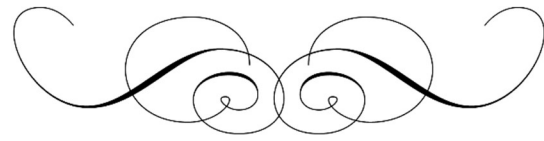


JDMJA



08.10.19

**God loves you.
No exceptions.**
The Episcopal Church Welcomes You.



About Marriage

Christian Marriage

Both Mike and JD were raised in Christian homes and our Christian faith is important to us. That's why we want people to primarily think of ours as a "Christian Marriage" – rather than a "Same Sex Marriage," or simply a "legal marriage."

At a time when less than 37% of Americans report regular church attendance, that may seem an odd thing for us to emphasize. Unfortunately, when most people think of Christians today, the ones that come to mind are the extremists on TV who take a handful of scriptures out of context to support messages of condemnation and hate for all sorts of "others."

At the quieter core of our faith, though, you'll find an ultimate truth that all people are made in God's image and are loved by Him unconditionally.

In the entirety of his teachings, Jesus himself said nothing about LGBT people or their behaviors. By volume alone, more than any topic in the Bible, Jesus speaks about love. That's why we've centered our wedding liturgy on a passage where Jesus speaks to those asking which religious law is the most important to follow, answering that it is to love God with all your heart, with all your understanding and with all your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself.

Legal Marriage

We are pleased that our marriage is also one that will be legally recognized by the State of Illinois and across the United States. Yet we recognize that same sex marriage is only the latest in a long line of court decisions that have continually moved our judicial system in the direction of equality for a wide range of marginalized people.

Here is a brief history of the evolution of marriage laws in the US:

1664 Maryland seeks to stanch potential interracial marriages by threatening enslavement for white women who married black men.

1691 Virginia enacts a law stating that if a white person (bond or free) marries a person of color (Negro, mulatto, or Indian), the couple will be banished from the colony. Banishment means almost certain death in the woods.

1724 Article VIII of the Louisiana Black Code forbids marriages between slaves without the consent of the slave master.

1725 By now, most other American colonies follow Maryland and Virginia's lead and have banned interracial marriage. In all, forty-one states eventually enact bans.

1769: American colonies base their laws on the English common law, which said, "By marriage, the husband and wife are one person in the law. The very being and legal existence of the woman is suspended during the marriage, or at least is incorporated into that of her husband under whose wing and protection she performs everything."

1830 In Mississippi, married women are granted the right to own property in their own name, instead of being owned exclusively by the husband.

1900 By now, every state had passed legislation modeled after New York's Married Women's Property Act (1848), granting married women some control over their property and earnings.

1933 Married women are granted the right to citizenship independent of their husbands.

1967 The Supreme Court overturns laws prohibiting interracial couples from marrying in *Loving v. Virginia*.

1975 Married women are allowed to have credit in their own name.

1981 *Kirchberg v. Feenstra* overturns state laws designating a husband "head and master" with unilateral control of property owned jointly with his wife.

2000 Alabama becomes the last state in the US to remove the ban on interracial marriage in its state constitution.

2014 On March 4, several Illinois counties begin issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples after an opinion issued by the State Attorney General. This is a few months ahead of a law scheduled to take effect statewide on June 1.

2015 On June 26, the Supreme Court rules in *Obergefell v. Hodges* that the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution requires a State to license a marriage between two people of the same sex and to recognize a marriage between two people of the same sex when their marriage was lawfully licensed and performed out-of-State, legalizing same-sex marriage in the United States.

The Witnessing and Blessing of A Marriage

As you entered the church today, you were greeted by JD's nieces, Sydney and Kylie Miller. These smart young women are great dancers, musicians, gymnasts, and students. Yet it's been the hospitality and warm welcome that they've extended to Mike since meeting him that made us want to choose them to be the first people you met when joining us today.

