



Planning Your Wedding

CHECKLISTS, READINGS & GUIDELINES

Wedding Checklist

Step 1

- Place a “hold” on the date and time of your wedding ceremony and rehearsal by completing the Application. Call and schedule an appointment.

Step 2

- Meet with Church staff to review and confirm your application/wedding agreement; make your deposit; schedule date and time of wedding rehearsal ; obtain information on your pre-marriage counseling; and schedule a second appointment time.

Date: _____

Step 3

- Attend your pre-marriage counselling.

Date: _____

Step 4

- Begin looking at appropriate readings and music for your wedding (see later in this packet).

Step 5

- Send invitations.

Step 6

- Meet with Church staff to finalize plans for the service. Bring: wedding service worksheets; any financial balance due; and completed list of participants.

Date: _____

Step 7

- Make sure you and your attendants arrive on time for the rehearsal. Bring: marriage license; rings.

Date: _____

Wedding Service Worksheet

WEDDING _____
Date Time

BRIDE _____

REHEARSAL _____
Date Time

GROOM _____

Administrative: Deposit Received Balance Due Received Marriage License

Service Information

Type of Service: Celebration & Blessing
 Blessing of Civil Marriage
 Order for Marriage
 Renewal of Vows

Presentation: Yes, by _____
 No

Readings: Old Testament: _____
 Epistle Lesson: _____

Rings: One Two

Prayer for Children: Yes No

Blessing: 1st 2nd

Communion: Yes No

Music Information

Procession of Bridal Party: _____

Procession of the Bride: _____

Communion: _____

Retiring Procession: _____

Soloists: _____

Instrumentalists: _____

Flowers:

Guest Book/Attendant: Yes No

Number of Guests expected: _____

Time bridal party will arrive: _____

Bride's Room needed: Yes No

NOTES:

Photographer(s): _____

Phone: _____

Time of photographs: _____

Florist for bouquets: _____

Phone: _____

Time bouquets will arrive: _____

Suggested Music for Weddings

WEDDING _____
Date *Time*

BRIDE _____

REHEARSAL _____
Date *Time*

GROOM _____

Organ Music:

PROCESSION OF THE WEDDING PARTY

- Canon in D* — Johannes Pachelbel
- Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring* — Johann Sebastian Bach
- Trumpet Tune* — Henry Purcell
- Trumpet Voluntary* — Jeremiah Clark
- Air (from Water Music)* — G.F. Handel
- _____

PROCESSION OF THE BRIDE

- Trumpet Tune* — Henry Purcell
- Trumpet Voluntary* — Jeremiah Clark
- Rigaudon* — Andre Campra
- Bridal Chorus (traditional Wedding March)* — Felix Mendelssohn
- Trumpet Tune* — John Stanley
- Rondeau* — J. Mouret
- Wedding March (traditional)* — Richard Wagner
- _____

RETIRING PROCESSION

- Trumpet Tune* — Henry Purcell
- Trumpet Voluntary* — Jeremiah Clark
- The Heavens Declare the Glory of God* — Benedicto Marcello
- The Rejoicing (Music for the Royal Fireworks)* — George Frederich Handel
- Allegro (from Water Music Suite)* — George Frederich Handel
- Hymn to Joy (from Symphony No. 9)* — Ludwig von Beethoven
- Toccata (from Symphony No. 5)* — Charles Marie Widor
- Trumpet Tune* — G. F. Telemann
- _____

ADDITIONAL

- _____
- _____

- ◆ *Music, other than suggested, may be selected at the discretion of the Parish Music Director or the Rector.*
- ◆ *St. Luke's Church Musicians are available for music at your wedding.*
Generally, outside soloists must audition for the Director of Music.

Wedding Participants

WEDDING _____
Date *Time*

BRIDE _____

REHEARSAL _____
Date *Time*

GROOM _____

Please PRINT the following information clearly, with names as you would like them to appear in your records.

FULL NAME

ADDRESS & PHONE

Maid/Matron of Honor

Best Man

Bridesmaids

Groomsmen

Flower Girl

Ring Bearer

Ushers

Guest Book Attendant

Parents of the Bride

Parents of the Groom

Reader: 1st Lesson

Reader: 2nd Lesson

Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage

THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER SERVICE

At the time appointed, the persons to be married, with their witnesses assemble in the church or some other appropriate place. A hymn, psalm, or anthem may be sung, or instrumental music may be played.

