

## The Service of Betrothal

*The betrothal is celebrated in the narthex, or in the back part of the church.*

DEACON: Bless, master.

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

CHOIR: Amen.

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 *N.*, the most holy Patriarch of Moscow, for our lord the Very Most Reverend Metropolitan *N.*, First Hierarch of the Russian Church Abroad; for our lord the Most Reverend (Archbishop *or* Bishop *N.*, *whose diocese it is*); for the honorable priesthood, the diaconate in Christ, for all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord.

CHOIR: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: For the servant of God *N.*, and for the handmaiden of God *N.*, who now pledge themselves to one another, and for their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

CHOIR: Lord, have mercy.

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

CHOIR: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: That there may be sent down upon them perfect and peaceful love, and assistance, let us pray to the Lord.

CHOIR: Lord, have mercy.

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

CHOIR: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: That they may be blessed with a blameless way of life, let us pray to the Lord.

CHOIR: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: That the Lord our God may grant unto 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: 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.

PRIEST: O God eternal, Who bringest them that are divided into unity, and hast appointed for them an indissoluble bond of love, Who didst bless Isaac and

Rebecca, and didst make them heirs of Thy promise: Bless also these Thy servants *N.* and *N.*, guiding them unto every good work. For Thou art a good God and 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 ages of ages.

CHOIR: Amen.

PRIEST: Peace be unto all.

CHOIR: And to thy spirit.

DEACON: Bow your heads unto the Lord.

CHOIR: To Thee, O Lord.

PRIEST: O Lord our God, Who hast espoused the Church as a pure virgin from among the nations: Bless this betrothal, and unite and keep 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 ages of ages.

CHOIR: Amen.

*Then taking the rings, the priest blesses the bridal pair, making the sign of the cross with the ring of the bride over the groom, and with that of the groom over the bride. He says to the man as he blesses with the ring (3x):*

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

*And to the woman as he blesses with the ring (3x):*

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

*And when he has said this to each of them three times, he places the rings on their right hands. Then the priest says the following prayer:*

DEACON: Let us pray to the Lord.

CHOIR: Lord, have mercy.

PRIEST: O Lord our God, Who didst accompany the servant of the patriarch Abraham to Mesopotamia, when he was sent to espouse a wife for his lord Isaac, and Who, by means of the drawing of water, didst reveal to him that he should betroth

Rebecca: Do Thou Thyself, the same Lord, bless the betrothal of these Thy servants, *N.* and *N.*, and confirm the promise that has been made by them. Establish them in the holy union which is from Thee. For Thou, from the beginning, hast made them male and female, and by Thee the woman is joined unto the man as a helper and for the succession of the generation of man. Therefore, O Lord our God, Who hast sent forth Thy truth upon Thine inheritance, and Thy promise unto Thy servants, our fathers, Thine elect from generation to generation: look upon Thy servant, *N.*, and Thy handmaiden, *N.*, and confirm their betrothal, in faith and in oneness of mind, and in truth and in love. For Thou, O Lord, hast shown that a pledge should be given and confirmed in everything. By a ring power was given unto Joseph in Egypt; by a ring Daniel was glorified in the land of Babylon; by a ring the righteousness of Tamar was revealed; by a ring our heavenly Father showed compassion upon His Son; for He said: "Put a ring upon His right hand, and kill the fatted calf, and let us eat and rejoice." Thine own right hand, O Lord, armed Moses in the Red Sea; for by Thy true word the heavens were established, and the foundations of the earth were made firm; and the right hand of Thy servants shall be blessed by Thy mighty word and by Thine uplifted arm. Therefore, O Master, do Thou Thyself now bless this putting-on of rings with Thy heavenly blessing, and let Thine angel go before them all the days of their life. For Thou art He that blesses and sanctifies all things, and unto Thee we send up glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

CHOIR: Amen.

*[Note: If the Crowning is **not** to follow immediately, then there is a litany and Dismissal at this time to conclude the service.]*

## The Service of Crowning

*The bridal couple, preceded by the Priest, moves in procession to the center of the church. Meanwhile the choir sings Psalm 127 (128 KJV)*

Blessed are all who fear the Lord, who walks in his ways!