A first visit to an Episcopal church can overwhelm with sights, sounds, and smells. Church of Our Saviour, like many others, is filled with objects and symbols that represent some piece of the faith practiced here. One such symbol, on the West side of the church is a temporary altar we've built for today, dedicated to Saints Sergius and Bacchus – which we encourage you to take a moment to go visit if you've arrived early.

People sometimes get confused about the role of saints and icons in religious tradition. We know that all of us are "saints," yet choose to paint icons of some of them as a way to remember the particular lessons their lives have to offer. We don't display icons on altars to encourage people to pray to the saint, but to provide a focal point of contemplation while praying about issues that were closely related to that saint.

In the winter of 2018, Mike and JD went on a retreat with fellow COS parishioners Carol Cade, Ingrid Burnett, Sena Leikvold, and Kay Huff to spend time in contemplation and prayer – and to paint icons. That's when Mike produced the icon of Sergius and Bacchus – two high-ranking officers in the 4th century Roman army – which is on today's altar. The pair were ultimately martyred – not for being same-sex partners – but because their secret Christian faith was revealed, and they refused to renounce it for paganism.

Also on the altar is a gilded wooden box, in which Mike and JD sealed their wedding rings when they got engaged last October. The box - and Sergius and Bacchus - have been on a small home altar ever since.

Gathering Of The People

Prelude

Seasonal organ selections, ending with Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring from the cantata *Herz und Mund und Tat und Leben* by Johann Sebastian Bach, 1685-1750.

Church of Our Saviour celebrates a number of weekly masses which follow a variety of worship styles and musical traditions. Mike and JD attend the 10:45 Choral Eucharist, which is the parish's Sunday morning service with the longest historical tradition. It is renowned for its excellent music, led by organist and choirmaster Jim Mouw. We are honored to have him lead all of today's music.

Greeting

The couple joins the assembly. The people stand, as able, facing them.

Ancient Christians belied that Jesus was the "new emperor." As such, they treated anything in their services that represented the actual presence of Jesus with the same dignity afforded the Roman emperor. Since everyone in the first century stood in the presence of the emperor, and since he was always preceded by incense (which buffered him from the smell of the unwashed masses), our altar party is led by the cross, preceded with incense.

Frank Labaty and Kevin Malone are today's "crucifer" and "thurifer." They were married on September 20, 2014. As one of the first same sex couples from Church of Our Saviour to be married following the opinion issued by Illinois' Attorney General, they were an obvious choice to lead the way for Mike and JD's wedding procession today.

Presider Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

Presider Beloved, let us love one another,

People **For love is of God.**

Presider Whoever does not love does not know God,

People **For God is love.**

Presider Since God so loves us,

People **Let us love one another.**

Processional

Canon In D, by Johann Pachelbel, 1653-1706.

As the Altar Party enters the sanctuary, they will pass by the Paschal Candle, which was lit by the “new fire” of Easter this April and represents the light of Christ coming into the world. Two smaller candles, representing Mike and JD as children of God are lit from this candle and placed on the Altar of Sergius and Bacchus by the women who brought them into the world – Ruth Aden (who married her husband Jim on July 12, 1959) and Jan Miller (who married her husband Bill on October 11th, 1969).

Presider: Dearly beloved, in the name of God and the Church we have come together today with Michael and James, to witness the vows they make, committing themselves to one another in marriage according to the laws of the State of Illinois.

Forsaking all others, they will bind themselves to one another in a covenant of mutual fidelity and steadfast love, remaining true to one another as long as they both shall live.

The joining of two people in heart, body, and mind is intended by God for their mutual joy; for the help and comfort given one another in prosperity and adversity. It signifies to us the union between Christ and his Church, and so is worthy of being honored among all people.

The lifelong commitment of marriage is not to be entered into lightly or thoughtlessly, but responsibly and with reverence. Let us pray, then, that God will give them the strength to remain steadfast in what they vow this day.

Let us also pray for the generosity to support them in the commitment they undertake and for the wisdom to see God at work in their life together.

Gathering Prayer

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray.

