

Resources for Wedding Ceremonies and for Blessing a New Home in Simple English- Materiaalia avioliiton vihkimiseen, avioliiton siunaamiseen ja kodin siunaamiseen yksinkertaisella englannin kielellä

Contents – Sisällys

Wedding ceremony or blessing of a marriage – Avioliittoon vihkiminen tai avioliiton siunaaminen	2
Blessing a new home – Kodin siunaaminen.....	9



Wedding ceremony or blessing of a marriage – Avioliittoon vihkiminen tai avioliiton siunaaminen



1 Music / Alkumusiikki

2 Introduction / Johdanto

P: In the name of the Father, and of the (+) Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

A: Amen.

Optional

P: The Lord be with you

A: and with your spirit.

3 Introductory words / Johdantosanat

P: Dear MM and NN, you have come here before God to be married.
We listen to what the Bible tells us. We pray that God will bless your
marriage.

OR

P: Dear NN and NN, you have come before God to be united in marriage.
We share your joy and pray that God's blessing be on you and your
marriage.
It is written in the Bible...

4 Psalm / Psalmi

Optional

5 Prayer / Rukous

P: Let us pray

Dear God, our Father in heaven,
you are the source of love.
You created us as men and women/You created us as

companions for each other.
You gave us marriage as a gift and a calling.
Bless NN and NN, who become man and wife today.
We thank you for bringing them together.
Bless this wedding feast and let Christ be our guest.
This we pray in his name.

A: Amen

6 Scripture reading / Raamatunluku

Usually 1 Corinthians 13:1–8a,13 is read.

7 Sermon or speech / Saarna tai puhe

8 Questions / Kysymykset

Questions A / Kysymykset A

These questions are used if this is the legal marriage ceremony.

The pastor asks the groom:

You now stand in the presence of almighty God and these people/family and friends/witnesses.

I ask you, NN, do you take MM as your [legal] wife and promise to be faithful to her and love her [as long as you live]

The groom answers:

I do.

The pastor asks the bride:

You now stand in the presence of almighty God and these people/family and friends/witnesses.

I ask you, NN, do you take MM as your [legal] husband and promise to be faithful to him and love him [as long as you live]

The bride answers:

I do.

Questions B / Kysymykset B

These questions are to be used if this is a blessing of a marriage.

The pastor says:

You have come to before the face of God to ask His blessing on your marriage.

The pastor asks the husband:

Do you, NN (full name), in the marriage into which you have entered with NN (full name), promise to show her faithfulness and love “in need and in plenty, in sorrow and in joy”?

The husband answers:

I do.

The pastor asks the wife:

Do you, NN (full name), in the marriage into which you have entered with NN (full name), promise to show him faithfulness and love “in need and in plenty, in sorrow and in joy”?

The wife answers:

I do.

9 Blessing of the rings / Sormusrukous

This prayer is left out if the couple is already married. The rings are given to the pastor. The bride and groom may kneel. Holding the rings up high, the pastor says:

P: Let us pray for the marriage [and the union signified by this ring (by these rings)].

Almighty God, you are love.

This ring is (These rings are) a sign of M and N's marriage.

Let this ring (these rings) remind them of your love,
which has no beginning or end.

Let this marriage be strong and lasting.

Be with them in times of joy and times of grief.

Help them stay faithful and support each other with thankful hearts.

Hear our prayer.

Amen.

Promises of love

Optional

If the bride and groom wish to say these promises out loud, they both hold the rings together.

The groom says:

I take you, M, as my [legal] wife.

Whatever comes, I promise to love you every day
[as long as we live].

As a sign of this, I give you this ring.

The bride says:

I take you, N, as my [legal] husband.

Whatever comes, I promise to love you every day

[as long as we live].

As a sign of this, I give you this ring.

10 Pronouncement of marriage and a blessing / Avioliiton vahvistaminen

This is left out if the couple is already married.

P: Before God and these people/witnesses,
you have made your vows to each other.
You now begin your life as husband and wife.
You have given and received your wedding ring(s)
as a sign of your marriage.
With the authority I have been given,
I now confirm your marriage
and declare you husband and wife.

11 Blessing the married couple / Aviopuolisoiden siunaaminen

The newlyweds may kneel.

P: Receive the blessing.

