

Opening Prayer

God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. Let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and the cattle, and over all the wild animals and all the creatures that crawl on the ground.”

God created man in his image:
in the divine image he created him;
male and female he created them.

God blessed them, saying: “Be fertile and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it. Have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and all the living things that move on the earth.” God looked at everything he had made, and he found it very good.

Genesis 1: 26-28, 31

Leader: God, we thank you for creating us out of nothing, for creating us as men and women in your own image, and for calling us to love one another as you love us.

Men: Thank you, God, for creating me as a man,
and for calling me to be a husband and a father
in the sacrament of marriage.
Please prepare me to love my wife and children
as you love them.

Women: Thank you, God, for creating me as a woman,
and for calling me to be a wife and a mother
in the sacrament of marriage.
Please prepare me to love my husband and children
as you love them.

All: God, the one I love is the very likeness of you.
To be near the one I love
is to be in your presence.
Together as man and woman
we are a mirror image of you.
We were made to be like you –
nothing more and nothing less than this.

Leader: God, creator of heaven and earth, you have revealed yourself in so many ways, and now you make yourself known in the love we share. Help us to find and treasure your presence in our love. Help us to see how we are meant to be your image not only for each other, but for all who know us.

All: 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. Amen.

Closing Prayer

Jesus said to his disciples: “As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you. Live on in my love. You will live in my love if you keep my commandments, even as I have kept my Father’s commandments, and live in his love. And this I tell you that my joy may be yours and your joy may be complete.

This is my commandment:

love one another as I have loved you.

There is no greater love than this:

to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.

John 15: 9-13

Leader: Jesus, you have called us to the sacrament of marriage in order that our joy with one another as man and woman might be complete. To live in this joy, you ask that we keep your commandments, and that we love each other as you have loved us. But we cannot do this without your help, and so we call upon you...

Men: Lord, keep me always in your light of truth.
Help me during our engagement
to become more and more
a man worthy of his bride.
As her husband, help me to love her as you love her -
with kindness, and goodness, and faithfulness -
all the days of my life.

Women: Lord, show me always your way of love.
Help me during our engagement
to become more and more
a woman worthy of her husband.
As his wife, help me to love him as you love him –
with mercy, and purity, and gentleness –
all the days of my life.

All: The road ahead may be long and sometimes steep,
But you, Jesus, will be our strength.
And our joy will be your joy.
So please lead us and carry us
up the mountain of God.

Leader: Dear God, these men and women will soon make vows to share a life until death parts them. By their words and with their bodies, the two of them shall become one flesh. May your own vow be in their vows, your own embrace in their embrace. Let no one separate what you will join in them.

All: 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. Amen.