People **O God, faithful and true, whose steadfast love endures forever: we give you thanks for Michael and James, for 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; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.**

Proclaiming and Responding to the Word of God

The Hebrew Scriptures

The people sit.

The first lesson is read by Michelle Meyer-Edley, who has been one of JD's best friends since they met in the sixth grade. JD boasts that he accompanied Michelle on her first date with Ryan Edley, whom she married on September 3, 2000. She celebrated her Bat Mitzvah on May 30, 2014 - making her an ideal choice to read the Hebrew scriptures for us today.

Reader A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Micah (6:6-8)

With what shall I come before the LORD and bow down before the exalted God? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousand rivers of olive oil? Shall I offer my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The People's Response

Gary Alexander is a man of many talents. Actor, singer, and deeply spiritual yoga instructor, Gary assisted Mike and JD in the physical and mental recovery

demanded by their training for the Bay of Fundy half marathon this June. He is also considered a great friend of the couple.

Psalm 112

The cantor sings the Refrain once, the People repeat it, and again after each verse.



Hallelujah! Happy are they who fear the Lord and have great delight in his commandments! Their descendants will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed. Wealth and riches will be in their house, and their righteousness will last forever. Light shines in the darkness for the upright; the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.

Refrain

It is good for them to be generous in lending and to manage their affairs with justice. For they will never be shaken; the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance. They will not be afraid of any evil rumors; their heart is right; they put their trust in the Lord. Their heart is established and will not shrink, until they see their desire upon their enemies.

Refrain

They have given freely to the poor, and their righteousness stands fast forever; they will hold up their head with honor. The wicked will see it and be angry; they will gnash their teeth and pine away; the desires of the wicked will perish.

Refrain

The Christian Scriptures

The second lesson is read by Ingrid Burnett. There are no words to adequately describe the friendship and life guidance that this creative, compassionate mother of three has offered to Mike and JD. Ingrid is responsible for the couple's engagement photos, but her artistic talents are also expressed in paint, sculpture, needlework, and mixed media assemblages. She married her late husband Patrick on September 12, 1981.

Reader A Reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans
(12:9-18, 13:8-10)

Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above

yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with the Lord’s people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.

Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law. The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery,” “You shall not murder,” “You shall not steal,” “You shall not covet,” and whatever other command there may be, are summed up in this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” Love does no harm to a neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Gospel Acclamation and Reading From the Holy Gospel

The people stand, as able. The Cantor sings the Gospel Acclamation first; the congregation repeats, and then again after the verse.



Today’s Gospel will be read by The Reverend Jessica Elfring-Roberts, who was not only the youngest vocational Deacon to receive ordination in the Diocese of Chicago, but also in the national Episcopal Church.

A great confidant of Mike and JD’s, she is also a teacher in the Chicago Public Schools, and an improvisational comic. She was married to her wife Rebecca Elfring-Roberts on November 7, 2009 with whom she has a beautiful daughter, Eliza.

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark (12: 28-35).

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Deacon One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, “Of all the commandments, which is the most important?”

The most important one,” answered Jesus, “is this: ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.”

“Well said, teacher,” the man replied. “You are right in saying that God is one and there is no other but him. To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and with all your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself is more important than all burnt offerings and sacrifices.”

When Jesus saw that he had answered wisely, he said to him, “You are not far from the kingdom of God.” And from then on no one dared ask him any more questions.

The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Homily

The Reverend Brian Hastings

The People sit.

Years ago, JD and Brian met as they set up sleeping quarters on a home repair trip in Appalachia. Since that week, the two have collaborated on many projects together – including numerous annual fundraising and capital campaign solicitations, three years of Vestry work, and four years of JD’s reign as Warden of COS (a time during which Brian’s patience and perseverance was especially tested).