*(Refrain, sung by all after each Psalm verse):* Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!

You shall eat the fruit of the labor of your hands; you shall be happy, and it shall be well with you.

Your wife will be like a fruitful vine within your house;

Your children will be like olive shoots around your table.

Thus shall the man be blessed who fears the Lord.

The Lord bless you from Sion!

May you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days of your life!

May you see your children's children!

Peace be upon Israel!

*The priest shall inquire of the groom:*

PRIEST: Do you, *N.* have a good, free and unconstrained will and a firm intention to take as your wife this woman, *N.*, whom you see here before you?

GROOM: I have, reverend father.

PRIEST: Have you promised yourself to any other bride?

GROOM: I have not promised myself, reverend father.

*And the priest, looking at the bride, shall ask her.*

Do you, *N.*, have a good, free and unconstrained will and a firm intention to take as your husband this man, whom you see here before you?

BRIDE: I have, reverend father.

PRIEST: Have you promised yourself to any other man?

BRIDE: I have not promised myself, reverend 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 ages of ages.

CHOIR: Amen.

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 *N.*, the most holy Patriarch of Moscow, for our  
lord the Very Most Reverend Metropolitan *N.*, First Hierarch of the Russian  
Church Abroad; for our lord the Most Reverend (Archbishop *or* Bishop *N.*, *whose*  
*diocese it is*); for the honorable priesthood, the diaconate in Christ, for all the  
clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord.

CHOIR: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: For the servants of God, *N.* and *N.*, who are now being united to each other in  
the community of marriage, and for their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

CHOIR: Lord, have mercy.

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

CHOIR: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: That there may be granted to them chastity, and the fruit of the womb as is  
expedient for them, let us pray to the Lord.

CHOIR: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: That they will be made glad with the sight of sons and daughters, let us pray to the Lord.

CHOIR: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: That there may be granted to them the acquisition of fair children, and a blameless life, let us pray to the Lord.

CHOIR: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: That there may be granted unto them and to us, all petitions which are unto salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

CHOIR: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: That they and 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: 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 ages of ages.

CHOIR: Amen.

DEACON: Let us pray to the Lord.

CHOIR: Lord, have mercy.

*Then the priest recites aloud the following prayer:*

PRIEST: O God most-pure, and the Fashioner of all creation, Who, through Thy love for mankind, didst transform a rib of our forefather Adam into a woman, and didst bless them and say: “Be fruitful and multiply, and have dominion over the earth;” and, by their union, didst declare them both to be one flesh: “for this cause a man leaves his father and mother and shall be joined unto his wife, and the two shall be one flesh;” and what God has joined together, let no man put asunder: Who didst also bless Thy servant Abraham, and open the womb of Sarah, didst make him the father of many nations; Who didst give Isaac to Rebecca, and didst bless her offspring; Who didst join Jacob unto Rachel, and from them didst reveal the twelve Patriarchs; Who didst unite Joseph and Aseneth, and as the fruit of their procreation didst give them Ephraim and Manasseh; Who didst accept Zechariah and Elizabeth, and didst show their offspring to be the Forerunner; Who, from the root of Jesse according to the flesh, didst blossom forth the Ever-Virgin, and from her, Thyself wast made flesh and wast born for the salvation of the human race; Who, through Thine inexpressible grace and great goodness, wast present in Cana of Galilee, and didst bless the marriage there, that Thou mightest show that a lawful union, and procreation therefrom is according to Thy will. O Most-holy Master, accept the prayer of us, Thy servants; and, with Thine invisible presence being here as there, bless this marriage, and grant unto these Thy servants, *N.* and *N.*, a peaceful life, length of days, chastity, love for one another in the bond of peace, long-lived offspring, grace upon their children, and an unfading crown of glory. Count them worthy to see their children’s children; preserve their bed undefiled, and give them of the dew of heaven from above, and of the fatness of the earth. Fill their houses with wheat, wine and oil, and with every good thing, that they may give in turn to them that are in need; and grant also unto those here present with them all their petitions which are for salvation. For Thou art a God of mercies and compassions, and love for mankind, and unto Thee we send up glory, together with Thy Father Who is without beginning, and Thy Most-holy, good, and Life-creating Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

CHOIR: Amen.

