

_____ and _____, family and friends, grace, mercy and peace to you from God our Father and our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

As she ran from the ball at the stroke of midnight, Cinderella lost her glass slipper. But Prince Charming found it, found her, and they lived happily ever after....

The Ugly Beast lay dying in his garden until Beauty returned to him out of compassion, kissed his snout, then he himself became beautiful with royal blood in his veins, and they lived happily ever after.....

Fairy tales usually end at this point with the simple phrase, "and they lived happily ever after." This may be because fairy tales regard marriage as an anti-climax after the romance of courtship.

This is not the Christian view. Our faith sees the wedding day not as the place of arrival, but as the place where the adventure really begins.

Today _____ and _____ begin this adventure. We're here wish them bon voyage. We're glad they found each other.

They have what every couple needs to make it: Incompatibility, that is, income and pat-ability.

And they have their priorities straight.

Another bride was in her living room surveying all the beautiful wedding gifts she and her groom had received: vases, china, linens, dishes, towels. And when asked what was her favorite gift of all? She answered: The army blanket. Why that? She answered, "Because it has US in the middle."

That's what it's all about. US in the middle. The two shall become one. As it says in Genesis: Male and female he created them. And for this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife. And the two shall become one.

Like Cinderella and Prince Charming, _____ and _____ have royal blood in their veins for they are heirs of the King of Heaven.

The King of Heaven is the font of every blessing and an ever-present help in trouble. As St. Paul writes: 'If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, will he not also give us all things with him?'

We come together today before the King of Heaven to ask his blessing.

In a minute you will make promises that are to last a lifetime That's a tall order. Too tall for any two people to handle alone. But you are not alone as you stand here.

So as you take full responsibility upon your shoulders for what you are doing here today, with equal confidence place it all in the hands of God.

And in the years to come may you always remember that when you pledged yourselves to each other, you were surrounded and supported by the deep affection and active prayers of your families and many, many friends.

Let us pray:

Wedding Prayer

Blessed are you, Father and Lord,
Who created joy and gladness, bridegroom and bride,
comfort and delight, love and friendship,
Who established marriage for the happiness
and well-being of men and women,
We thank you for the love between these two,
and we rejoice on this glad occasion,
We put this marriage into your hands,
Surround them with your love now and always,
_____ and _____ have joined their lives together,
Let their love for each other be a seal upon their hearts,
a mantle about their shoulders, and a crown upon their heads.

May they find all the tasks in life easier because they
Approach those tasks together.

In sickness and health may they find your strength,
In doubts and struggles may they see your light,
In hurts and failures may they find your pardon,
In loneliness and desperation may they find your joy,

May they find no cold because each is warmth to the other,
Bless them with your presence here and now and at all times,
We pray in Christ's name. Amen.