As honorary Chairman of the Board of Care for Friends, Brian dutifully continues to unroll a sleeping bag alongside JD in a tent each winter in Chicago. Through all of this, JD has been struck by the welcoming, pastoral care that Brian offers

to all he encounters – but more especially, he and his husband Roger have become trusted friends of Mike and JD. Roger and Brian were married at COS on June 7, 2014.

The Witnessing of the Vows the Blessing of the Covenant

The Presentation

The couple comes before the assembly.

When JD first met Peter England, he assumed that the former CEO of Elizabeth Arden would become a professional mentor. As the two made the rounds advocating for Chicago's homeless, however, it turned out that Peter and his wife Carol (whom he married on May 11, 1968) had much more advice to offer on how to build a vibrant romantic partnership. Peter joins JD's mom in presenting JD.

Mike is presented by his parents, Jim and Ruth Aden, who celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary this summer.

Presider Who presents Michael and James as they seek the blessing of God and the Church on their love and life together?

Presenters We do.

Presider Will you love, respect, and pray for Michael and James, and do all in your power to stand with them in the life they will share?

Presenters We will.

Speaking to the couple, the Presider continues

Presider Michael and James, you have come before God and the Church to exchange solemn vows with one another and to ask God's blessing.

Michael, do you freely and unreservedly offer yourself to James?

Answer I do.

Presider Will you live together in faithfulness and holiness of life as long as you both shall live?

Answer I will, with God's help.

Presider James, do you freely and unreservedly offer yourself to Michael?

Answer I do.

Presider Will you live together in faithfulness and holiness of life as long as you both shall live?

Answer I will, with God's help.

The People stand, as able, and the couple faces them. The Presider then addresses the congregation, saying

Presider Will all of you gathered to witness these vows do all in your power to uphold and honor this couple in the covenant they make?

People **We will.**

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

People **We will.**

The Prayers of the People

Presider Then let us pray for Michael and James in their life together and for the concerns of this community.

The Prayers are led today by Mike's aunt, Linda Commons. One of Mike's mother's sisters, Linda lived just a few miles from Mike when he first moved to the Chicago suburbs. Both have since moved into the city and continue to share many of life's events – big and small - together.

Leader For Michael and James seeking your blessing and the blessing of your holy people, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, in your mercy,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader For a spirit of loving-kindness to shelter them all their days, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, in your mercy,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader For friends to support them and communities to enfold them, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, in your mercy,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader For peace in their home and love in their family, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, in your mercy,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader For the honesty to acknowledge when they hurt each other, and the humility to seek each other's forgiveness and yours, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, in your mercy,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader Give to them such fulfillment of their mutual affection that they may reach out in love and concern for others, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, in your mercy,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader For the strength to keep the vows each of us has made, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, in your mercy,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader For all who have no faith, for those who have never heard words of hope or salvation, for those who have lost their faith, for the contemptuous and the scornful, for those who are enemies of the faithful, for those who in the name of God have persecuted others. That God will open their hearts to truth and love. Lord, in your mercy,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader For those who lead and serve in communities of faith, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, in your mercy,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader For victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, in your mercy,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader For communion with all who have died; especially those who died in their struggle for the rights, respect, and equality we enjoy and celebrate today.
Lord, in your mercy,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Presider Giver of every gift, source of all goodness, hear the prayers we bring before you for Michael and James, who seek your blessing this day. Strengthen them in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit, keep them in eternal life.

People **Amen.**

The Marriage

The People sit.

Mike and JD bring their individual candles to the front of the church, while Ingrid retrieves the ring box. The couple then stands, facing the Presider.

Presider Michael and James, I invite you now, illumined by the Word of God and strengthened by the prayer of this community, to make your covenant before God and the Church.

Each groom, in turn, takes the hand of the other and says

Mike In the name of God, I, Michael give myself to you, James, and take you to be my husband.

I will support and care for you: in times of sickness, in times of health.

I will hold and cherish you: in times of plenty, in times of want.

I will honor and love you: in times of anguish, in times of joy, forsaking all others, as long as we both shall live.

This is my solemn vow.