May God, the Father, give you joy and blessings.
May God, the Son, be with you in times of joy and sorrow.
May God, the Holy Spirit, pour his love into your hearts.
May God, the Father, Son and (+) Holy Spirit, bless you.

OR

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ (+), the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you.

12 Prayer of intercession / Esirukous

Besides using one of the prayers given here, you may prepare (and read) a prayer together with relatives or friends who are coming to the wedding.

P/R: Let us pray.

1
Holy God,
Bless MM and NN in their love for each other.
Help them trust in you and one another all their lives.
Let forgiveness guide them.
Protect them from all harm.
Keep their loved ones in your care.
Grant us all love, happiness and peace.
Guide us at last to our home in heaven.
Hear our prayer.

2
God, the Father, bless NN and NN in their new life together.

Let them experience joy and bless them with your presence.
Strengthen them, and let them grow together in faithfulness, love, and trust.
Guide and strengthen them in their work and companionship.
May their lives serve God and the whole community.
At the end of their lives, bring them to heaven.
Hear our prayer in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

3

Almighty God, if you do not build the house, the builders' work is in vain.
Pour out your blessing upon this couple, (names),
so that they can grow together in love and trust.
May they know your grace.
Help them build a home that is founded on faith, hope, and love.
Give them your Holy Spirit, that they may live in peace and grow in faith.
At the end of their lives, bring them to your heavenly home.
Hear us for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

4

Gracious God, we thank you for the gift of love.
Bless NN and NN, who have bound themselves together in your presence.
We thank you for their love, trust, and commitment.
Help them grow together, side by side.
Help them love each other and stay faithful in all seasons of life.
Protect them from all harm.
In difficult times, lead them closer to each other and to you.
We pray for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

5

Heavenly Father, you bless creation with beautiful gifts.
Pour out your blessing onto NN and NN.
May they be joined in love and companionship.
May they live their lives in holiness and commitment.
We pray for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, always and forever.

7

God, our heavenly Father,
you have given us marriage as a gift.
Your presence makes our lives holy.
We ask you to join this couple together in love.
Bless their marriage for your glory.
Hear our prayers.

8

God, you are Love.
Your love crosses all borders and limits.
You have brought us together here today.
We come from different places around the world.
Thank you for your loving presence in the lives of people living in all places.

You know the heart of everyone.
 No one is a stranger to you.
 Help us to understand each other.
 Help us to strengthen those ties that connect us.
 Bless and protect the marriage of NN and NN today
 and all the days of their lives.
 Let them enjoy health and happiness.
 Hear our prayer, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

9

A prayer with many readers

A father or mother of the bride or groom:

You gave us our child(ren). We thank you for the joy he/she/they has/have brought into our lives.

Bless our son/daughter and his/her spouse as they build their own home and family. Protect them from all evil. Make them ready to live in harmony and teach them to ask for forgiveness and to forgive. [Hear our prayer.]

A sister or brother of the bride or groom:

Today we thank you, God, for our childhood home. Be with NN and NN and protect them during the journey they have now begun. Help us to remain close to one another. [Hear our prayer.]

A godparent of the bride or groom:

You promised your blessing to my godchild when he/she was baptized. I ask for your continual blessing upon him/her and the one who is dearest on earth to him/her. Help them to remember they can always return to the grace of baptism. [Hear our prayer.]

A friend:

You have led NN and NN together. Bless their love and help them to stay together for the rest of their lives. Let us keep on enjoying our friendship in days to come. [Hear our prayer.]

P/R

Father in heaven, thank you for hearing our prayers. We put this couple and ourselves in your care. After this life, take us to a home in heaven. Hear our prayers for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

10

Our God and Creator,
 O source of all goodness and love!

You have called NN and NN to live in marriage.
 You gave marriage as a gift to people
 and intended for it to be a place where love may grow.
 We thank you for the promises to show each other faithfulness and love

they have made in your presence.
Let this promise guide them always,
even in moments of worry and grief.
Strengthen their mutual love and friendship.

O Lord, the source of life is with you.
Help us to live close to you and close to one another.
Give us strength and love
to bear one another's burdens
and to forgive each other.

The whole world is longing for peace, hope and love.
Let us remember that you are our God, and we are your people.
You have created us; our lives are in your hand.
You know us and grant us your grace.
Praise be to you, in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

13 Lord's Prayer / Isä meidän

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever.
Amen.

