Order of Service: Marriage

St. Gregory of Nyssa Episcopal Church
San Francisco, California

This script provides a framework from which a Marriage Liturgy may be built. This script should stay in its original form so that each Marriage may be crafted as a separate document. The script may be revised/augmented as necessary.

Three Entrance options are given – the Couple may choose one.

Two Wedding options are given – the Couple may choose one.

Music selections should be photocopied and inserted into the script.
Setup

Rotunda
- Icon on wooden stand
- Gospel book on wooden stand
- Lit candle on tall candlestand

Welcome Table
- Guestbook
- Music books/bulletins

Altar Table
- vested with cloth
- 4 goblets
- 2 patens
- Missal
- 2 palls folded on right and left of the Table
- Altar lamps lit
- Alien egg (with small hole) below right edge of Table for processional cross

Seating Area
- Deacon 2’s chair marked with maniple
- Flyers with “Reserved for Family” placed on chairs in front rows
- Seating for Couple set up on Solea

Presider’s Chair
- Large brass candlesticks
- Processional cross in stand
- On Presider’s right: handbells, kleenx, pen
- On Presider’s left: collect book, cough drops, script, glass of water
- 3 smaller pot bells in a row and striker on edge of platform to Cantor’s right
- largest bell on floor to left of Cantor’s chair

Kitchen
- Ewer w 1/3 to /1/2 bottle wine in it
- 1 paten with 1 or 2 loaves of bread
Opening Rites

Three Entrance options are given. Pick the most appropriate option and delete the remaining two.

Entrance 1: Welcome in Rotunda with the Couple

- **People** gather in altar area.
- **Procession** *(The Couple and all vested)* gathered in vestry.
- **Cantor** begins choral Prelude.
  - at end of Prelude,
- **Bell ringer** rings tower bell.

Greeting Procession

- **Cantor** leads Choir in Entrance Anthem.
- **Procession** moves into Rotunda, kisses Table, and greets congregants.
  - **order of Procession:**
    - Deacon 2 *(with Candle)*
    - Deacon 1 *(with Book)*
    - Umbrella 1
    - Presider
    - Umbrella 2
    - The Couple
    - Umbrella 3
after congregation has been greeted,

**Procession** forms arc around curved edge of Table, with the **Presider** in the center.

when Choir finishes,

**Bell ringer** immediately rings gong.

**Presider** Christ is Risen!

**People** He is risen, indeed!

**Presider** Welcome to Saint Gregory’s! Please come all the way on to the wood floor…*ad lib,* transitions to *music* warm up.

**Cantor** Let’s sing together! Please open your books to Number __, ____________. Number ___.

**Cantor rehearses music.**

I think we’re ready to move on to the rest of the service!
**Deacon 1**  
We’ll move into the seating area together. Please go all the way to the far end of the building, noting that some seats are reserved with paper signs.  

Where we arrive at our seats, we’ll sing Number ___, so you may want to open your book now to Number ___.  

We’ll enter the seating area singing an Alleluia which ___(cantor)___ will teach us.

**Cantor**  
teaches and leads Alleluia refrain.  
*When congregation is comfortable, begins Psalm verses.*

**Procession to Seating Area**

**Deacon 2**  
*movess at second Alleluia cycle to lead the procession into the seating area. Pauses at the lectern to light the candle-lighter’s wick, goes to light the candles at the Presider’s chair, then stands to the Presider’s right, checking to see where readers are seated.*

**Presider**  
*follows Deacon A and stands on step in front of Presider’s chair.*

**Deacon 1**  
*follows Presider and stands to Presider’s left at chair.*

**Cantor**  
*stands at opposite end of platform until everyone is in place. Signals congregation to sing final Alleluia and moves to seat.*

**The Couple**  
*stands on Solea, _____(insert position)_____.*
Liturgy of the Word

Insense Hymn

Deacon 1  The blessing and Incense Hymn are found at Number ___ in your book. Number ___.

