoicing in the love of Christ and sharing His joy wherever the Lord leads you.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

“Love that remains faithful through the years does not grow old; it grows deeper, gentler, and more radiant with grace.”