SERVICE OF BETROTHAL

After the Divine Liturgy, while the Priest is standing in the sanctuary, those who desire to be affianced stand forth before the holy doors which enter into the temple, the man on the right side, the woman on the left. Two rings lie on the right-hand side of the holy table, the woman’s inclined toward the right, the man’s toward the left, near one to another. The priest maketh the sign of the Cross thrice over the heads of the newly affianced and giveth them lighted candles; and having led them into the church, he censeth in cross-wise fashion; whereupon the Deacon saith:

[Deacon: Bless, master.]

Priest: Blessed is our God, always, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

Great Litany

Deacon: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For the peace from above, and
the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For this holy temple, and for them that with faith, reverence, and the fear of God enter herein, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For our Great Lord and father, His Holiness Patriarch Kirill; and for our lord the Very Most Reverend Metropolitan Hilarion, First Hierarch of the Russian Church Abroad; and our lord the Most Reverend Archbishop Peter, for the venerable priesthood, the diaconate in Christ, for all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For this land [of the United States], its authorities and armed forces; for the God-preserved Russian land and its Orthodox people in the homeland and in the diaspora, and for their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For the servant of God N. and the handmaid of God N., who are now being betrothed to one another, and for their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Choir: Lord, have mercy.</th>
<th>Лик: Господи, помилуй.</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Deacon: For the peace of the whole world, the good estate of the holy churches of God, and the union of all, let us pray to the Lord.</td>
<td>Диакон: О ми́ре все го́ ми́ра, благосто́йни свя́ тых Божи́х церкве́й и соедине́нни и всех, Господу́ пomóлимся.</td>
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<td>Choir: Lord, have mercy.</td>
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<td>Deacon: For this holy temple, and for them that with faith, reverence, and the fear of God enter herein, let us pray to the Lord.</td>
<td>Диакон: О свя́ тем хра́ ме се́ м и с ве́ рою, благогове́ ни ем и стра́ хом Божи́ ним входящи х в о нь, Господу́ пomóлимся.</td>
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<td>Deacon: For our Great Lord and father, His Holiness Patriarch Kirill; and for our lord the Very Most Reverend Metropolitan Hilarion, First Hierarch of the Russian Church Abroad; and our lord the Most Reverend Archbishop Peter, for the venerable priesthood, the diaconate in Christ, for all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord.</td>
<td>Диакон: О Вели́ ком Господи́ н е и отце́ на́ шем, Свя́ тей шем Патриа́ рс е и о Господи́ н е на́ шем Высокопреосвяще́ ннейше́м Митрополи́ те Иларио́ не, Первоиерáрс е Русс кие Зарубе́ жны́ й Церкве, и о Господи́ н е на́ шем Преосвяще́ ннейше́м Архиепи́ скопе́ Петре, честнё́м пресвя́ тере с те, во Христе́ диа́ констве, о все́ м пры́ че и ли́ ю дех, Господу́ пomóлимся.</td>
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<td>Choir: Lord, have mercy.</td>
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<td>Deacon: For this land [of the United States], its authorities and armed forces; for the God-preserved Russian land and its Orthodox people in the homeland and in the diaspora, and for their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.</td>
<td>Диакон: О стране́ се́ й [ёже живё́ м], властье́ х и во́ инстве ей, о Богохра́ нйм е́ стране́ Росси́ йстей и о правосла́вных ли́ ю дех ей во оте́ чествии и разсё́ннии суще́х, и о спасе́ нии их, Господу́ пomóлимся.</td>
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<td>Choir: Lord, have mercy.</td>
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<td>Deacon: For the servant of God N. and the handmaid of God N., who are now being betrothed to one another, and for their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.</td>
<td>Диакон: О рабе́ Божи́ и н, имя́ ре́ к, и рабе́ Божией, имя́ р ек, ны́ не обруча́ ющихся друг дру́ гу, и о спасе́ нии их, Господу́ пomóлимся.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Betrothal and Crowning

**Draft as used at the Holy Protection of the Mother of God. Russian Orthodox Church, Austin, TX**

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy.

**Deacon:** That they may be given children unto the continuation of their generation, and that all their petitions which conduce to salvation may be answered, let us pray to the Lord.

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy.

**Deacon:** That perfect and peaceful love, and help, may be sent down upon them, let us pray to the Lord.

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy.

**Deacon:** That they may be preserved in oneness of mind and steadfast faith, let us pray to the Lord.

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy.

**Deacon:** That they may be blessed with a blameless life, let us pray to the Lord.

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy.

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

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy.

**Deacon:** That we may be delivered from all tribulation, wrath, and necessity, let us pray to the Lord.

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy.

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

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy.
Deacon: Calling to remembrance our most holy, most pure, most blessed, glorious Lady Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary, with all the Saints, let us commit ourselves and one another, and all our life unto Christ our God.

Choir: To Thee, O Lord.

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

Choir: Amen.

The Priest says the following Prayer out loud:

Priest: O eternal God, Who didst bring into unity those who are separate and hast appointed for them the bond of love, Who didst bless Isaac and Rebecca and show them to be heirs of Thy promise: do Thou Thyself bless also these Thy servants N and N, guiding them unto every good work.