14 Blessing / Siunaus

P/R: The Lord bless you and keep you,
 the Lord make his face shine upon you,
 and be gracious to you.
 The Lord lift up his countenance upon you,
 and give you peace.
 In the name of the Father,
 and of the (B) Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

A: Amen.

15. Concluding music / Päätösmusiikki

Blessing a new home – Kodin siunaaminen

A blessing of a new home is led by a pastor, another church worker or another Christian. For the ceremony, a Bible and a cross or crucifix may be placed on a table covered with a white cloth, and a candle may be lit.

The blessing of a new home may be recorded in the family Bible. A home with only one person may also be blessed, but the wording should be adjusted accordingly.

P: Pastor

A: All

R: Reader



1 Hymn / Virsi tai laulu

Instead of a hymn, some other suitable piece of music may be used.

2 Introduction / Johdanto Optional

Optional

P/R: In the name of the Father, and of the (+) Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

A: Amen.

Optional

P/R: Our help comes from the Lord.

All: He has made heaven and earth.

OR

P/R: The Lord be with you

A: and with your spirit.

OR

P/R: Dear friends in Christ,
we enter this home in the name of God,
(+) Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

A: May the Lord be with us always.

3 Introductory words / Johdantosanat

You are free to use your own words here, but two examples are given below.

P/R: Dear Christians, God has made everything in his creation to be good. We thank Him for all the good things he has given us. Today we thank God for this home he has given you, pray for all of you who live here, and ask God to bless you and all who visit.

OR

P/R: Dear Christians, a home is God's great gift to us. It is our wish to feel safe in our home. We hope everyone will see that we belong there. At home, we long for peace when we are troubled and rest when we are tired. Our Saviour Jesus tells his followers to bring a blessing of peace to all homes. Today we give thanks for this home and ask for God's blessing upon it. As the Saviour instructed us, we say, "Peace be with this home!" (Luke 10:5)

4 Psalm / Psalmi

The psalm may be replaced by the singing of a hymn. Two possible psalms are given below, but some other psalm may be used instead. The psalm may be sung or recited. The antiphon may precede and follow the psalm.

Antiphon

The Lord is my refuge;
my home is protected by the Most High.

Psalm

Psalm 91:1–2, 4–5

You can go to God Most High to hide.
You can go to God All-Powerful for protection.
I say to the Lord, “You are my place of safety, my fortress.”
You can go to him for protection.
He will cover you like a bird spreading its wings over its chicks.
You can trust him to surround and protect you like a shield.
You will have nothing to fear at night
and no need to be afraid of enemy arrows during the day.

OR

Psalm 127:1–2

If it is not the Lord who builds a house,
the builders are wasting their time.
If it is not the Lord who watches over the city,
the guards are wasting their time.
It is a waste of time to get up early and stay up late,
trying to make a living.
The Lord provides for those he loves,
even while they are sleeping.

Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit
as it was in the beginning and is now and always,
from everlasting to everlasting. Amen.

The antiphon is repeated.

5 Scripture reading / Raamatun lukukappale

One or more of the listed passages is read. Other appropriate passages may also be read, especially ones that follow the time of the church year. Reading may be followed by a moment of silent meditation.

Genesis 18:1–5

Later, the Lord again appeared to Abraham near the oak trees of Mamre. It was the hottest part of the day, and Abraham was sitting at the door of his tent. He looked up and saw three men standing in front of him. When he saw the men, he ran to them and

bowed before them. Abraham said, “Sirs, please stay a while with me, your servant. I will bring some water to wash your feet. You can rest under the trees. I will get some food for you, and you can eat as much as you want. Then you can continue your journey.” The three men said, “Do as you wish.”

Acts 16:31

They said to him, “Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved – you and all who live in your house.”

Romans 12:10–18

Love each other in a way that makes you feel close like brothers and sisters. And give each other more honour than you give yourself. As you serve the Lord, work hard and don't be lazy. Be excited about serving him! Be happy because of the hope you have. Be patient when you have troubles. Pray all the time. Share with God's people who need help. Look for people who need help and welcome them into your homes.

Wish only good for those who treat you badly. Ask God to bless them, not curse them. When others are happy, you should be happy with them. And when others are sad, you should be sad too. Live together in peace with each other. Don't be proud but be willing to be friends with people who are not important to others. Don't think of yourself as smarter than everyone else.