JD In the name of God, I, James give myself to you, Michael, and take you to be my husband.

I will support and care for you: in times of sickness, in times of health.

I will hold and cherish you: in times of plenty, in times of want.

I will honor and love you: in times of anguish, in times of joy,
forsaking all others, as long as we both shall live.

This is my solemn vow.

The couple then lights the Unity candle from their individual candles, leaving their own candles lit – symbolizing that while both men are complete individuals by themselves, they’ve now also created a special, inseparable bond today.

Presider Let us pray.

Bless, O God, these rings as signs of the enduring covenant
Michael and James have made with each other, through Jesus
Christ our Lord. Amen.

The two grooms place the rings on the fingers of one another, first the one, then the other, saying

James/Michael, 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 the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

The Pronouncement

The People stand, as able. The Presider joins the right hands of the couple.

Presider Now that Michael and James have given themselves to one
another by solemn vows, with the joining of hands and
receiving of rings, I pronounce that they are now wed to one
another in a holy covenant as long as they both shall live:
according to the laws of the State of Illinois, and in the Name
of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Those
whom God has joined together, let no one put asunder.

People **Amen.**

The Kiss of Peace

Presider The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

The people sit.

The Eucharist

Presider We celebrate two sacraments today. First, we bless the love and commitment of two individuals in the sacrament of holy matrimony. Second, we bless bread and wine as symbols of Christ's love for the world in the sacrament of the holy eucharist.

Earlier today, Mike and JD sponsored a luncheon for about 100 of Chicago's homeless – in the room right behind these stained glass windows. Later tonight, they will be hosting all of you at a reception nearby.

However, this holy eucharist will be Mike and JD's first meal as a married couple, and they are delighted to welcome everyone to share in the feast.

Walk in love as Christ loved us, and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

The Offertory

Where'er You Walk, by George Frideric Handel, 1736.

Where'er you walk, cool gales shall fan the glade.

Trees where you sit shall crowd into a shade.

Where'er you tread, the blushing flowers shall rise.

and all things flourish where'er you turn your eyes.

As the offertory is sung, the altar table is set. Gifts of bread and wine are presented by Ingrid Burnett, Sydney Miller and Kylie Miller on behalf of the entire assembly.

Episcopalians hold the eucharistic meal sacred and believe that when we come together to receive the bread and wine, we are joining with all believers who have come before us and all who are yet to come. The communion table is set with COS's silver chalice, engraved with the date of its first use (Easter of 1897), reminding all who drink from it that they are connected in this act with generations and generations of Chicagoans who have come to this place previously. The communion wine is poured from a borrowed crystal decanter that once belonged to JD's grandmother on his father's side – a woman whose tradition of elegant hospitality we carry on today.

When the table is set, it is "censed" (blessed with incense), as is the

assembled congregation, and the couple. Today, we are using a new incense blend that Mike and JD designed the weekend they got engaged. It contains elements of peach (representing Mike's home state of Georgia), frankincense (representing the sacredness of today), and a variety of herbs, grasses, and trees (including lemon!) inspired by the Chicago Bell Garden that the couple tend together.

Noting that the couple are wearing blue cufflinks loaned to them by JD's undergraduate advisor and lifelong friend Barbara Hall - this is the moment you might find a few different combinations of "something old, something new, something borrowed, and something blue" in today's ceremony.

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer B, Book of Common Prayer, page 367

Celebrant *People*
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Celebrant *People*
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People
It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Presider It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, 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:

People

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
pow - er, God of might, heav - en and earth are
full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the
high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the
high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

The people stand or kneel, as able.

Presider

Holy and gracious Father: 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 Father of all.

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

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord 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 he 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:

People



Christ has died; Christ is ris-en; Christ will come a - gain.

Christ has died; Christ is ris-en; Christ will come a - gain.