For Thou art a merciful God Who lovest mankind, and unto Thee do we send up glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

Priest: Peace be unto all.

Choir: And to thy spirit.

Deacon: Bow your heads unto the Lord.

Choir: (slowly) To Thee, O Lord.
Priest: O Lord our God, who didst betroth the Church as a pure virgin from among the nations, bless Thou this betrothal, and unite and preserve these Thy servants in peace and oneness of mind.

For unto Thee is due all glory, honor, and worship, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

Then the Priest, having taken the rings on the dish, gives first to the man the gold one and says three times, as he makes the sign of the Cross with the ring on his forehead:

Then he saith to the woman:

And when he saith this to each one thrice, he maketh the sign of the Cross with the ring on their heads; and he placeth them on the fingers of their right hands. Then the groom’s sponsor exchangeth the rings of the newly betrothed.

Священник: Господи Боже наш, от язык предобручивый Церковь деву чистую, благослови обручение сие, и соедини, и сохрани рабы Твои сия в миrze и единомыслии.

Тебе бо подобает всяая слава, честь и поклонение, Отцу, и Сыну, и Святому Духу, ныне и присно, и во веки веков.

Лик: Аминь.

Таже взем священник перстни, дает первее мужу златый, также сребряный жене.

Священник глаголет мужу:

Священник глаголет жене:

И егда речет на едином коемждо трижды, творит крест перстнем на главах их: и налагает я на десных их перстех. Также изменяет перстни новоневестных восприемник. (И когда скажет каждому эти слова трижды, начертывая крест перстнем на главах их, он надевает им перстни
Betrothal and Crowning

Draft as used at the Holy Protection of the Mother of God. Russian Orthodox Church, Austin, TX

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

The Priest says this Prayer:

O Lord our God, Who didst accompany the servant of the Patriarch Abraham into Mesopotamia, when he was sent to espouse a wife for his master Isaac, and Who by means of the water-pitcher didst reveal to him that he was to espouse Rebecca: do Thou Thyself bless the betrothal of Thy servants, this N and this N, and confirm the word spoken between them. Establish them in the holy unity which is from Thee; for in the beginning Thou didst create male and female, and by Thee is woman joined unto man, for the aid and continuation of the human race. Do Thou, therefore, Thyself, O our God, Who hast sent the truth as Thine inheritance, and Thy promise unto Thy servants, our fathers, Thy chosen ones, in every generation and generation: look down upon Thy servant N and upon Thy handmaid N, and establish their betrothal in faith, oneness of mind, truth and love; for Thou, O Lord, hast shown that a pledge of betrothal should be given and confirmed in all things. By a ring was authority given to Joseph in Egypt; by a ring was Daniel glorified in the land of Babylon; by a ring was the truth of Tamar revealed; by a ring did our heavenly Father show compassion for His son, for He saith: put a ring on his right hand and, having slain the fatted calf, let us eat and be merry. Thy right hand, O Lord, armed Moses in the на персты правой руки. Затем восприемник [трижды] обменивает перстни новобрачных.)

Диакон: Господу помо́лимся.

Лик: Господи, помилуй.

Священник же глаголет молитву:

Господи Боже наш, отроку патриарха Авраа́ма сче́ствовавый в средоро́чии, посыла́я уневе́стити господи́ну егó Исаа́ку жену́, и ходатайством водона́рёния обручите́ Реве́ку откры́вый. Сам благослови́ обручение рабов Твоих, сего́ имярек, и сей имярек, и утверди́ ёже у них глагольное слово: утверди́ ёже от Тебе́ святым соединени́ем. Ты бо из нача́ла созда́л еси́ муске́ский пол и же́нски́й, и от Тебе́ сочетавает́ся мужу́ жена, в помо́щь и в восприя́ние рода челове́чего. Сам убо Господи Боже наш, послáвый истину в наслéдие Тво́е, и обетова́ние Твоё́ на рабы́ Тво́е́, отцы́ наша́, в ко́емже роде и роде избра́нныя Твои́. Прíзри на раба́ Твоего́ имярек, и на рабу́ Тво́е́ имярек, и утверди́ обручение их в вéре и единомы́слии, и истине, и любви́. Ты бо Господи показа́л еси́ дáться обручению и утверди́ться во всём. Пéрстнём даде́ся власть Ио́сифу во Египте; пéрстнём просла́ви́ся Даниил во странé Вавилонстей; пéрстнём явся́ истина́ Фама́ры; пéрстнём Отéц наш Небесный щедр бысть на Сына Своего́: дади́те бо, глагольет, пéрстень на десницу Его́, и закáвше тельца́ упита́иного, я́дше возвесели́мся. Сама́ десни́ца Твоей, Господи, Моисе́я вооружи́ в Чермене́ мóри; слóвом бо́ Твоим́ истинным небеса́ утверди́шася
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Red Sea; for by the word of Thy truth were the heavens established and the earth set upon its foundations; and the right hand of Thy servants is blessed by Thy mighty word and Thine upraised arm. Wherefore, O Master, do Thou Thyself now bless this putting on of rings with the blessing of heaven; and may Thine angel go before them all the days of their life.