If someone does you wrong, don't try to pay them back by hurting them. Try to do what everyone thinks is right. Do the best you can to live in peace with everyone.

Philippians 4:4–7

Always be filled with joy in the Lord. I will say it again. Be filled with joy. Let everyone see that you are gentle and kind. The Lord is coming soon. Don't worry about anything, but pray and ask God for everything you need, always giving thanks for what you have. And because you belong to Christ Jesus, God's peace will stand guard over all your thoughts and feelings. His peace can do this far better than our human minds.

Colossians 3:12–17

God has chosen you and made you his holy people. He loves you. So your new life should be like this: Show mercy to others. Be kind, humble, gentle, and patient. Don't be angry with each other, but forgive each other. If you feel someone has wronged you, forgive them. Forgive others because the Lord forgave you. Together with these things, the most important part of your new life is to love each other. Love is what holds everything together in perfect unity. Let the peace that Christ gives control your thinking. It is for peace that you were chosen to be together in one body. And always be thankful.

Let the teaching of Christ live inside you richly. Use all wisdom to teach and counsel each other. Sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with thankfulness in your hearts to God. Everything you say and everything you do should be done for Jesus your Lord. And in all you do, give thanks to God the Father through Jesus.

Hebrews 13:2

Always remember to help people by welcoming them into your home. Some people have done that and have helped angels without knowing it.

1 Peter 4:8–10

Most important of all, love each other deeply, because love makes you willing to forgive many sins. Open your homes to each other and share your food without complaining. God has shown you his grace in many different ways. So be good servants and use whatever gift he has given you in a way that will best serve each other.

Revelation 3:20

Christ says, “Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in and eat with you. And you will eat with me.”

Luke 10:38–42

While Jesus and his followers were traveling, he went into a town, and a woman named Martha let him stay at her house. She had a sister named Mary. Mary was sitting at Jesus’s feet and listening to him teach. But her sister Martha was busy doing all the work that had to be done. Martha went in and said, “Lord, don’t you care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her to help me!”

But the Lord answered her, “Martha, Martha, you are getting worried and upset about too many things. Only one thing is important. Mary has made the right choice, and it will never be taken away from her.”

Luke 19:1–10

Jesus was going through the city of Jericho. In Jericho there was a man named Zacchaeus. He was a wealthy, very important tax collector. He wanted to see who Jesus was. There were many others who wanted to see Jesus too. Zacchaeus was too short to see above the people. So he ran to a place where he knew Jesus would come. Then he climbed a sycamore tree so he could see him.

When Jesus came to where Zacchaeus was, he looked up and saw him in the tree. Jesus said, “Zacchaeus, hurry! Come down! I must stay at your house today.”

Zacchaeus hurried and came down. He was happy to have Jesus in his house. Everyone saw this. They began to complain, “Look at the kind of man Jesus is staying with. Zacchaeus is a sinner!”

Zacchaeus said to the Lord, “I want to do good. I will give half of my money to the poor. If I have cheated anyone, I will pay them back four times more.”

Jesus said, “Today is the day for this family to be saved from sin. Yes, even this tax collector is one of God’s chosen people. The Son of Man came to find lost people and save them.”

John 12:1–3

Six days before the Passover festival, Jesus went to Bethany. That is where Lazarus lived, the man Jesus raised from death. There they had a dinner for Jesus. Martha served the food, and Lazarus was one of the people eating with Jesus. Mary brought in a pint of expensive perfume made of pure nard. She poured the perfume on Jesus’s feet. Then she wiped his feet with her hair. And the sweet smell from the perfume filled the whole house.

John 15:9–12

“I have loved you as the Father has loved me. Now continue in my love. I have obeyed my Father’s commands, and he continues to love me. In the same way, if you obey my commands, I will continue to love you. I have told you these things so that you can have the true happiness that I have. I want you to be completely happy. This is what I command you: Love each other as I have loved you.”

6 Response / Vastaus

Optional. A hymn, song or instrumental music may be used.

7 Sermon or speech / Puhe tai saarna

8 Hymn / Virsi tai laulu

Optional. Another suitable piece of music may be used instead of a hymn.

9 Prayer / Rukous

Sprinkling of water may be used. People may wander to each room and say a prayer there or read a passage from the Bible. Suggested Bible readings are found in the extra material that follows this order.

Responsive reading / Vuoroluku

Optional

P/R: Blessed are you, O Lord, our God!