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

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

The union of husband and wife in heart, body, and mind is intended by God for their mutual joy; for the help and comfort given one another in prosperity and adversity; and, when it is God's will, for the procreation of children and their nurture in the knowledge and love of the Lord. Therefore marriage is not to be entered into unadvisedly or lightly, but reverently, deliberately, and in accordance with the purposes for which it was instituted by God.

Into this holy union *N.N.* and *N.N.* now come to be joined. If any of you can show just cause why they may not lawfully be married, speak now; or else for ever hold your peace.

Then the Celebrant says to the persons to be married

I require and charge you both, here in the presence of God, that if either of you know any reason why you may not be united in marriage lawfully, or in accordance with God's Word, you do now confess it.

The Declaration of Consent

The Celebrant says to the woman

N., will you have this man to be your husband; to live together in the covenant of marriage? Will you love him, comfort him, honor and keep him, in sickness and in health; and, forsaking all others, be faithful to him as long as you both shall live?

The Woman answers
I will.

The Celebrant says to the man

N., will you have this woman to be your wife; to live together in the covenant of marriage? Will you love her, comfort her, honor and keep her, in sickness and in health; and, forsaking all others, be faithful to her as long as you both shall live?

The Man answers
I will.

The Celebrant then addresses the congregation, saying

Will all of you witnessing these promises do all in your power to uphold these two persons in their marriage?

People We will.

If there is to be a presentation or a giving in marriage, it takes place at this time. A hymn, psalm, or anthem may follow.

The Ministry of the Word

The Celebrant then says to the people

The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Let us pray.

O gracious and everliving God, you have created us male and female in your image: Look mercifully upon this man and this woman who come to you seeking your blessing, and assist them with your grace, that with true fidelity and steadfast love they may honor and keep the promises and vows they make; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Then one or more of the following passages from Holy Scripture is read. If there is to be a Communion, a passage from the Gospel always concludes the Readings.

Genesis 1:26-28 (Male and female he created them)
Genesis 2:4-9,15-24 (A man cleaves to his wife and they become one flesh)
Song of Solomon 2:10-13;8:6-7 (Many waters cannot quench love)
Tobit 8:5b-8 (New English Bible) (That she and I may grow old together)

1 Corinthians 13:1-13 (Love is patient and kind)
Ephesians 3:14-19 (The Father from whom every family is named)
Ephesians 5:1-2, 21-33 (Walk in love, as Christ loved us)
Colossians 3:12-17 (Love which binds everything together in harmony)
1 John 4:7-16 (Let us love one another for love is of God)

Between the Readings, a Psalm, hymn, or anthem may be sung or said. Appropriate Psalms are 67, 127, and 128.

When a passage from the Gospel is to be read, all stand, and the Deacon or Minister appointed says

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to _____.

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Matthew 5:1-10 (The Beatitudes)
Matthew 5:13-16 (You are the light ... Let your light so shine)
Matthew 7:21, 24-29 (Like a wise man who built his house upon the rock)
Mark 10:6-9, 13-16 (They are no longer two but one)
John 15:9-12 (Love one another as I have loved you)

After the Gospel, the Reader says

The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

A homily or other response to the Readings may follow.

The Marriage

The Man, facing the woman and taking her right hand in his, says

In the Name of God, I, *N.*, take you, *N.*, to be my wife, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, until we are parted by death. This is my solemn vow.

Then they loose their hands, and the Woman, still facing the man, takes his right hand in hers, and says

In the Name of God, I, *N.*, take you, *N.*, to be my husband, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, until we are parted by death. This is my solemn vow.

They loose their hands.

The Priest may ask God's blessing on a ring or rings as follows

Bless, O Lord, *this ring* to be a *sign* of the vows by which this man and this woman have bound themselves to each other; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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

N., I give you this ring as a symbol of my vow, and with all that I am, and all that I have, I honor you, in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit (or in the Name of God).