For Thou art He Who blesseth and sanctifieth all things; and unto Thee do we send up glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

Litany

Deacon: Have mercy upon us, O God, according to Thy great mercy, we pray Thee, hearken and have mercy.

Choir: Lord have mercy. (thrice)

Deacon: Again we pray for our Great Lord and father, His Holiness Patriarch Kirill; and our lord the Very Most Reverend Metropolitan Hilarion, First Hierarch of the Russian Church Abroad; and our lord the Most Reverend Archbishop Peter; and all our brethren in Christ.

Choir: Lord have mercy. (thrice)
Deacon: Again we pray for this land [of the United States], its authorities and armed forces; for the God-preserved Russian land and its Orthodox people in the homeland and in the diaspora, and for their salvation.

Choir: Lord have mercy. (thrice)

Deacon: Again we pray for the servants of God Names who are being betrothed.

Choir: Lord have mercy. (thrice)

Deacon: Again we pray for all bretheren and all Orthodox Christians.

Choir: Lord have mercy. (thrice)

Priest: For a merciful God art Thou, and the Lover of mankind, and unto Thee do we send up glory, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

Dismissal.

THE ORDER OF HOLY MATRIMONY WHICH IS CALLED THE CROWNING

If they desire to be crowned at the same time, they enter the church with lighted candles, preceded by the Priest, who carrieth a censer and chanteth Psalm

Диакон: Ещё мо́лимся о стране сей [ёже живе́м], власте́х и во́инстве ей, о Богохране́ймей стране Росси́йстей, и о правосла́вных лю́дех ей во отёчествии и разсёании сущих, и о спасёнии их.

Лик: Го́споди, поми́луй. (тре́жды)

Диакон: Ещё мо́лимся о рабе́х Бóжих имя́рек, и имя́рек, обруча́ющихся друг дру́гу.

Лик: Го́споди, поми́луй. (тре́жды)

Диакон: Ещё мо́лимся за всю бра́тию и за вся христиа́ны.

Лик: Го́споди, поми́луй. (тре́жды)

Иерей: Йако́ ми́лостив и челове́колю́бец Бож еси́, и Те́бе́ славу возсыла́ем, Отцу́, и Сы́ну, и Святóму Д́уху, ны́не и при́сно, и во ве́ки веко́в.

Лик: Ами́нь.

Также отпуст (если Венчание в этот день не совершается).

ПОСЛЕДОВАНИЕ ВЕНЧАНИЯ.

Аще убо хотят в тожде время венчатся, входят во храм со свещами возжженными, предыдущу священнику с кадильницею, и поющу
Betrothal and Crowning

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127, to each verse of which the choir chanteth the refrain: Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!

псалом 127, сиэ: люди же на кийджо стих глаголют: Сла́ва Тебё, Бóже наш, слáва Тебё.

Если же сразу совершается и Венчание, все входят в храм: впереди священник с кадилом, за ним женех и невеста с зажженными свечами. При этом поется псалом 127 с припевом: «Слава Тебе Боже наш, слава Тебе» после каждого стиха.

Priest: Blessed are all they that fear the Lord.

Лик или люди: Сла́ва Тебё, Бóже наш, слáва Тебё.

Священник: Блажен вси боящися Гóспода.

Choir or All: Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee.

Priest: That walk in His ways.

Лик или люди: Сла́ва Тебё, Бóже наш, слáва Тебё.

Священник: Ходя́щие в путéх Его́.

Choir or All: Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee.

Priest: Thou shalt eat the fruit of thy labours.

Лик или люди: Сла́ва Тебё, Бóже наш, слáва Тебё.

Священник: Труды плодо́в твойх снéси.

Choir or All: Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee.

Priest: Blessed art thou, and well shall it be with thee.

Лик или люди: Сла́ва Тебё, Бóже наш, слáва Тебё.

Священник: Блаже́н еси́, и добрó тебé бу́дет.

Choir or All: Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee.

Priest: Thy wife shall be as a fruitful vine on the sides of thy house.

Лик или люди: Сла́ва Тебё, Бóже наш, слáва Тебё.

Священник: Жена тво́й яко лозá плодови́та, во страна́х дóму твоего́.

Choir or All: Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee.

Priest: Thy sons like young olive trees round about thy table.

Лик или люди: Сла́ва Тебё, Бóже наш, слáва Тебё.

Священник: Сынове тво́й яко новосаждéния ма́слична, óкрест трапе́зы твоей.

Choir or All: Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee.
Priest: Behold, so shall the man be blessed that feareth the Lord.

Choir or All: Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee.

Priest: The Lord bless thee out of Sion, and mayest thou see the good things of Jerusalem all the days of thy life.

Choir or All: Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee.

Priest: And mayest thou see thy children’s children; peace be upon Israel.

Choir or All: Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee.

Afterwards, the priest delivereth an instructive sermon, relating to them that marriage is a mystery (sacrament), and how they are to live in wedlock honorably and in a God-pleasing manner.

After the conclusion of the homily, the priest questioneth the bridegroom saying:

Priest: Hast thou, N, a good and unconstrained will and the firm intention to take to thyself this woman N, whom thou seest here before thee?

Groom: I have, honorable father.

