

*Sermon for the Marriage of Dan Allen Eveler & Catherine Marie Zoller
Saint James Evangelical Lutheran Church / Brogue, Chanceford Township, Pennsylvania
Saturday, 18.vi.2005, 18.00, The Order for Marriage with Holy Communion
Psalm 100; John 15:9-12*

J. J. !

Grace to you and peace from Him Who is and Who was and Who is to come!

✠ Amen.

*“As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you;
abide in my love. If you keep my commandments,
you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my
Father’s commandments and abide in His love.
These things I have spoken to you that my joy may
Be in you, and that your joy may be full. This is
My commandment, that you love one another as
I have loved you.” -- John 15:9-12*

Because we live in a pluralistic and geographically scattered society, it is rare to witness the marriage of two people who come from the same community of faith, the same congregation, and even the same choir within that congregation, *this* congregation. But, here is where Dan and Cathy became acquainted, then attracted to each another, then interested in each other and, then, it was out of their life in this community of God’s love that they came to recognize their particular love for each other. That is why they stand before this Altar today, inviting us and the God Who created their love as witnesses to their marriage. It is a joy to be here and to see this day, for those who may consider themselves instrumental in making this match, for the rest of us who have watched their courtship and their growing together as members of a large and loving family, and for all who love this man and this woman and who pray God’s blessing on their life together!

Dan and Cathy had no trouble selecting Scripture readings for their wedding day. The overflowing joy and praise of Psalm 100 is bright enough to express any happiness we may enjoy in life and the delight of faith in the majestic presence of God. The Gospel, from Jesus’ parting address to His Disciples, simply seemed to fit with Dan’s and Cathy’s sense of what love is in

its basic form. That basic form and pattern of love they and the Church find in the love of God so great that God chose freely to share our humanity and to pass with us through all the experiences of a faith-filled life, even through the gate of death. Just as Our Lord said to His disciples, Dan and Cathy are not asking anything of each other more than the committed love they have already modeled for each other, a love that even, as today's Gospel goes on to say, will lay down one's own life itself for the beloved.

In caring for not only each other, but also for other family members, and in rearranging their lives and goods so as to be able to share a common future under a single roof, Dan and Cathy have already begun to live a love which not only gives and receives kindness and affection, but which also *works together* to build a common future, just as they had already worked together as members of the same congregation of the Church, the Body of Christ. In choosing to invite to their wedding the Christ Who invites all to His Holy Supper, the Christ Who nourishes His Body, the Church, with His own Body and Blood, with His very life, Dan and Cathy invite us also to share that future with them by faith. ✠ Amen.

Now to Him Who loves us and has freed us from our sins by His blood, to Him be glory and dominion with the Father and the Holy Spirit, both now and forever. ✠ Amen.

S. D. G. !