

## Marriage Liturgy

**Husband:** At death we will part.

**Wife:** Therefore, let us not take for granted the blessing of our life together.

*(Silence is kept as both spouses consider for a moment the gravity of this truth).*

**Male leader:** May our hearts be ever drawn toward you, O Lord, in whose three-personed perfection of love burns the fire that would kindle our two-personed imperfection into a oneness that is warmed and forged of your holy flames.

**Female leader:** A oneness that is both an echo and a seed and a play upon a stage, portraying the promise of union with Christ that is to come.

**As One:** (Hold hands) We are unworthy players, O Lord, unworthy to portray your glory. We are weak. We are jealous. We are easily wounded. We are petty. We are embittered. We store up remembrances of wrongs. We are insecure. We hurt one another. We do not deal with our conflicts well. We fail to love as you have loved. Forgive us even the failures of this day.

*(Pause 1-2 minutes)*

*If either husband or wife has need to make amends, ask for forgiveness in the ways that you've lacked in your pursuit for one another this week.*

**Husband:** I am not strong enough in my own strength to be a husband to you.

**Wife:** And I am not strong enough in my own strength to be a wife to you.

**Husband:** Let us turn to God together then, asking for the strength that we need.

*Continue to hold hands*

**As one:** Lord give us the strength that comes from the grace that flows from your heart alone. So that we might live and move and breathe in the air of that grace, receiving it in ourselves, and then offering it daily to one another. Without grace, our marriage will wither as a vine unrooted. But sustained by your grace, it will ever flourish.

**Husband:** Forgive us our failures and our sins against one another and against our marriage, O God, and restore now our hearts to you and to each other.

**Wife:** Repair the damages of our selfishness, our thoughtlessness, our inconsistencies. Draw us again together at the close of this day, in love, and forgiveness, and fellowship, and peace.

**Male leader:** Help each of these couples to pursue and love one another in a different way than they did when this day started. More at the close of this day than we did at its dawning.

**Female leader:** Empower each of these marriages to make the choice to treasure one another and not neglect one another at the end of this week more than at the beginning.

**Husband:** May we hold one another as more precious, more respected, and more dear at the close of this month, than we did at its beginning.

**Wife:** So, help us to delight in our companionship and take heart in the sharing of our day to day and see a difference at the end of this year than we did at the beginning.

**As one:** Protect our marriage and give us eyes for one another. Teach us to be friends and lovers and companions. May our marriage exist not only for our benefit but may the bond between us grow to be a shelter and a blessing for others as well.

**Husband:** Pray over your wife

**Wife:** Pray over your husband

Exercise adapted from “*Every Moment Holy*”