

O God of Abraham, God of Isaac, God of Jacob, we give Thee hearty thanks for that it hath pleased Thee to bestow upon these Thy servants the inestimable blessing of fifty years of happy wedded life, and that Thou hast granted unto them to see their children's children and peace upon Israel. And, now, O Lord, we pray Thee to continue Thy mercies to them, that they, always being in safety under Thy protection, may abide in Thy love unto their lives' end, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

O God, Who hast consecrated the holy estate of matrimony to signify and represent the spiritual marriage and unity betwixt Christ and His Church, we beseech Thee to accept this Service of Thanksgiving, which these Thy servants offer unto Thee for Thy most precious gift of unbroken love and affection to one another, whereby this Thy servant has loved his wife, even as Christ did love His spouse the Church, and this Thy handmaid also has been loving and amiable to her husband, and in all quietness, sobriety and peace has shown herself a pattern to her children and children's children. O Lord, bless them both and grant them to continue in Thy love unto their lives' end, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

God the Father, God the Son, etc.

#### HYMN.

Lord of our lives, in whom abide  
Years past and years to be,  
A father's, mother's, children's hearts  
In praise ascend to Thee.

We thank Thee for the golden day  
Which crowns the fifty years  
Of lengthened life and strengthened  
love,

Of peace and vanquished fears.

We thank Thee for the mother's  
heart.

Right womanly and pure ;  
For father, prudent, vigilant,  
And patient to endure.

Lord in the days before us all  
In wisdom make us strong,  
Heaven's light our guide, help all to fill  
Our homes with joyful song.

#### THE HOLY COMMUNION.

*Special Collect.* — Almighty God, Who at the beginning didst create our first parents Adam and Eve, and didst sanctify and join them together in marriage, and hast granted unto these Thy servant and Thine handmaid to see this day the close of fifty years of happy wedded life, pour out upon them to-day, as they offer themselves afresh to Thee in this Thy Holy Sacrament, the fulness of Thy grace, that they may please Thee ever more and more both in body and soul, until they come to Thine everlasting kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

*Epistle.* — Eph. v. 25-27 inclusive, *beginning*, "Christ loved the Church."

*Gospel.* — St. Mark, x. 6-9 inclusive, *beginning*, "From the beginning of the Creation."

*Prayer Immediately before the Benediction.*

(Composed by Bishop G. J. Mountain.)

O Lord God, whose tender mercies are over all Thy works, we pray Thee to bless all the members of this family present or absent, both spiritually and temporally : to sanctify to them all the dispensations of Thy fatherly hand : to relieve them in their sorrow and teach them to trust always in Thy goodness. Keep them O Lord in body and in mind ; do for them according to their several necessities : preserve them in all dangers : succour, comfort and direct them in all their ways : make them happy, if it please Thee, in this world, and bring them unto Thine everlasting kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

MAKE a little fence of trust

About to-day :

Fill the space with loving work,

And therein stay :

Look not through the sheltering bars

Upon to-morrow ;

God will help thee bear what comes

Of joy or sorrow.