

Thanksgiving for Marriage

The Liturgy Commission of General Synod offers the following forms for use

- during a regular congregational service, and/or
- as part of a service of renewal of marriage promises by *a couple / couples*.

Form A

The lines commencing with an ellipsis (three periods) are suggestions, and should be included or adapted as appropriate for the couple(s) concerned.

The minister says

Generous God, source of all life and love,
we thank you for calling us into relationship
with you and with one another.

Today we come together to thank you for
N and M's life together in marriage.

We thank you

... for their faithful commitment

... for the X years of their life together

... for their support of one another (especially ...)

... for mutual forgiveness

... for the unique qualities that each brings to their marriage

... for the tenderness and understanding they bring to one another

... for their emotional and physical intimacy

... for their children [and grandchildren]

... for the support of their family and friends

... that their love is a blessing to others

... for their growth together in faith

...

Bless them through all the years you grant them here on earth,
fulfil your promises in them,
and when this life is ended
welcome each of them into your presence,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The couple(s) may say

God of tenderness and strength,
you have brought our paths together
and led us to this day;

stay with us as we travel through good times,
through trouble, and through change.

Bless our home, our partings and our meetings.

Make us worthy of one another's best,
and tender with one another's dreams. **Amen.**

The minister adds a blessing for the couple(s).

God the Father lovingly enfold you,

God the Son grace your home and table,
God the Holy Spirit crown you with joy and peace.
The Lord bless you and keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

Form B

This form is appropriate for use in relation to one particular couple: the section in parentheses should be omitted when the couple does not have (grand)children.

Glory and praise to you, loving God,
because you have made your dwelling place with N and M.

Glory and praise to you, loving God,
because you have filled them with your Spirit's gifts:
 the grace of tenderness and faithfulness,
 the grace of forgiveness and friendship,
 the grace of intimacy, hospitality, and joy.

[Glory and praise to you, loving God,
because you have given them a family,
 daughters and sons to grow and flourish,
 (and grandchildren to delight in).]

Pour out your blessing again today upon these two:
 in sickness and in health, bless them with strength;
 in good times and in adversity, bless them with courage;
 in companionship and family life, bless them with joy.

Bless them through all the years you grant them here on earth,
and bring them in safety to the heavenly feast
that you have prepared for us through our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Glory and praise to you, loving God,
now and for ever. **Amen.**