Cantor  gives pitch to Presider.
Deacon 1  gives Book to Presider.

Presider  signs the cross over the congregation with Book,

 Musical symbol  Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

hands book back to Deacon 1.

People  And blessed be God’s Kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

Cantor  leads Incense Hymn.

Deacon 2  Carries Candle to lectern, adds incense to the thurible, and lights all candles.
Entrance 2: Welcome in Rotunda with Bridal Procession

*People*  
gather in altar area.

*Procession (Groom and all vested)*  
gathered in vestry.

*Cantor*  
begins choral Prelude.

  at end of Prelude,

*Bell ringer*  
rings tower bell.

Greeting Procession

*Cantor*  
leads Choir in Entrance Anthem.

*Procession*  
moves into Rotunda, kisses Table, and greets congregants.

  order of Procession:

  *Deacon 2* (with Candle)
  *Deacon 1* (with Book)
  *Umbrella 1*
  *Presider*
  *Umbrella 2*
  *Groom*
  *Umbrella 3*

  after congregation has been greeted,

*Procession*  
forms arc around curved edge of Table, with the *Presider* in the center.

  when Choir finishes,

*Bell ringer*  
immediately rings gong.
**Presider**  Christ is Risen!

**People**  He is risen, indeed!

**Presider**  Welcome to Saint Gregory’s! Please come all the way on to the wood floor... *ad lib, transitions to music warm up.*

**Cantor**  Let’s sing together! Please open your books to Number ___, ___________.
Number ___.

*Cantor rehearses music.*

I think we’re ready to move on to the rest of the service!

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**Deacon 1**  We’ll move into the seating area together. Please go all the way to the far end of the building, noting that some seats are reserved with paper signs.

Where we arrive at our seats, we’ll sing Number ___ so you may want to open your book now to Number ___.

We’ll enter the seating area singing an Alleluia which ____*(cantor)____ will teach us.

*Cantor*  *teaches and leads Alleluia refrain.*

*When congregation is comfortable, begins Psalm verses.*
Procession to Seating Area

Deacon 2 moves at second Alleluia cycle to lead the procession into the seating area. Pauses at the lectern to light the candle-lighter’s wick (when are candles lit? Mexican candelabra? Also in other entries. goes to light the candles at the Presider’s chair, then stands to the Presider’s right, checking to see where readers are seated.

Presider follows Deacon A and stands on step in front of Presider’s chair.

Deacon 1 follows Presider and stands to Presider’s left at chair.

Cantor stands at opposite end of platform until everyone is in place. Signals congregation to sing final Alleluia and moves to seat.

Groom stands on Solea, (insert position).
Liturgy of the Word

Insense Hymn

Deacon 1 The blessing and Incense Hymn are found at Number ___ in your book. Number ___.

Cantor gives pitch to Presider.
Deacon 1 gives Book to Presider.

Presider signs the cross over the congregation with Book.

♫ Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

hands book back to Deacon 1.

People ♪ And blessed be God’s Kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

Cantor leads Incense Hymn.

Bridal Party and Bride enters from Chapel
Bridal Party is seated
Bride joins Groom on Solea.

Deacon 2 waits for Bride to join Groom, then carries Candle to lectern, adds incense to the thurible, and lights all candles.
Entrance 3: Congregants are seated and Bridal Party processes in

Opening Rites

*People* are seated in Seating area.
*Clergy* are gathered in Vestry.
*Bridal Party* are gathered in Chapel.
*Grooms Party* are gathered outside front doors?

*Cantor* begins Choral Prelude
at end of Prelude, the family members are escorted
to their seats.

**Deacon 1** Please stand and sing Number ___,
_________________. Number ___.

*Procession* moves to Solea.
*Order of Procession:*
*Presider*
*Deacon 2* (with Candle)
*Deacon 1* (with Book)
*Groomsman*
*Groom*
*Bridesmaids*
*Bride*

*All* take their places.
*Couple* stands in front of *Presider.*
Liturgic of the Word

Incense Hymn

**Deacon 1** The blessing and Incense Hymn are found at Number ___ in your book. Number ___.

*Cantor* gives pitch to *Presider*.