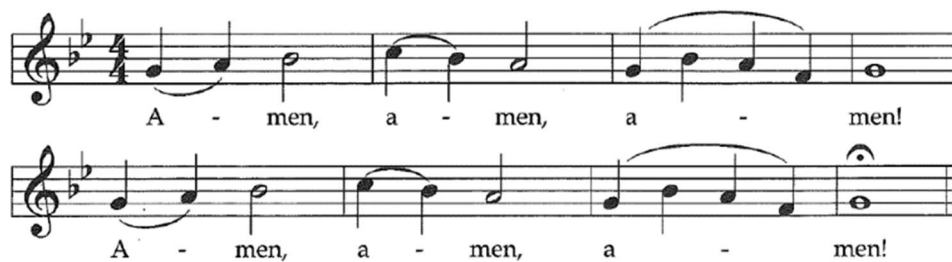
Presider

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his 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 him. 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 your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.

People



A - men, a - men, a - men!

A - men, a - men, a - men!

Presider

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

The Lord's Prayer

People

**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 and the Fraction Anthem

The Presider breaks the consecrated bread.

People

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have
mercy on us. world, grant us peace.

Communion

Presider These are the gifts of God. We are the People of God.

The People sit.

Jesus did not ask a religious test of the five thousand before feeding them, nor did he ask the wedding guests at Cana whether they were worthy. Instead, he simply offered a miracle – freely given – to anyone who wished to receive it.

In a similar way, the Communion table is offered to all today.

The People continue to sit throughout Communion until each row is invited to come forward to receive. Bread may be “intincted” in the chalice for those concerned about sharing the common cup. There is gluten-free bread available upon request.

If you do not want to receive Communion, you are welcome to come forward and receive a blessing instead – indicate so by folding your hands across your chest. Alternately, you may simply remain seated.

The bread and wine is offered with these words:

The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven. **Amen.**

The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation. **Amen.**

Communion Solo

Simple Song, by Leonard Bernstein and Stephen Schwartz, 1971.

Sing God a simple song.

Lauda, Laudē.

Make it up as you go along.

Lauda, Laudē.

Sing like you like to sing. God loves all simple things, for God is the simplest of all.

I will sing the Lord a new song to praise Him, to bless Him, to bless the Lord. I will sing His praises while I live all of my days. Blessed is the man who loves the Lord, blessed is the man who praises Him.

Lauda, Lauda, Laudē.

And walks in His ways.

I will lift up my eyes to the hills from whence comes my help. I will lift up my voice to the Lord, singing Lauda, Laudē. For the Lord is my shade, is the shade upon my right hand. And the sun shall not smite me by day nor the moon by night.

Blessed is the man who loves the Lord.

Lauda, Lauda, Laudē.

And walks in His ways.

Lauda, Lauda, Laudē.

Lauda, Lauda di da di day.

All of my days.

Post Communion Prayer

The People stand, as able.

Presider Let us pray.

People **God our strength and joy, we thank you for the communion of our life together, for the example of holy love that you give us in Michael and James, and for the Sacrament of the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Grant that it may renew our hope and nourish us for the work you set before us to witness to the presence of Christ in the world, through the power of your Spirit, and to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

The Dismissal

Blessing of the New Marriage

Presider Most gracious God, we praise you for the tender mercy and unfailing care revealed to us in Jesus Christ and for the great joy and comfort bestowed upon us in the gift of human love. We give you thanks for Michael and James 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 bless, preserve, and keep you, and mercifully grant you rich and boundless grace, that you may please God in body and soul. God make you a sign of the loving-kindness and steadfast fidelity manifest in the life, death, and resurrection of our Savior, and bring you at last to the delight of the heavenly banquet, where he lives and reigns for ever and ever.

People **Amen.**

Blessing of the People

Presider And now, may the blessing, mercy, and grace of God Almighty, God the Creator, God the Living Word, God the Holy Spirit, be upon you, and remain with you for ever.

People **Amen.**

Recessional

Trumpet Tune in D-Major, by Jeremiah Clarke, 1674-1707 (frequently attributed to Henry Purcell, 1658-1695).