Then the Celebrant joins the right hands of husband and wife and says

Now that *N.* and *N.* have given themselves to each other by solemn vows, with the joining of hands and the giving and receiving of a ring, I pronounce that they are husband and wife, in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Those whom God has joined together let no one put asunder.

People Amen.

The Prayers

All standing, the Celebrant says

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

People and Celebrant

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.

If Communion is to follow, the Lord's Prayer may be omitted here.

*The Deacon or other person appointed reads the following prayers, to which the People respond, saying, **Amen.** If there is not to be a Communion, one or more of the prayers may be omitted.*

Let us pray.

Eternal God, creator and preserver of all life, author of salvation, and giver of all grace: Look with favor upon the world you have made, and for which your Son gave his life, and especially upon this man and this woman whom you make one flesh in Holy Matrimony. **Amen.**

Give them wisdom and devotion in the ordering of their common life, that each may be to the other a strength in need, a counselor in perplexity, a comfort in sorrow, and a companion in joy. **Amen.**

Grant that their wills may be so knit together in your will, and their spirits in your Spirit, that they may grow in love and peace with you and one another all the days of their life. **Amen.**

Give them grace, when they hurt each other, to recognize and acknowledge their fault, and to seek each other's forgiveness and yours. **Amen.**

Make their life together a sign of Christ's love to this sinful and broken world, that unity may overcome estrangement, forgiveness heal guilt, and joy conquer despair. **Amen.**

[Bestow on them, if it is your will, the gift and heritage of children, and the grace to bring them up to know you, to love you, and to serve you. **Amen.**]

Give them such fulfillment of their mutual affection that they may reach out in love and concern for others. **Amen.**

Grant that all married persons who have witnessed these vows may find their lives strengthened and their loyalties confirmed. **Amen.**

Grant that the bonds of our common humanity, by which all your children are united one to another, and the living to the dead, may be so transformed by your grace, that your will may be done on earth as it is in heaven; where, O Father, with your Son and the Holy Spirit, you live and reign in perfect unity, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Blessing of the Marriage

The people remain standing. The husband and wife kneel, and the Priest says one of the following prayers

Most gracious God, we give you thanks for your tender love in sending Jesus Christ to come among us, to be born of a human mother, and to make the way of the cross to be the way of life. We thank you, also, for consecrating the union of man and woman in his Name. By the power of your Holy Spirit, pour out the abundance of your blessing upon this man and this woman. Defend them from every enemy. Lead them into all peace. Let their love for each other be a seal upon their hearts, a mantle about their shoulders, and a crown upon their foreheads. Bless them in their work and in their companionship; in their sleeping and in their waking; in their joys and in their sorrows; in their life and in their death. Finally, in your mercy, bring them to that table where your saints feast for ever in your heavenly home; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

or this

O God, you have so consecrated the covenant of marriage that in it is represented the spiritual unity between Christ and his Church: Send therefore your blessing upon these your servants, that they may so love, honor, and cherish each other in faithfulness and patience, in wisdom and true godliness, that their home may be a haven of blessing and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The husband and wife still kneeling, the Priest adds this blessing

God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit, bless, preserve, and keep you; the Lord mercifully with his favor look upon you, and fill you with all spiritual benediction and grace; that you may faithfully live together in this life, and in the age to come have life everlasting. **Amen.**

The Peace

The Celebrant may say to the people

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People And also with you.

The newly married couple then greet each other, after which greetings may be exchanged throughout the congregation. When Communion is not to follow, the wedding party leaves the church. A hymn, psalm, or anthem may be sung, or instrumental music may be played.

At the Eucharist

The liturgy continues with the Offertory, at which the newly married couple may present the offerings of bread and wine. At the Communion, the newly married couple receive Communion first, after the ministers.

In place of the usual postcommunion prayer, the following is said

O God, the giver of all that is true and lovely and gracious: We give you thanks for binding us together in these holy mysteries of the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Grant that by your Holy Spirit, N. and N., now joined in Holy Matrimony, may become one in heart and soul, live in fidelity and peace, and obtain those eternal joys prepared for all who love you; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

As the wedding party leaves the church, a hymn, psalm, or anthem may be sung; or instrumental music may be played.