DEACON: Let us pray to the Lord.

CHOIR: Lord, have mercy.

*Then the priest recites aloud the following prayer:*

PRIEST: Blessed art Thou, O Lord our God, Thou Priest of mystical and pure marriage, and Giver of the law of the marriage of the body; Preserver of incorruption, and good Provider of the things of life; the same, O Master, Who, in the beginning, didst create Man, and didst appoint him as the king of creation, and didst say: “It is not good that man should be alone upon the earth. Let us make a helper fit for him.”; and, taking one of his ribs, didst make woman; and when Adam saw her he

saiDeacon: “This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, for she was taken out of Man.” For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh; what therefore God has joined together, let no man put asunder: Do Thou Thyself now, O Master, Lord our God, send down Thy heavenly grace upon these Thy servants *N.* and *N.*, and grant unto this Thy handmaiden to be subject to her husband in all things, and that this Thy servant may 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 Aseneth. Bless them, O Lord our God, as Thou didst bless Moses and Zipporah. Bless them, O Lord our God, as Thou didst bless Joachim and Anna. Bless them, O Lord our God, as Thou didst bless Zechariah 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 whale. 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 let that gladness come upon them which the blessed Helen had when she found the precious cross. Remember them, O Lord our God, as Thou didst remember Enoch, Shem, Elijah. Remember them, O Lord our God, as Thou didst remember Thy Holy Forty Martyrs, sending down upon them crowns from heaven. Remember, O God, the parents who have nurtured them, for the prayers of parents make firm the foundations of houses. Remember, O Lord our God, Thy servants, the groomsman and the bridesmaid, who have come together in this joy.

Remember, O Lord our God, Thy servant, *N.* and Thy handmaiden, *N.*, and bless them. Grant them of the fruit of the womb, fair children, and oneness of soul and body. Exalt them as the cedars of Lebanon, and as a well-cultured vine. Bestow upon them offspring in number like unto full ears of grain, that, having sufficiency in all things, they may abound in every work that is good and acceptable unto Thee. Let them see their children’s children, like newly-planted olive trees round about their table; that, finding favor in Thy sight, they may shine as the stars in Heaven unto Thee our God. And, together with Thee, be glory, dominion, honor, and worshiPriest: to Thy Father Who is without beginning, and to Thy life-creating Spirit, now and ever, and the unto ages of ages.

CHOIR: Amen.

DEACON: Let us pray to the Lord.

CHOIR: Lord, have mercy.

*And again the priest prays aloud.*

PRIEST: O holy God, Who didst form man from the dust, and from his rib didst fashion woman, and didst join her unto him as a helper for him, for it seemed good unto Thy majesty that man should not be alone upon the earth: Do Thou Thyself now, O Master, stretch forth Thy hand from Thy holy dwelling-place, and join together this Thy servant, *N.*, and this Thy handmaiden, *N.*; for by Thee is a man joined to a woman. Unite them in oneness of mind; crown them in one flesh, granting them fruit of the womb and the gain of fair children. For Thine is the might, and Thine are the Kingdom and the power and the glory: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

CHOIR: Amen.

*The priest takes the crowns, which recall those with which the martyrs are crowned in heaven, and crowns first the groom, saying (3X):*

PRIEST: The servant of God, *N.*, is crowned for the handmaiden of God, *N.*, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

*Then he crowns the bride, saying (3X):*

PRIEST: The handmaiden of God, *N.*, is crowned for the servant of God, *N.*, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

*Then he blesses them **three** times crosswise, saying each time:*

PRIEST: O Lord our God, crown them with glory and honor.

DEACON: Let us attend.

PRIEST: Peace be unto all.

READER: And to thy spirit.

DEACON: Wisdom!

READER: The Prokeimenon in the eighth tone: Thou hast set upon his head a crown of precious stones. (*Psalm 21*)

CHOIR: Thou hast set upon his head a crown of precious stones.