Priest: Thou hast not promised thyself to any other bride?

Groom: I have not promised myself, honorable father.

Then straightway, directing his gaze at the bride, he questioneth her, saying:

Afterwards, the priest delivereth an instructive sermon, relating to them that marriage is a mystery (sacrament), and how they are to live in wedlock honorably and in a God-pleasing manner.
Betrothal and Crowning
*Draft as used at the Holy Protection of the Mother of God. Russian Orthodox Church, Austin, TX*

**Priest:** Hast thou, N, a good and unconstrained will and the firm intention to take to thyself this man N, whom thou seest here before thee?

**Bride:** I have, honorable father.

**Priest:** Thou hast not promised thyself to any other man?

**Bride:** I have not promised myself, honorable father.

**Deacon:** Bless, master.

**Priest:** Blessed is the Kingdom of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

**Choir:** Amen.

**Litany**

**Deacon:** In peace let us pray to the Lord.

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy.

**Deacon:** For the peace from above, and the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy.

**Deacon:** For this holy temple, and for them that with faith, reverence, and the fear of God enter herein, let us pray to the Lord.
Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For our Great Lord and father, His Holiness Patriarch Kirill; and for our lord the Very Most Reverend Metropolitan Hilarion, First Hierarch of the Russian Church Abroad; and our lord the Most Reverend Archbishop Peter, for the venerable priesthood, the diaconate in Christ, for all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For this land [of the United States], its authorities and armed forces; for the God-preserved Russian land and its Orthodox people in the homeland and in the diaspora, and for their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For the servants of God N and N, who are now uniting themselves one to another in the union of matrimony, and for their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: That this marriage may be blessed like that in Cana of Galilee, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: That they may be given chastity and the fruit of the womb, as is beneficial for them, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.
### Betrothal and Crowning

*Draft as used at the Holy Protection of the Mother of God, Russian Orthodox Church, Austin, TX*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>Russian</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Deacon:</strong> That they may rejoice at the sight of sons and daughters, let us pray to the Lord.</td>
<td><strong>Диакон:</strong> О еже возвеселите им виденьем сынов и дщерей, Господу помолимся.</td>
</tr>
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<td><strong>Choir:</strong> Lord, have mercy.</td>
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<td><strong>Deacon:</strong> That they may be granted to bring forth fair offspring and to enjoy a blameless life, let us pray to the Lord.</td>
<td><strong>Диакон:</strong> О еже дароватися им благочастье восприятию, и незазорному пребыванию, Господу помолимся.</td>
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<td><strong>Deacon:</strong> That all petitions which conduce to salvation may be answered for them, let us pray to the Lord.</td>
<td><strong>Диакон:</strong> О еже даровати имже и нам вся ко спасению прощения, Господу помолимся.</td>
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<td><strong>Deacon:</strong> That we may be delivered from all tribulation, wrath, and necessity, let us pray to the Lord.</td>
<td><strong>Диакон:</strong> О избавитьися нам от всякия скорби, гнева и нужды, Господу помолимся.</td>
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<td><strong>Deacon:</strong> Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by Thy grace.</td>
<td><strong>Диакон:</strong> Заступи, спаси, помилуй и сохрани нас, Боже, Твоею благодатию.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Choir:</strong> Lord, have mercy.</td>
<td><strong>Лик:</strong> Господи, помилуй.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Deacon:</strong> Calling to remembrance our most holy, most pure, most blessed, glorious Lady Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary, with all the Saints, let us commit ourselves and one another, and all our life unto Christ our God.</td>
<td><strong>Диакон:</strong> Пресвитую, пречистую, преблагословенную, славную Владычицу нашу Богородицу и Приснодеву Марию со всеми святymi помянувше, сами себё и друг друга, и весь живот наш Христу Богу предадим.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Choir:</strong> To Thee, O Lord.</td>
<td><strong>Лик:</strong> Тебе, Господи.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Priest:</strong> Exclamation:** For unto Thee is due all glory, honor, and worship: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.</td>
<td><strong>Иерей: Возглашение:</strong> Йко подобает Тебе всякая слава, честь и поклонение, Отцу, и Сыну, и Святому Духу, ныне и прысно, и во века веков.</td>
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Choir: Amen.

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

The Priest says the following Prayer aloud:

O all-pure God, Maker of all creation, Who in Thy love for mankind didst transform the rib of Adam our forefather into a woman, and didst bless them, saying: Increase and multiply, and exercise dominion over the earth; and didst show them both to be of one flesh in their union, for which cause a man shall leave his father and mother and deave unto his wife, and the twain shall be one flesh; and what God hath joined together, let no man put asunder: Who didst bless Thy servant Abraham and didst open the womb of Sarah, and madest him to be the father of many nations: Who gayest Isaac to Rebecca and didst bless her child-bearing. Who joined Jacob to Rachel, and from him didst show forth the twelve patriarchs: Who didst unite Joseph and Asenath, giving them Ephraim and Manasses as the fruit of their procreation: Who didst accept Zachariah and Elizabeth and showed forth the Forerunner as their offspring: Who caused the Ever-virgin to spring forth in the flesh from the root of Jesse, and who becamest incarnate of her and wast born for the salvation of the human race: Who as Thine ineffable gift didst in Thy great goodness go to Cana of Galilee and didst bless the wedding there, that Thou mightest show that lawful matrimony is Thy will, as is the procreation of children therefrom: do Thou Thyself, O All-holy Master,
accept the entreaty of us, Thy servants, and coming hither, as Thou didst then, in Thine ineffable intercession, bless this marriage, and grant unto Thy servants N and N a peaceful life, length of days, chastity; love one for another in the union of peace, long-lived seed, the grace of children, and an imperishable crown of glory; Grant that they may see their childrens children; keep their bed unassailed; bestow upon them the dew of heaven from on high, and the fitness of the land. Fill their home with wheat, wine and oil, and evey good thing, that they may give in mm unto those who ask; and do Thou answer likewise petitions which conduces to sahration for those here with them.