*Deacon 1* gives Book to *Presider*.

**Presider** signs the cross over the congregation with Book,

🎵 Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

*hands book back to Deacon 1.*

**People** 🎵 And blessed be God’s Kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

*Cantor* leads Incense Hymn.

**Deacon 2** *Carries Candle to lectern, adds incense to the thurible, and lights all candles.*

*End Entrance options.*
Declaration

Presider ♫ The Lord be with you.
People ♫ And also with you.
Presider ♫ Let us pray.
Almighty everlasting God,
Let our prayer in your isgn be an incense,
The lifting up of our hands as the evening sacrifice.
Give us grace to behold you,
Present in your word and sacraments,
Shining in the faces of bride and bridegroom,
and radiant in the faces of those around us.
Stir up in us the flame of that love which burned in the heart of your son as he lived and died for us:
Let that light burn in us to eternal life and to the ages of ages.
AMEN.

The congregation is seated.

The Couple’s Declaration is inserted here.

The Couple takes their seats on the Solea.
Readings

**First Reading**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Deacon 1 (standing)</th>
<th>We’ll sing the Sh’ma, found at Number ___ in your books. Number ___.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cantor</td>
<td>gives pitch</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Deacon 1 (chanting)</th>
<th>“Sh’mah Yisrael, Adonia…”</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Deacon 2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Deacon 1            | During the Sh’mah  
|                     | Deacon 2 brings Reader to lectern and stands to Reader’s left.  
|                     | Deacon 1 joins Reader at lectern and stands to Reader’s right.  |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Deacon 2</th>
<th>Please take your seats for a reading from ______________.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reader</th>
<th>reads texts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Immediately following reading,

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cantor</th>
<th>Rings Pot Bells to begin silence.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Deacons</th>
<th>thank Reader and return to seats.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Presider</th>
<th>observes two minutes of silence, then rings Hand Bells.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
Psalm

Deacon 1  We’ll sing chant Psalm ___, on page ___ in your books.

Cantor  teaches and leads Psalm.

Deacon 2  brings Reader to lectern and stands to Reader’s left.

Deacon 1  follows Reader to lectern and stands to Reader’s right.
Second Reading

*Deacon 2*  
Please take your seats for a reading from __________.

*Reader* reads texts

Immediately following reading,

*Cantor*  
*Rings Pot Bells to begin silence.*

*Deacons* thank *Reader* and return to seats.

*Presider*  
*Observes two minutes of silence, then rings Hand Bells.*

*Deacon 1*  
We’ll sing Number __, “____________.”

Please stand and sing Number ___.

*Cantor* leads congregation in hymn.

*Deacon 2*  
brings *Reader* to lectern and stands to *Reader’s* left.

*Deacon 1*  
joins *Reader* at lectern and stands to *Reader’s* right.
Gospel Reading

Deacon 2 ♫ A reading from the Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to ________.

People 🙌 Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Reader reads/sings Gospel reading.

Deacon 2 ♫ The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ!

Deacon 2 leads Reader back to seat.
Deacon 1 brings Book to Preacher.

Cantor rings pot bells to begin silence.
Presider rings hand bells to end silence.

Sermon

Preacher offers sermon, signaling to Cantor when complete.
No bells, no sharing.
The Wedding

There are two options given for the Wedding. Pick the most appropriate and delete the remaining.

Wedding 1: Vows are said on the Solea, followed by Prayers, Tripudium

Vows

The Couples’ Vows are inserted here.

Prayers

Deacon 2 steps onto solea with maniple,

We’ll sing the Lord's Prayer found on page ____ in your book.

After our prayers are offered, we will finish singing together.

Please stand and sing number ____.

