

Wedding of Elsa and John

June 22, 2019 — Schaghticoke, New York

Processional

- Anna & John enter
- Bridesmaids: Misbah, Shannon, Danielle, Karina
- Siblings: Charlotte Wolff & Erik Gonsiorowski
- Matron of Honor: Anna
- Father & Mother with the Bride
- Music:
- Music for bride:

Opening Remarks

We are here at a time of happiness to celebrate Elsa and John's love and the commitment they have made to marriage.

It is fitting and appropriate that you, the family and friends, be here to witness and participate in their wedding, because the ideals, the understanding, and the mutual respect that they bring to their marriage have their roots in the love, friendship, and guidance that you have given them.

Elsa and John have created this ceremony by weaving together the threads of tradition, creating a fabric that represents who they are together.

Opening Blessing

Marriage is a sacred event. Elsa and John present a relationship that has been challenged by time and personal change. Their love has prevailed by virtue of its strengths. Yet marriage adds a new dimension, which they approach with enthusiasm and deepening love. Today, Elsa and John start a new life together, different from the togetherness they have shared so far.

In the presence of God, our hearts are filled with great happiness on this special wedding day. Elsa and John come before us pledging their love and their hearts to one another.

May they be ever true and loving; may they fill their hearts with kindness and understanding, forgive each other's weaknesses, and laugh together often. May they be companions and partners, meeting the joys and cares of life as one. As the years pass, may their love deepen and mature, and may their home be truly a place of love and joy.

This wedding day is blessed. Elsa and John, we pray that all your days together will be blessed ones.

Readings

- Erik
- Char

God, hear our prayers for Elsa and John, who today are united in marriage. Give them your blessing and strengthen their love for each other. We ask You this through our God.

Exchange of Vows

Elsa and John have chosen the following vows.

John's Vows

I, John, give to you, Elsa, my hand and my love. I will respect you, honor you, and live my life openly with you. Through my love for you, I pledge to work to increase your happiness and to diminish your sorrows. I promise to cherish and protect you in good fortune and in adversity from this day forward.

Elsa's Vows

I, Elsa, take you, John to be no other than yourself
loving what I know of you
trusting what I do not yet know
with respect for your integrity
and faith in your love for me
through all our years
and in all that life may bring us.

I promise to love, honor, and cherish you in times of hardship and in times of happiness, and I pledge my fidelity as a token of love and honor.

Together they say

May God grant us the strength to keep all the pledges we are making today.

Exchange of Rings

In keeping with the declaration you have made, you give and you receive these rings. They are tokens of your union, symbols of enduring loyalty. May they ever remind you that your lives are to be bound together by devotion, love, and commitment.

As John places the ring on Elsa's finger, he says

Elsa, I give you this ring as a symbol of my commitment to love, honor, and respect you. I pledge to you all that I am and all that I will ever be.

As Elsa places the ring on John's finger, she says

John, I give you this ring as a symbol of my commitment to love, honor, and respect you. I pledge to you all that I am and all that I will ever be.

Blessing

God, bestow your blessings upon Elsa and John as they unite their lives in your name. Cause them to prosper in their life together. Teach them to share the joys and trials of life and to grow in understanding and in devotion. May love and companionship abide within the home they establish. May they grow old together in health and contentment by this union of their lives.

The Pronouncement

In the presence of this company as witness you have spoken the words and performed the rites that unite your lives. I, therefore, declare you, John and Elsa, husband and wife, married in accordance with the laws of the state of New York and according to your traditions. God bless you and keep you together.

You may kiss.

Recessional

- Music:
- John & Elsa
- Anna. Bridesmaids.