READER: He asked life of Thee, and Thou gavest it to him; length of days unto ages of ages.

CHOIR: Thou hast set upon his head a crown of precious stones.

READER: For Thou shalt grant him a blessing unto ages of ages; Thou shalt gladden him with the joy of Thy presence.

CHOIR: Thou hast set upon his head a crown of precious stones.

READER: For Thou shalt grant him a blessing unto ages of ages; Thou shalt gladden him with the joy of Thy presence.

CHOIR: Thou hast set upon his head a crown of precious stones.

READER: Thou hast set upon his head...

CHOIR: ...a crown of precious stones.

DEACON: Wisdom!

READER: The reading from the Epistle of the holy Apostle Paul to the Ephesians

DEACON: Let us attend.

READER: *Brethren: Give thanks always for all things unto God 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 wives be unto their own husbands in every thing. Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loves the Church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her by the washing of water with the Word, that He might present to Himself a glorious Church, not having filth, or defect or any such thing, but that she might be holy and without blemish. So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no man ever yet hated his own flesh, but nourishes and warms it, even as the Lord does the church. For we are members of His body, of His flesh, and of His bones. "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and the two shall be one flesh." This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church. Nevertheless, let every one of you so love his wife even as himself, and the wife see that she reverence her husband. (Ephesians 5:20-33)*

PRIEST: Peace be unto thee that readest.

READER: And to thy spirit.

DEACON: Wisdom!

READER: Alleluia in the Fifth Tone.

CHOIR: (Tone 5) Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

READER: The words of the Lord are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. (*Psalms 11:6*)

CHOIR: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

READER: Thou, O Lord, shalt keep us and preserve us from this generation, and forevermore. (*Psalms 11:7*)

CHOIR: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

DEACON: And that He will vouchsafe unto us the hearing of the Holy Gospel, let us pray unto the Lord God.

CHOIR: Lord, have mercy. (3x)

PRIEST: Peace be unto all.

CHOIR: And to thy spirit.

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

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

DEACON: Let us attend.

PRIEST: *At that time:* there was a marriage at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there; Jesus also was invited to the marriage, with His disciples. When the wine failed, the mother of Jesus said to Him, "They have no wine." And Jesus said to her, "O woman, what has this to do with me and with thee? My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever He tells you." Now six stone jars were standing there, for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the steward of the feast." So they took it. When the steward of the feast tasted the water now become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward of the feast called the groom and said to him, "Every man serves the good wine first; and when men have drunk freely, then the poor wine; but you have kept the good wine until

now.” This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested His glory, and His disciples believed in Him. (*John 2:1-11*)

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

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

CHOIR: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: O Lord Almighty, the 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. (3)

DEACON: Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, and visitation for the servants of God *N.* and *N.*, and for the pardon and remission of their sins.

CHOIR: Lord, have mercy. (3)

PRIEST: For Thou art a merciful God, 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 ages of ages.

CHOIR: Amen.

DEACON: Let us pray to the Lord.

CHOIR: Lord, have mercy.

PRIEST: O Lord our God, who in Thy saving providence didst vouchsafe by Thy presence in Cana of Galilee to declare marriage honorable: Do Thou Thyself now preserve in peace and oneness of mind Thy servants, *N.* and *N.*, whom Thou hast been well-pleased to join together. Show their marriage to be honorable. Preserve their bed undefiled; be well-pleased that their life together may be undefiled; and count them worthy to attain unto a ripe old age, keeping Thy commandments with a pure heart. For Thou art our God, the God of mercy and salvation, 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 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 it, 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 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 communion with 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 make us worthy, O Master, that with boldness and without condemnation we may dare to call upon Thee the heavenly God as Father, and to say:

CHOIR: 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 those our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

PRIEST: 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 ages of ages.

CHOIR: Amen.

PRIEST: Peace be unto all.

CHOIR. And to thy spirit.

DEACON: Bow your heads unto the Lord.

CHOIR: To Thee, O Lord.