For Thou art a God of mercy, compassion and love for mankind, and unto Thee, and Thine unoriginate Father, and Thine all-holy, good and life-creating Spirit, do we send up glory; now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

The Priest says the following prayer out loud:

Blessed art Thou, O Lord our God, who art the Priest of mystical and pure matrimony, the Ordainer of the law of [marriage] of the body, the Preserver of incorruption, the good Arranger of the circumstances of life! O Master, Who in the beginning didst create man and set him as king of creation, and didst say: It is not good for man to be alone upon the earth; let Us fashion a helpmate for him;
and taking from him one of his ribs, Thou didst fashion a wife, of whom Adam, on seeing said: this is now bone of my bone and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called woman, for she was taken from her husband: for this cause a man shall leave his father and mother, and cleave unto his wife, and the twain shall be one flesh; and what God hath joined together, let no man put asunder:

Do Thou now, O master Lord our God, send down Thy heavenly grace upon these Thy servants Н and Н, and grant this Thy handmaid to be subject to her husband in all things, and to this Thy servant to be the head of his wife, that they may live according to Thy will.

Bless them, O Lord our God, as Thou didst bless Abraham and Sarah; bless them, O Lord our God, as Thou didst bless Isaac and Rebecca; bless them, O Lord our God, as Thou didst bless Jacob and all the patriarchs; bless them, O Lord our God, as Thou didst bless Joseph and Asenath; bless them, O Lord our God, as Thou didst bless Moses and Sepphora; bless them, O Lord our God, as Thou didst bless Joachim and Anna; bless them, O Lord our God, as Thou didst bless Zachariah and Elizabeth.

Preserve them, O Lord our God, as Thou didst preserve Noah in the ark; preserve them, O Lord our God, as Thou didst preserve Jonah in the belly of the sea monster; preserve them, O Lord our God, as Thou didst preserve the three holy children from the fire, sending down upon them dew from heaven; and may that joy come upon them which the blessed Helen experienced when she found the precious Cross. Be mindful of them, O Lord our God, as Thou wast mindful of Enoch, Shem and Elijah; be mindful of them, O Lord our God, as

рýбр её, сýдали её жены, юже вýдев Адâm, речёт: сий ньин кость от костей мойх, и плоть от плоти моей; сий наречётся женá, яко от му́жа своего взятá бýсть сий. Сего ра́ди оста́вит человéк отцa своего и матерь, и прилепìтýся жены своéй, и бýдета два в плоть едýну; и юже Бог сопряже, человéк да не разлучаёт. Сам и ньине, Влады́ко Гóсподи Бóже наш, низпослý благода́ть Твою Небéсную на рабы Твои си́я, имя́рек и имя́рек; и дажь рабé сей во всèм повиновáться мýжу, и рабу Твоему семé бы́ти во главу жены́, яко да пожи́вúт по вóли Твоей. Благослови́ ў, Гóсподи Бóже наш, яко́же благослови́л еси́ Авраáма и Сáру; благослови́ ў, Гóсподи Бóже наш, яко́же благослови́л еси́ Исаа́ка и Ревéкку; благослови́ ў, Гóсподи Бóже наш, яко́же благослови́л еси́ Иа́кова, и всí патриáрхи; благослови́ ў, Гóсподи Бóже наш, яко́же благослови́л еси́ Иóсифа и Асенёфу; благослови́ ў, Гóсподи Бóже наш, яко́же благослови́л еси́ Іоаки́ма и Анну; благослови́ ў, Гóсподи Бóже наш, яко́же благослови́л еси́ Захáрьо и Елисавéт. Сохра́нй ў, Гóсподи Бóже наш, яко́же сохрани́л еси́ Нóй в ковче́зе; сохрани́ ў, Гóсподи Бóже наш, яко́же сохрани́л еси́ Ио́ну во чре́ве кйтове; сохрани́ ў, Гóсподи Бóже наш, яко́же сохрани́л еси́ свéтýа трéй отрóки от огнó, низпосла́вýй им рóсу с небесó; и да прии́дет на ня ра́дость о́ная, юже имя́ше блажéннá Елé́на, егда обéрётé Честный Крест.