Suggested Readings for Weddings

Generally, two lessons are read at a wedding (usually one from the Old Testament and one from the New Testament, including the Gospels); three lessons may be read. When the wedding includes Holy Communion, a lesson from one of the Gospels is always included. You may choose readings from those suggested below, or choose favorite passages from the Bible. St. Luke's Church uses the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible.

Lessons from the Old Testament and Apocrypha

☐ Genesis 1:26-28

Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps over the earth."

So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth."

☐ Genesis 2:4-9, 15-24

These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

In the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens, when no plant of the field was yet in the earth and no herb of the field had yet sprung up—for the LORD God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was no one to till the ground; but a stream would rise from the earth, and water the whole face of the ground—then the LORD God formed man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living being. And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east; and there he put the man whom he had formed. Out of the ground the LORD God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the LORD God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."

Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner." So out of the ground the LORD God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. The man gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every animal of the field; but for the man there was not found a helper as his partner. So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. Then the man said, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; this one shall be called Woman, for out of Man this one was taken."

Therefore a man leave his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh.

☐ Song of Solomon 2:10-13; 8:6-7

My beloved speaks and says to me: "Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away; for now the winter is past, the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth; the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land. The fig tree puts forth its figs, and the vines are in blossom; they give forth fragrance. Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away.

Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm; for love is strong as death, passion fierce as the grave. Its flashes are flashes of fire, a raging flame. Many waters cannot quench love, neither can floods drown it. If one offered for love all the wealth of his house, it would be utterly scorned.

☐ **Tobit 8:5b-8**

[Tobias said] “Blessed are you, O God of our ancestors, and blessed is your name in all generations forever. Let the heavens and the whole creation bless you forever. You made Adam, and for him you made his wife Eve as a helper and support. From the two of them the human race has sprung. You said, ‘It is not good that the man should be alone; let us make a helper for him like himself.’ I am now taking this kinswoman of mine, not because of lust, but with sincerity. Grant that she and I may find mercy and that we may grow old together.”

And they both said, “Amen, Amen.”

Lessons from the New Testament

☐ **1 Corinthians 13:1-13**

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, and endures all things.

Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy* only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

☐ **Ephesians 3:14-19**

For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

☐ **Ephesians 5:1-2, 21-33**

Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Be subject to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Wives, be subject to your husbands as you are to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife just as Christ is the head of the church, the body of which he is the Savior. Just as the church is subject to Christ, so also wives ought to be, in everything, to their husbands.

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, in order to make her holy by cleansing her with the washing of water by the word, so as to present the church to himself in splendor, without a spot or wrinkle or anything of the kind—yes, so that she may be holy and without blemish. In the same way, husbands should love their wives as they do their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hates his own body, but he nourishes and tenderly cares for it, just as Christ does for the church, because we are members of his body. “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.” This is a great mystery, and I am applying it to Christ and the church. Each of you, however, should love his wife as himself, and a wife should respect her husband.

☐ Colossians 3:12-17

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

☐ 1 John 4:7-16

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that has for us.

Lessons from the Gospels

☐ Matthew 5:1-10

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted,

"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

"Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

☐ Matthew 5:13-16

[Jesus said] "You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled underfoot.

"You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven."

☐ Matthew 7:21, 24-29

[Jesus said] "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven.

"Everyone then who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on the house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on rock. Any everyone who hears these words of mine and does not act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell—and great was its fall!"

Now when Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as their scribes.

☐ **Mark 10:6-9,13-16**

[Jesus said] from the beginning of creation, 'God made them male and female,' 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.' So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate."

People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it." And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

☐ **John 15:9-12**

[Jesus said] "As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you."

Guidelines for Wedding Attendants

Thank you for agreeing to participate in this special event. It is an honor to be part of such an important day in the lives of special people, and we want to help you do your best as a member of the wedding party. Here are a few suggestions:

√ **Arrive early for the rehearsal and wedding.** Allow extra time for rush hour or downtown event traffic. It is important you be prompt so things get started on time; late rehearsals affect plans for the rehearsal dinner, as well as the time schedule of others involved. On the wedding day, allow ample time for dressing, photographs, etc.