Cantor leads congregation in singing Lord’s Prayer through “and deliver us from evil.”

Chosen congregants offer written prayers.

Prayers to be read by congregants may be inserted here.
Presider offers final prayer

Presider’s final prayer may be inserted here.

Cantor leads the congregation in the end of the Lord’s Prayer

Presider offers blessing

Presider’s blessing may be inserted here.

Tripudium

Deacon 1 starts speech immediately (see below).

Presider demonstrates step, then goes to head of leftmost line.

Couple follow Presider to head of leftmost line.

Cantor demonstrates step, then remains on platform to lead step, finally joining at the end of a line.

Deacon 2 goes to kitchen to help people with gifts.

Thurifer goes to kitchen door to lead gifts in procession.

Other Clergy go to the head of other lines.
Deacon 1  steps onto platform,
We will go up to the Table in step, singing
___(name of hymn)___, found on your colored sheet.
The step is very simple; if you’ll look at all of us up here, we will show you how it goes.
Starting on your right foot, go right, left, right, back; (demonstrates)
right, left, right, back;
right left, right, back.
Please place your hand on the shoulder of the person in front of you.
______ (Cantor), will tell us when to step off.

Cantor  When we get to the word ”__________,”
please step off on your right foot and start the right, left, right, back pattern.

Cantor  leads the Tripudium, and starts people moving at the right time, calling for additional stanzas if needed to get everyone circling the Table.
Deacons  help family to move close to the Table when all are gathered.
Transfer of the Gifts

**Deacon 2**

Assembles people helping with gifts and Thurifer into a line.

Helps them step off during the Tripudium, dancing to the Table.

**Deacon 1**

receives the gifts and places them on the table, (wine on left side, bread on right); fills first chalice 1/4 full of wine.

The Peace

**Presider**

_______ and ________, please lead us in offering to one another the sign of God’s peace
The Peace of the Lord be with you all!

**People**

And also with you!

**The Couple** share a kiss.

**Deacons, Presider** kiss the table and exchange the Peace with each other, then turn to exchange the Peace with people, moving quickly to the Table.

**Thurifer** brings the thurible to the kitchen.
**Wedding 2: Tripudium, Vows and Prayers are said at Altar**

**Tripudium**

**Is there a transfer of the gifts for Wedding Option 2?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Instructions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Deacon 1</td>
<td>starts speech immediately (see below).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presider</td>
<td>demonstrates step, then goes to head of leftmost line.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Couple</td>
<td>follows Presider to head of leftmost line.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cantor</td>
<td>demonstrates step, then remains on platform to lead step, finally joining at the end of a line.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deacon 2</td>
<td>goes to kitchen to help people with gifts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurifer</td>
<td>goes to kitchen door to lead gifts in procession.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Clergy</td>
<td>go to the head of other lines.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Deacon 1**

steps onto platform,

We will go up to the Table in step, singing

___(name of hymn)___, found on your colored sheet.

The step is very simple; if you’ll look at all of us up here, we will show you how it goes.

Starting on your right foot, go right, left, right, back; *(demonstrates)*

right, left, right, back;

right left, right, back.

Please place your hand on the shoulder of the person in front of you.

_______(Cantor), will tell us when to step off.
**Cantor**

When we get to the word "______________," please step off on your right foot and start the right, left, right, back pattern.

*Cantor*  leads the Tripudium, and starts people moving at the right time, calling for additional stanzas if needed to get everyone circling the Table.

*Deacons*  help move family near the Table when all arrive.

**Vows**

The couples Vows are inserted here.

**Prayers**

*Deacon 2*

We'll sing the Lord's Prayer found on page ___ in your book.

After our prayers are offered, we will finish singing together.

*Cantor*  leads congregation in singing Lord’s Prayer through “and deliver us from evil.”

*Chosen congregants*  offer written prayers.

Prayers to be read by congregants may be inserted here.
**Presider** offers final prayer

Presider’s final prayer may be inserted here.