Помя́нй ў, Гóсподи Бóже наш, яко́же помя́нул еси́ Ено́ха, Сýма, Илий; помя́нй ў, Гóсподи Бóже наш, яко́же помя́нул еси́ свéтýа Твоей
Thou wast mindful of Thy forty holy martyrs, sending crowns down upon them from heaven; be mindful, O God, of the parents who raised them, for the prayers of parents make steadfast the foundations of homes. Be mindful, O Lord our God, of Thy servants, the groomsmen and bridesmaids, who have entered into this joy. Be mindful, O Lord our God, of Thy servant N and Thy handmaid N, and bless them. Grant them the fruit of the womb, fair offspring, unity of soul and body. Exalt them like the cedars of Lebanon, like a luxuriant vine. Grant them seed like unto that of grain, that, possessing all plentitude, they may abound in every work good and pleasing unto Thee, and may see their children’s children, like newly planted olive trees around their table; and having been right pleasing unto Thee, may they shine in Thee, our Lord, like the stars of the sky. Glory, dominion, honor and worship be to Thee, and Thine unoriginate Father and Thine all-holy, good and life-creating Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

And again the Priest says the following prayer aloud:

O holy God, Who hast created man out of the dust, and didst fashion woman of his rib, and didst yoke unto him a helpmate for him, in that it was thus pleasing unto Thy majesty that man not be alone on the earth: do Thou Thyself, O Master, send down Thy hand from
Betrothal and Crowning

Thy holy dwelling-place, and unite this Thy servant N to this Thy handmaid N, for by Thee is woman joined to man. Bring them together in oneness of mind; wed them in one flesh; grant them the fruit of the womb, the procreation of fair children.

For Thine is the dominion, and Thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

And the Priest, taking up the crowns, crowneth the bridegroom first, saying:

Priest: The servant of God N is crowned unto the handmaid of God N, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. (thrice)

Then the Priest crowns the Bride, saying:

Priest: The handmaid of God N is crowned unto the servant of God N, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. (thrice)

He says this three times as he makes the sign of the Cross on each of them.

Then he blesseth them thrice, saying each time:

Priest: O Lord our God, crown them with glory and honor! (thrice)

The Epistle

The Holy Protection of the Mother of God. Russian Orthodox Church, Austin, TX
Deacon: Let us attend.

Priest: Peace be unto all.

Choir: And to thy spirit.

Deacon: Wisdom.

Reader: The prokimenon in the 8th tone.

Reader: Thou hast set upon their heads crowns of precious stones; they asked life of Thee, and Thou gayest it them.

Choir: Thou hast set upon their heads crowns of precious stones; they asked life of Thee, and Thou gayest it them.

Reader: Stichos: For Thou shalt give them blessing forever and ever, Thou shalt gladden them in joy with Thy countenance.

Choir: Thou hast set upon their heads crowns of precious stones; they asked life of Thee, and Thou gayest it them.

Reader: Thou hast set upon their heads crowns of precious stones.

Choir: They asked life of Thee, and Thou gayest it them.

Deacon: Wisdom.

Reader: The Reading is from the Epistle of Paul to the Ephesians.

Epistle to the Ephesians. [Chapter 5,20-33]

Brethren, give thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ; Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God. Wives, submit
yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the Church: and He is the Savior of the body. Therefore as the Church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing. Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the Church, and gave Himself for it; That He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That He might present it to Himself a glorious Church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the Church: For we are members of His body, of His flesh, and of His bones. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the Church. Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband.

Priest: Peace be unto thee.
Reader: And to thy spirit.
Deacon: Wisdom.
Reader: Alleluia in the 5th Tone.
Thou, O Lord, shalt keep us and preserve us from this generation, and for evermore.

Choir: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!
Gospel

Priest: Wisdom, aright! Let us hear the holy Gospel. Peace be unto all.

Choir: And to thy spirit.

Deacon: The reading is from the holy Gospel according to John.

Choir: Glory to Thee, O Lord, glory to Thee.

Priest: Let us attend.

[Chapter 2,1-11]

At that time there was a marriage in Cana of Galilee; and the mother of Jesus was there: And both Jesus was called, and His disciples, to the marriage. And when they wanted wine, the mother of Jesus saith unto Him, They have no wine. Jesus saith unto her, Woman, what have I to do with thee? Mine hour is not yet come. His mother saith unto the servants, Whatsoever He saith unto you, do it. And there were set there six waterpots of stone, after the manner of the purifying of the Jews, containing two or three firkins apiece. Jesus saith unto them, Fill the waterpots with water. And they filled them up to the brim. And He saith unto them, Draw out now, and bear unto the governor of the feast. And they bare it. When the ruler of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine, and knew not whence it was (but the servants which drew the water knew), the governor of the feast called the bridegroom, And saith unto him, Every man at the beginning doth set forth good wine: and when men have well drunk, then that which is worse:

Евангелие

Иерей: Премудрость, прости, услышим святаго Евангелия. Мир всем.

Лик: И дуэови твоему.

Диакон: От Иоанна святаго Евангелия чтение.

Лик: Слава Тебе, Господи, слава Тебе.

Иерей: Воннем.

Евангелие от Иоанна, зачало 6.