Deacon Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

At the end of a long church service like this, many want to breathe a big sigh of relief and get quickly to the party that follows. Perhaps nobody is more ready for a break, however, than today's Minister of Ceremonies, Rebecca Cacayuran.

JD first met Rebecca when they both volunteered to cook a homeless meal together at what would eventually become Care For Friends. They continue to remain connected through the meal, as Rebecca serves on the Board of Episcopal Charities and Community Services, who is a key sponsor of the organization. She married her husband Art on January 20, 2007.

Postlude

Ode to Joy, from Beethoven's 9th Symphony. Arranged for organ by James Engel, 1929-1989.

Music Used In The Service

Prelude	Johann Sebastian Bach, 1685-1750
Processional	Johann Pachelbel, 1653-1706
Psalm	Portland Psalter
Gospel Acclamation	Complete Responsorial Psalter
Bell Composition	Carolyn Sacksteder
Offertory	George Frideric Handel, 1736
Sursum Corda	Hymnal 1982, #S210
Sanctus	Marty Haugen, 1984
Memorial Acclamation	Marty Haugen, 1984
Great Amen	Marty Haugen, 1984
Fraction Anthem	Marty Haugen, 1984
Communion Solo	Leonard Bernstein and Stephen Schwartz, 1971
Recessional	Jeremiah Clarke, 1674-1707 (frequently attributed to Henry Purcell, 1658-1695)
Postlude	James Engel, 1929-1989
Other Meditations	James Mouw

With Thanks

Mike and JD have many people to thank for making the events of this weekend possible:

For Those In the Church Service

Presider	The Reverend Brian Hastings
Deacon	The Reverend Jessica Elfring-Roberts
Minister of Ceremonies	Rebecca Cacayuran
Thurifer	Kevin Malone
Crucifer	Frank Labaty
Ushers, Gift Bearers	Sydney and Kylie Miller
Lectors	Michelle Meyer-Edley Ingrid Burnett
Intercessor	Linda Commons
Organist	Jim Mouw
Cantor	Gary Alexander
Presenters	Jim and Ruth Aden Jan Miller Peter England
Ring Bearer, Gift Bearer	Ingrid Burnett

For Those Involved In Other Activities

Hotel	Hotel Zachary
Reception	Salvatore's
Floral and Forestry	bunches (a flower shop)
Lighting and Production	FROST
Cake	Amy Beck Cake Design
DJ	Kristin Marks, Toast & Jam
Photography	Ryan Moore Photography
Videography	LEAP Weddings
Tailoring	Donnie Gordon, Formally Modern Tuxedo
Rings	Diamonds on Wabash
Printing	Rob Pruzinsky, Digby & Rose/Motumas
Rentals	Tablescapes, AFR Event Furnishings
Calligraphy	Caren Milman Calligraphy
Miscellaneous	Strawdog Theatre Company

A Very Special Thanks

At some point today, you may run into an engaging, energetic woman wearing fabulous shoes, perhaps talking into a headset to organize the many folks listed above. If so, you have met the incomparable Cindy Nachman-Senders.

We first met Cindy professionally, as her firm is an amazing organizer of corporate conferences and luxury sales club trips. Yet it was Cindy's intelligence, caring, wit, and creativity that also made her an immediate trusted friend of us both.

As two guys who never anticipated our marriage to even be a possibility, we hadn't given much thought to the details of throwing a wedding. We thought it could probably be organized in an afternoon!

When Cindy offered to plan the event as a wedding present, we started to think that perhaps we'd underestimated the effort involved. In the hundreds of hours that the CNS Consulting Group has spent on the project since then, we've truly come to appreciate what a generous gift Cindy has given us.

Cindy is an advisor, manager, counsellor, and therapist. Her taste is impeccable, and her team's attention to the smallest of details is impressive. Yet most of all, we are thrilled to count her as a friend.

We love you, Cindy!

And Finally ...

Our deepest thanks to each of you who blessed us with your presence today. We are honored to have your love and support.

Mike + JD