**Cantor** leads the congregation in the end of the Lord’s Prayer

**Presider** offers blessing

Presider’s blessing may be inserted here.

The Peace

**Presider** ______ and ________, please lead us in offering to one another the sign of God’s peace. The Peace of the Lord be with you all!

**People** And also with you!

The Couple share a kiss.

Deacons, Presider kiss the table and exchange the Peace with each other, then turn to exchange the Peace with people, moving quickly to the Table.

Thurifer brings the thurible to the kitchen.

End Wedding Options.
Eucharist

Deacon 1  makes sure the Presider has the cross and the Cantor has the sistrum, then stands to the Presider’s right. Throughout the prayer turns pages for Presider.

Deacon 2  stands back from the Table (inviting others in), to Presider’s left.

Cantor  shaking sistrum,
Please make room for the choir over here, and open your books to number ____.

All Vested  gesturing to the People
       ♫ Draw Near! Draw near!

Deacon [ ]  ♫ Parents, take your children in hand!
        Let us love one another that we may offer the Holy Sacrifice in Peace!

People  ♫ A blessing of peace, a sacrifice of praise!

Presider  blesses congregation with the cross,
       ♫ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ ✝ the Love of God ✝ and the Communion of the Holy Spirit ✝ be with you all!  hands the cross to the closest Deacon.

People  ♫ And also with you.

Presider  ♫ Lift up your hearts!

People  ♫ We lift them to the Lord.
Deacon 1 and 2  remove palls from chalices and patens, fold and place on table.

Presider

รณ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People 🙏 It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Cantor offers a pitch then starts a drone.

Presider sings the Anaphora from the missal.

Servant of God

Deacon 1 arranges loaves on patens and breaks bread.

Deacon 2 fills chalices, closes Missal and moves it to welcome table.

All Vested lift patens and chalices high and turn in a circle as the Presider sings

Presider 🙌 Holy gifts for holy people.

People 🙏 “One is holy…”

Deacon 1 Jesus welcomes everyone to his table, so we offer communion to everyone, and to everyone by name.

If you think we’ll need help with your name, please help us out

offers bread and wine to Presider saying,

___(Presider’s name)___, the Body of Christ. (Amen)

The Blood of Christ. (Amen)
Presider offers bread and cup to the Couple, Deacons, Cantor, and Communion Ministers.

Cantor receives, then goes to lead Communion music.

Deacons 1 and 2 receive, then distribute communion according to distribution plan.

Communion Ministers distribute communion according to distribution plan; communicate choir as soon as music is finished.

Deacon 1 return all patens and chalices to table and cover with palls; give Presider final prayer from Missal.

Cantor During Communion, we’ll sing Number ____, “____(name of hymn)___.” Number ___.

Cantor leads Congregation in hymn.

Additional music may be sung by the Congregation or the Choir

Polychronia

Deacon 1 We’ll sing Number ___, the Polychronia, to _______ and _______. Please sing Number ___ three times.

Presider To _____ and ______, O Lord grant them longlife and peace and protection and many years!

All sing the Polychronia
**Carol**

**Deacon 2** We’ll sing the carol, ____*(name of hymn)*____, found on your colored hymn sheet. ____*(repeat name of hymn)*____.

Carol is an old English word meaning to sing and dance, so we’ll dance the carol to a step that ______ will now show us.

**Teacher:** To make this easy for you, we’ll surround you with people who’ve done it before.
Mix yourselves up until you’ve got somebody on either side of you whose done it before.
Now place your right hand on the shoulder of the person to your right, and start walking to the right until we can all move…. *Teacher teaches step until familiar.*

**Deacons 1 and 2** encourage experienced people to mix in with newcomers

**Cantor** hums starting pitch during last practice of step, then leads the Carol.

**Deacon 1** The feasting continues! *Offers closing words and instructions.* And…

**All Clergy** Let us bless the Lord!

**People** Thanks be to God!