Во время оно, брак бысть в Кане Галилейском, и бе Мати Иисусова ту. Зван же бысть Иисус и ученицы Его на брак. И не достауешь вину, глагола Мати Иисусова к Нему: вина не имут. Глагола Ей Иисус: что есть Мне и Тебе, же? Не у прииде час Мой. Глагола Мати Его слугам: еже аще глаголет вам, сотворите. Беху же ту водоносы камени шесть, лежаше по очищению иуде́йскому, вместишия по двема или трием мерам. Глагола им Иисус: наполните водоносы воды. И наполниша их до верха. И глагола им: почерпи́те ныне, и принесите архитриклйонови. И принесоша. Я́ко же вкуси архитриклйин вина бывшаго от воды, [и не веда́ше откуду есть: слуги же ведаша почерпши воды,] пригласи́ жениху архитриклйин. И глагола ему: всяч человеч прежде доброе вино полагает, и егда упи́ются, тогда худшее: ты же соблуд еси доброе вино доселе. Се сотвори нача́ток знамением Иисус в Кане Галилеи́стей, и яви славу Свою, и вёроваша в Него ученицы Его.
but thou hast kept the good wine until now. This beginning of miracles did Jesus in Cana of Galilee, and manifested forth His glory; and His disciples believed on Him. After this He went down to Capernaum, He, and His mother, and His brethren, and His disciples: and they continued there not many days.

**Choir:** Glory to Thee, O Lord, glory to Thee.

**Litany**

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

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy.

**Deacon:** O Lord Almighty, God of our fathers, we pray Thee, hearken and have mercy.

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy.

**Deacon:** Have mercy on us, O God, according to Thy great mercy, we pray Thee, hearken and have mercy.

**Choir:** Lord have mercy. (thrice)

**Deacon:** Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, and the visitation of Thy servants N and N.

**Choir:** Lord have mercy. (thrice)

**Priest:** Exclamation: For a merciful God art Thou Who lovest mankind, and unto Thee do we send up glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

**Вдохновление**

**Диакон:** Рцем всй от всеи душ и, и от всего помышления нашеого рцем.

**Лик:** Господи, помилуй.

**Диакон:** Господи Вседержителю, Бьже отец наших, молим Ти ся, услыши и помилуй.

**Лик:** Господи, помилуй.

**Диакон:** Помилуй нас, Бьже, по велицей милости Твоей, молим Ти ся, услыши и помилуй.

**Лик:** Господи, помилуй. (трижды)

**Диакон:** Ещё молимся о милости, жьизни, мире, здравии, спасении, посещения, прощения и оставлении грехов рабов Божиих, имярек, и поминает ихже хацет.

**Лик:** Господи, помилуй. (трижды)

**Иерей:** возглас: Яко милостив и человеколюбец Бог есй, и Тебя славу возсылаем, Отцу, и Сыну, и Святому Духу, ныне и присно, и во вёки веков.
Choir: Amen.

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

The Priest says this prayer:

O Lord our God, Who in Thy saving dispensation didst by Thine attendance show forth the wedding in Cana of Galilee to be honorable: do Thou Thyself now preserve in peace and oneness of mind Thy servants N and N, whom it hath been Thy good pleasure to unite one to another. Show their marriage to be honorable; preserve their bed undefiled; be Thou well pleased that their life together may be blameless; and grant that they may attain unto profound old age, acting upon Thy commandments with a pure heart.

For Thou art our God, the God who exerciseth mercy and saveth, and we send up glory to Thee, to Thine unoriginate Father and Thine all-holy, good and life-creating Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

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

Choir: Grant this, O Lord.

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

Choir: Grant this, O Lord.

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

Choir: Grant this, O Lord.

Deacon: Things good and profitable for our souls and bodies, and peace for the world, let us ask of the Lord.

Choir: Grant this, O Lord.

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

Choir: Grant this, O Lord.

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

Choir: Grant this, O Lord.

Deacon: Having asked for the unity of the faith, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, let us commit ourselves and one another, and all our life unto Christ our God.

Choir: To Thee, O Lord.

Priest: And vouchsafe us, O Master, with boldness and without condemnation to dare to call upon Thee, the heavenly God, as Father, and to say:

Lord's Prayer

Our Father, Who art in the heavens, 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

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

Choir: Amen.

Priest: Peace be unto all.

Choir: And to thy spirit.

Deacon: Bow your heads unto the Lord.

Choir: (slowly) To Thee, O Lord.

Then the common cup is brought forth, and the Priest blesseth it

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: O God Who by Thy might hast created all things, hast established the universe, and hast adorned the crown of all the things Thou hast made: grant also this common cup unto those who are joining themselves in the communion of matrimony, and bless them with spiritual blessing.

Priest: exclamation: For Thy name hath been blessed, and Thy kingdom glorified: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.
Betrothal and Crowning
Draft as used at the Holy Protection of the Mother of God. Russian Orthodox Church, Austin, TX

Choir: Amen.

Then the priest, taking the common cup in his hand, presenteth it to them to drink thereof, thrice, first to the husband, then to the wife.

And the choir chanteth these troparia in the 1st Tone:

I will take the cup of salvation and I will call on the name of the Lord.

And immediately the priest, taking them by the hands, leadeth them about in a circle.

Meanwhile the Singers chant the following Troparia.