*Then the common cup (with wine) is brought and the priest blesses it; and says the following prayer:*

DEACON: Let us pray to the Lord.

CHOIR: Lord, have mercy.

PRIEST: O God, Who hast created all things by Thy might, and hast made firm the world, and adornest the crown of things created by Thee: Do Thou, with Thy spiritual blessing, bless this common cup, which Thou givest unto them that are now joined together for the communion of marriage.

*Then in a loud voice:*

For blessed is Thy name, and glorified is Thy Kingdom: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

CHOIR: Amen.

*Then, taking the cup, the priest gives it to them to drink: first to the groom (3X) and then to the bride (3X). If any wine remain, the groom drinks it. Then immediately the priest takes them by their right hands under his epitrachelion [the groomsmen behind them holding their crowns] and leads them in a circle three times around the lectern. As the procession is made, each of the following troparia is sung by the **priest** or the **choir**, one for each time of precession:*

Rejoice, O Isaiah! The Virgin is with child; and shall bear a Son, Emmanuel, both God and man; and Sunrise is His name. Magnifying Him, we call the Virgin blessed.

O holy martyrs, who fought the good fight and have received your crowns: Entreat ye the Lord, that He will have mercy on our souls.

Glory to Thee, O Christ God: the Apostles' boast, the Martyrs' joy, whose preaching was the consubstantial Trinity.

*Then, taking the crown from the groom, the priest says.*

PRIEST: Be exalted, O groom, like Abraham, and be blessed, like Isaac; and be multiplied like Jacob, walking in peace, and doing, in righteousness, the commandments of God.

*Then, taking the crown from the bride, he says.*

PRIEST: And you, O Bride, be exalted like Sarah; and be glad, like Rebekah; and be multiplied, like Rachel. Rejoice in your husband, keeping the terms of the law, for thus God is well-pleased.

DEACON: Let us pray to the Lord.

CHOIR: Lord, have mercy.

PRIEST: O God, our God, Who didst come to Cana of Galilee, and didst bless the marriage there: Bless also these Thy servants, who, by Thy providence, are joined together in the communion of marriage. Bless their comings in and goings out, replenish their life with good things, and accept their crowns in Thy Kingdom, preserving them spotless, undefiled, and without reproach, 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: To Thee, O Lord.

PRIEST: May the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, the All-holy, Consubstantial, and Life-giving Trinity, one Godhead and one Kingdom, bless you, and grant unto you length of days, fair children, success in life and faith, and fill you with

all earthly good things, and count you worthy to obtain the blessings of the promise; through the prayers of the holy Theotokos, and of all the Saints.

CHOIR: Amen.

*The Prayer at the Taking Off of the Crowns*

PRIEST: O Lord our God, Who blessest the crown of the year, and permittest these crowns to be laid on them that are joined to one another by the law of marriage, and thus granting these unto them as the reward of chastity, for they are joined together in the lawfully appointed marriage that is from Thee: Do Thou Thyself also, in the taking off of these crowns, bless these that have been joined together, and preserve their union unbroken, that they may ever 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: To Thee, O Lord.

PRIEST: Thy servants come together in concord, O Lord, and having accomplished the order of marriage, as at Cana in Galilee, and having contracted the signs thereof, send up glory unto Thee: 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 people come forward and congratulate them, and they may kiss one another. The full Dismissal is made by the Priest:*

DEACON: Wisdom!

CHOIR: Father, bless!

PRIEST: Blessed is He-Who-Is: Christ our God, always, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

CHOIR: Amen. Establish, O God, the holy Orthodox Faith of Orthodox Christians unto the ages of ages.

PRIEST: 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 (3x). Father, bless.

*Then the Priest gives the Dismissal:*

PRIEST: May He Who by His presence in Cana of Galilee declared marriage to be honorable. Christ our True God, through the intercessions of His most-pure Mother; of the holy, glorious and all-praised apostles; of the holy God-crowned sovereigns and equal-to-the-apostles Constantine and Helen; of the holy great-martyr Procopius and of all the Saints; have mercy upon us and save us, for He is good and the Lover of Mankind.