√ **Pay close attention to directions.** The rehearsal is held so you may feel as comfortable as possible in your role as a member of the wedding party. Take full advantage by paying careful attention to all directions given.

√ **Appropriate behavior is appreciated.** A wedding is an event full of joy and good humor; however, there is a serious side to a church wedding because the couple is seeking God's blessing in their marriage. The rehearsal and wedding ceremony are not times to distract the couple by playing pranks or joking around. Those activities are more appropriately left to the rehearsal dinner, bachelor/bachelorette parties and wedding reception.

Likewise, we appreciate you not bringing alcoholic beverages to either the rehearsal or wedding.

√ **Bridesmaids and Groomsmen** will be given directions by the Clergy regarding where to stand, how to walk, etc. The Clergy will give you your "cues" during the wedding, so that all runs smoothly.

√ **Ushers** serve to seat guests at the wedding. Unless a guest specifies he or she wishes to sit on the "Bride's" (left) or pulpit side or "Groom's" (right) side, please seat guests equally on the right and left of the center aisle. The first few rows are normally reserved for the families of the bride and groom.

Guests may be seated from either the center or side aisles. Please hand each guest a copy of the service bulletin (if there is one) as they arrive. If you notice any guests with cameras, kindly advise them flash photography is not allowed in the Church during the ceremony.

Guidelines for Readers at Weddings

Thank you for agreeing to participate in this special event. It is an honor to be part of such an important day in the lives of special people, and we want to help you do your best as a member of the wedding party. Here are a few suggestions:

√ **Rehearse your reading at home.** The sooner you review the Bible lesson you are to read, the more time you will have to check the pronunciation of words, look up unknown words in the dictionary, and begin practicing reading aloud. At St. Luke's Church, the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible is used. ***Especially important:*** Because of the Church's acoustics, practice reading *slowly* and *distinctly*.

√ **Plan to rehearse your reading at the wedding rehearsal.** If you cannot attend the rehearsal, you may arrange a time to come to the Church to practice. It is important you take a few minutes to do this, so you may get used to hearing the sound of your voice in the room. At the wedding rehearsal, the priest will indicate to you when you should go to the lectern for your reading.

√ **Speak slowly and clearly.** The lectern is equipped with a stationary microphone; it is surface mounted and omni-directional, so you should not attempt to change its position. Do not change the position of the microphone, and do not "lean into" it to speak; simply stand and speak in a *strong* but normal speaking voice.

√ **Practice the introduction and ending to the reading.** In the Episcopal Church, readings from the Bible are introduced with the phrase,

"A reading from the book of [name of book inserted here]".

At the end of the reading, the reader pauses briefly and then says,

"Here ends the reading."

Guidelines for Photographers & Videographers

Thank you for making this couple's wedding day special by documenting the ceremony at St. Luke's Church. It is our goal to create a worshipful, reverent experience for the wedding party and guests; therefore, distractions created by photography/videography are not appropriate during the ceremony.

Here are a few suggestions to help you work your best within our tradition:

√ **Flash photography/lighted videography is not allowed during the service.** You may take flash pictures at the church entrance only at the beginning or ending processions. Timed exposures using *natural light* may be taken from stationary positions; video cameras are to use *natural light* only. Guests as well as professional photographer(s) may use flash photography only before the wedding party enters the nave.

Ushers and groomsmen must inform arriving guests carrying cameras that they may not be used during the service, and this must be indicated on any printed service leaflet.

√ **Movement of photographers should be minimal.** Stationary positions can be set up from the back of the nave (narthex), or to the side of the altar. Photographers/videographers are not to move about the church while taking pictures. A photographer may not stand in the aisle and snap pictures during the procession, *except* of the bride and her escort processing up the aisle

√ **Posed photographs may be taken after the service,** per the arrangement of the couple with the Clergy. We allow no more than 30 minutes for posed pictures. Posed photographs will not be allowed when they interfere with another wedding or other church service.

√ **The commercial sale** of any photograph or video recording of St. Luke's Church is forbidden without express permission.

Photographers and videographers are encouraged to attend the wedding rehearsal or make arrangements to visit the Church prior to the wedding to be shown where cameras may be set up.

St. Luke's Episcopal Church

The Episcopal Diocese of Bethlehem

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