Choir: Tone 5: Dance, O Isaiah! The Virgin hath conceived in her womb and hath given birth unto Emmanuel, Who is both God and man. Orient is His name; and magnifying Him, we call the Virgin blessed.

Choir: tone 7: O holy martyrs, who have fought the good fight and received crowns: entreat ye the Lord, that He have mercy upon our souls.

Choir: tone 7: Glory to Thee, O Christ God, Thou boast of the apostles and joy of the martyrs, who preached the consubstantial Trinity!

Then, removing the crown from the bridegroom, the priest saith:

Priest: Be thou exalted, O bridegroom, like unto Abraham, and be thou blessed

Лик: Ами́нь.

Также взем священник в руку общую чашу, преподает им трижды: первее мужу, и потом жене.

и поет на глас 1й:

Чашу спасения приму и имя Господне призову.


Лик: глас 7: Сláва Тебé, Христé Бо́же, / апóстолом похвалó, / мýчеников ра́дование, / íхже прóповéдь, Трóица Единосу́щная.

Таже взем венец жениха, глаголет (приподнимает венец):

Священник: Возвели́чися женише́ якоже Авраáм, и благослови́ся якоже
like Isaac, and increase like unto Jacob, walking in peace and carrying out the commandments of God in righteousness.

And when he removeth the crown from the bride, he saith:

Priest: And be thou exalted, O bride, like unto Sarah, and be exalted like unto Rebecca, and increase like unto Rachel, delighting in thy husband and keeping the bounds of the law; for in such is God well pleased.

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: O God, our God, Who went to Cana of Galilee and blessed the wedding there: bless Thou also these thy servants Who in Thy providence have come together in the communion of matrimony. Bless their goings out and their comings in. Make their life abundant in good things. Receive their crowns [Here the Priest takes the crowns from the heads of the couple and places them on the table] in Thy kingdom, keeping them unsullied, immaculate and irreproachable, for ever.

Choir: Amen.

Priest: Peace be unto all.

Choir: And to thy spirit.

Deacon: Bow your heads unto the Lord.

Choir: (slowly) To Thee, O Lord.

Priest: May the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, the all-holy, consubstantial and life-creating Trinity; the one
Godhead and Kingdom, bless you; and may He grant you length of days, fair children, prosperity of life, and faith; and may He provide you with all the good things of the earth; and may He vouchsafe you also to receive the good things He hath promised, through the supplications of the holy Theotokos and of all the saints.

Choir: Amen.

PRAYER FOR THE UNTYING OF CROWNS ON THE EIGHTH DAY

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: O Lord our God, Who hast blessed the crown of the year and by the law of matrimony hast permitted crowns to be laid upon these who have joined themselves one to another, granting them chastity as a reward (for they are pure who have united themselves in the lawful matrimony which is from Thee): do Thou Thyself, in the laying aside of these crowns, bless those who have united themselves one to another, and preserve their union indissoluble, that they may continually give thanks unto Thine all-holy name: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

Priest: Peace be unto all.

Choir: And to thy spirit.

Deacon: Bow your heads unto the Lord.

Choir: (slowly) To Thee, O Lord.
Priest: These, Thy servants, O Lord, having attained unto concord and accomplished the order of matrimony as in Cana of Galilee, and carried out the vows therein, do send up glory unto Thee: the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

Dismissal.

Priest says to Deacon: Wisdom.

[Priest: O Most Holy Theotokos, save us. ]

Choir: More honorable than the Cherubim, and beyond compare more glorious than the Seraphim, / who without corruption gavest birth to God the Word, the very Theotokos: thee do we magnify.

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

Choir: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Lord, have mercy. (thrice) Father, bless.

Priest: May Christ our true God, Who by His attendance in Cana of Galilee didst show marriage to be honorable, have mercy and save us, through the supplications of His all-pure Mother, of the holy, glorious and all-praised apostles, of the holy Sovereigns crowned by God and Equals of the Apostles, Constantine and Helen, of the
holy great Martyr Prokopios, of (the patronal saint(s) of the temple), of (the saint(s) commemorated on the day), and of all the saints, in that He is good and loveth mankind.

Choir: Amen.

Deacon: A prosperous and peaceful life, health and good success in all things, grant, O Lord, unto Thy newly-wed servants N and N, and preserve them for many years!

Choir: God grant them many years! (thrice)
Save them, O Christ God! (thrice)

Venerate together icon of Christ, then of Theotokos on solea. Then they kiss each other, then all present approach and congratulate them, kissing one another.

Еле́ны, свя́того великомученика Проко́пия, и всех свя́тых, поми́лует и спасёт нас, яко бла́г и человеколю́бец.

Лик: Ами́нь.

Диакон: Благоде́нственное и ми́рное жити́е, здра́вие же и спасе́ние и во всем благо́е поспе́шение, изоби́лие плодо́в, вза́имную любо́вь и согла́сие пода́жь, Господи, рабо́м Тво́йм ны́не бракове́нчанным (имена́) и сохран́и их на мнобы́гая лёта!

Лик: Мнобы́гая лета́! (трижды)
Спаси́ Христе́ Бо́же! (трижды)

Тазь входят, и поздравляют их, и целование друг друга, и бывает от священника совершенный отпуст.