A: Yours is all that is in the heavens and on earth.

P/R: Blessed be the name of the Lord now and forever.

A: Resound the praises of his name!

Blessing

P/R: God, in his goodness, gives us a home and people who are near and dear. May the triune God, the Father (B), Son and Holy Spirit, bless this home and all who live here and all who visit this place.

OR

P/R: A servant of God prayed long ago, “I ask you to bless the house of your servant...You, O Lord, have blessed it, and so it will be blessed forever.” Trusting in the eternal goodness of the same eternal God, I call for his blessing upon this home in the name of the Father, and of the (+) Son, and of the Holy Spirit. May this home be a place where God’s will is sought and followed. May the love of Christ rule in your heart(s).

10 Prayer of intercession / Esirukous

Three alternatives are given here; the second one is intended to be read by a member of the household. A prayer in your own words may also be used.

P/R: Let us pray.

1

Heavenly Father, we praise you for your gifts and your presence in all phases of life. We can take from your hand all that we have. Help us to use your gifts for the good of all. Bless this home. [Let those who live here feel safe and give them a sense of belonging together. Help them to love and honour each other.] Let those who visit this home also experience warmth and friendship. Hear us for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

2

Visit this place, O Lord, we pray and drive far from it all that is evil. May your holy angels dwell with us and guard us in peace, and may your blessing be always upon us, through Jesus Christ our Lord. May the cross of the Son of God protect you by day and by night, at morning and at evening, at all times and in all places. And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and stay with you always. Be present, O merciful God, and protect us through the silent hours of the night. Let those who are tired rest knowing you are a constant presence in their lives. This we pray through Jesus Christ our Lord.

A: Amen

11 Lord's prayer / Isä meidän

Our Father in heaven,
 hallowed be your name.
 Your kingdom come,
 your will be done,
 on earth as it is in heaven.
 Give us today our daily bread.
 Forgive us our sins
 as we forgive those who sin against us.
 Save us from the time of trial
 and deliver us from evil.
 For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
 now and forever.
 Amen.

12 Hymn or other music / Virsi tai muuta musiikkia

Optional

13 Blessing / Siunaus

P/R: Almighty God,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.

A: Amen.

OR

P/R: The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make his face shine upon you,
and be gracious to you:
The Lord lift up his countenance upon you,
and give you peace.
In the name of the Father,
and of the (B) Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

A: Amen.

14 Concluding music / Päätösmusiikki

A hymn, song or instrumental music may be used.

Extra material for blessing a home / Lisämateriaalia

Prayers and Bible readings in different rooms of the home / Rukouksia ja raamatunkohtia luettavaksi kodin eri huoneissa.

Other suitable Bible passages may also be used. It is recommended to use an Easy-to-read Bible. It can be found at biblegateway.com pages. <https://www.biblegateway.com/versions/Easy-to-Read-Version-ERV-Bible/>

At the front door or entrance / Sisäänkäynnin luona

Psalms 100 or Ps. 91:1–4, 9–12

On the property / Pihalla

Gen. 1:11–12

At the main door / Pääovella

P/R: Peace be to this home
A: and to all who dwell here.

Someone who lives in the home: Welcome to our home.

Prayer: God, who blesses people's homes,
be present in this home, and drive from it all that is evil.
Defend from harm all who live here and all who pass through this door
and bless them in their entering it and leaving it,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

A: Amen

In the bedrooms / Makuuhuoneissa

Psalm 4:9 or other passages may be chosen for each room.
An evening hymn may be sung.

In a study or workroom / Työhuoneessa

Psalm 139

P/R: Lord, bless the work of our hands and minds.
Help us to make the world a better place for all
and to maintain peace on earth.

In the kitchen / Keittiössä

Matt. 23:11

Prayer: Lord, bless the hands that prepare here the food to be eaten at this house.
Bless also the hands that clean up after the meal. Let us remember that you
called us to be servants for your kingdom. Amen.

At a table / Ruokapöydän ääressä

Psalm 145:15–16

Prayer: Come, Lord Jesus,
be our Guest,
and let your/these gifts
to us be blessed.
Amen.

OR

God is great, God is good;
let us thank Him for our food.
By His hands, we all are fed.
Give us, Lord, our daily bread.
Amen.

In the living room / Olohuoneessa

Luke 10:38

Acts 16:23–34