

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Savior Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, Almighty God, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling Christ's death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in Christ. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through Jesus Christ our Savior. By Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

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.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

The Celebrant continues

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

HYMNS DURING COMMUNION *(The people are seated)*

Hymnal 554 "Tis the gift to be simple"

Hymnal 488 "Be thou my vision"

Hymnal 325 "Let us break bread together"

THE POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

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, Courtney and Julie, 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.**

THE BLESSING

THE DISMISSAL

Celebrant Let us go forth into the world rejoicing in the power of the Spirit. Alleluia.

People Thanks be to God. Alleluia.

VOLUNTARY

"Toccata" from Symphony No. 5

Widor (1844-1937)

THE WEDDING PARTY

COURTNEY MICHELLE BRYANT'S ATTENDANTS

William Bryant IV (man of honor)

Lara Thompson (matron of honor)

Rachel La Rose (attendant)

Boon Boonyapat (attendant)

JULIA KIRSTEN GERHARDT'S ATTENDANTS

Stacy Gerhardt (maid of honor)

Benjamin Gerhardt (man of honor)

Haley Opdyke (attendant)

Renee Glover (attendant)

FAMILY OF COURTNEY BRYANT

Lynne Bryant (mother)

William Henry Bryant III (father)

FAMILY OF JULIA GERHARDT

Theresa Gerhardt (mother)

Dale Gerhardt (father)

RING BEARERS

Owen Bryant-Molyneaux

Caroline Bryant

FLOWER CHILDREN

Alice Bryant-Molyneaux

James Bryant

PHOTOGRAPHER

Chanda Williams

OFFICIANT

The Rev. Dr. Horace L. Griffin

MUSIC

Dr. Patrick Pope, *Organist*

Steve Eddins, Jason Eklund, Nikolette LaBonte,

Joel Ockerman, Bernhard Scully, Elizabeth Simmons,

Juliann Welch, and John Wunderlin, *Horns*



The Celebration and Blessing of the Marriage of

**Courtney Michelle Bryant
and
Julia Kirsten Gerhardt**

The 3rd day of September 2022 at 4:45 in the afternoon

VOLUNTARY

Ave Maria

Rachmaninoff (1873-1943), arr. Nikki LaBonte

Pavane

Fauré (1845-1924), arr. Blair Bollinger

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring

J. S. Bach (1685-1750), arr. Leigh Martinet

Hansel und Gretel Prelude-Chorale

Humperdinck (1854-1921), arr. Jeffrey Kirschen

SEATING OF THE MOTHERS

"Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring," from Herz und Mund und Tat und Leben, BWV 147

J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

PROCESSION OF THE WEDDING PARTY

"Sheep May Safely Graze," from Was mir behagt, ist nur die muntre Jagd, BWV 208

J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

COURTNEY'S PROCESSION

Prince of Denmark's March

Jeremiah Clarke (1674-1707)

JULIE'S PROCESSION

Finale from Sonata in F Minor

Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

THE GATHERING

Celebrant Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

People Glory to God for ever and ever.

Celebrant Beloved, let us love one another,

People For love is of God.

Celebrant Whoever does not love does not know God,

People For God is love.

Celebrant Since God so loves us,

People Let us love one another.

THE EXHORTATION *(Remain standing)*

Dearly beloved: We have come together in the presence of God to witness and bless the joining together of this couple in Holy Matrimony. The joining of two people in a life of mutual fidelity signifies to us the mystery of the union between Christ and his Church, and so it is worthy of being honored among all people.

Forsaking all others, they will bind themselves to one another in a covenant of mutual fidelity and steadfast love, remaining true to one another in heart, body, and mind, as long as they both shall live. The lifelong commitment of marriage is not to be entered into lightly or thoughtlessly, but responsibly and with reverence.

Into this holy union Courtney Michelle Bryant and Julia Kirsten Gerhardt 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 knows any reason why you may not be united in marriage lawfully, and in accordance with God's Word, you do now confess it.

THE DECLARATION OF CONSENT

The Celebrant says to one member of the couple, then to the other

Julie, 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?

Answer I will.

Courtney, 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?

Answer 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.
Celebrant Will you pray for them, especially in times of trouble, and celebrate with them in times of joy?

People We will.

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

The Celebrant then says to the people

God be with you.

People And also with you.

O God, faithful and true, whose steadfast love endures forever: we give you thanks for sustaining Courtney and Julie in the life they share and for bringing them to this day. Nurture them and fill them with joy in their life together, continuing the good work you have begun in them; and grant us, with them, a dwelling place eternal in the heavens where all your people will share the joy of perfect love, and where you, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, live and reign, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The people are seated for the lessons

THE FIRST LESSON: RUTH 1:14-17

Sarah Bryant

Then they wept aloud again. Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her. So she said, “See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law.” But Ruth said, “Do not press me to leave you or to turn back from following you! Where you go, I will go; Where you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God my God. Where you die, I will die— there will I be buried. May the Lord do thus and so to me, and more as well, if even death parts me from you!” Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people. **People: Thanks be to God.**

THE SECOND LESSON: 1 CORINTHIANS 13:1-13

Kristen Gerhardt

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, endures all things. Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; 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.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.

People: Thanks be to God.

SEQUENCE HYMN *(played by the horn choir)*

Hymnal 711, “Seek ye first the kingdom of God”

All stand for the gospel

THE HOLY GOSPEL: MATTHEW 7: 21, 24-29

The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus told the crowd, “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 that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on rock. And 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.

The Gospel of our Savior.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The people are seated

THE HOMILY

The Rev. Dr. Horace L. Griffin

THE MARRIAGE

Each member of the couple, in turn, takes the right hand of the other and says

In the Name of God, I, Courtney, take you, Julie, 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.

In the Name of God, I, Julie, take you, Courtney, 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.

The Celebrant asks God’s blessing on the rings as follows

Bless, O Lord, these rings to be signs of the vows by which Courtney and Julie 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

Courtney, 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 God.

Julie, 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 God.

Then the Celebrant joins the right hands of the couple and says

Now that Courtney and Julie have given themselves to each other by solemn vows, with the joining of hands and the giving and receiving of rings, I pronounce that they are wed to one another, in the name of God, the Creator, Jesus Christ, the Redeemer, and the Holy Spirit, the Sustainer. Those whom God has joined together let no one put asunder.

People Amen.

THE PRAYERS

Leslie Cash

With each prayer, the people respond saying, Amen.

Leader 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 Courtney and Julie 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.**

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 God, with your Son and the Holy Spirit, you live and reign in perfect unity, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE SIGNING OF THE REGISTRY

THE BLESSING OF THE MARRIAGE

As the couple kneels, the Celebrant invokes God’s blessing upon them, saying

Let us pray.

Most gracious God, we praise you for the tender mercy and unfailing care revealed to us in Jesus the Christ and for the great joy and comfort bestowed upon us in the gift of human love.

We give you thanks for Courtney and Julie, and the covenant of faithfulness they have made. Pour out the abundance of your Holy Spirit upon them. Keep them in your steadfast love; protect them from all danger; fill them with your wisdom and peace; lead them in holy service to each other and the world.

God’s infinite love, Christ’s limitless grace, and the Holy Spirit’s relentless companionship, encompass you; the Lord mercifully 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 says to the people

The peace of Christ 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.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER A *(the people stand)*

Celebrant God be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth. Because in the giving of two people to each other in faithful love you reveal the joy and abundant life you share with your Son Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Celebrant and People

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Holy and gracious God: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and maker and of all.

Jesus stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.