

BRIAN & ALY

- The Procession

- The Invocation

We gather here remembering our Baptism, and do so in the name of The Father, The Son and The Holy Spirit. Amen.

Please be seated.

Doubly blessed is the couple that comes to the marriage altar with the approval and blessings of their families and friends. Who has the honor of presenting this woman to be married to this man?

(Randy answers on behalf of him & Barb, kisses Aly and returns to his seat.)

- The Introduction

(Aly & Brian Face Me)

Dear friends and family, with great affection for Aly and Brian, we are gathered together to witness and bless their union in marriage. To this sacred moment they bring the fullness of their hearts as a treasure and a gift from God to share with one another.

They bring their dreams which bind them together in an eternal commitment. They bring their gifts and talents, their unique personalities and spirits, which God will unite together into one being as they build their life together.

We rejoice with them in thankfulness to the Lord, for creating this union of hearts, built on friendship, respect and love.

My name is Rick Johnson and not only am I Aly's extremely proud Uncle, but am also a Deacon in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

With great joy, all of us present here, along with our family Saints in heaven, rejoice with God at this wedding of Brian & Aly. Among the many blessings this couple has received is the tremendous example of Christian Marriage shown them by their parents. Brian's parents Doug & Liz will celebrate 31 years of marriage this year, while Aly's parents Randy & Barb will celebrate their 30th this very year. Congratulations & God Bless You.

BRIAN & ALY

- The Reading(s)

- *Aunty Jean & Uncle Mike Bromer will do readings.*

At this time I would like to call on Aly's Aunty Jean, who will give one of the Readings..... 1 Corinthians 13:4-8

Brian's Uncle Mike will now read our second passage from the Bible.

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

Two are better than one,

because they have a good return for their labor:

10 If either of them falls down,

one can help the other up.

But pity anyone who falls

and has no one to help them up.

11 Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm.

But how can one keep warm alone?

12 Though one may be overpowered,

two can defend themselves.

A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.

BRIAN & ALY

- The Message

- "A Cord Of Three Strands Is Not Easily Broken"
HMMMM... Well we're going to come back to that....

Brian & Aly.... At the outset I'll warn you many people might find it a bit reckless to take any Wedding Day advice from your Uncle Rick - but that's what's coming.

When we discussed this ceremony, we talked about how you met, and how you grew to know and love each other. For those that don't know the love story - here are the broad strokes....

Apparently, though you met while still in High School - it wasn't until college where you really got to know each other. Both of you went to ISU - and Aly had a car. Soon, there were long rides to visit your siblings in Peoria. And over those rides as well as other dates, your relationship started to blossom.

You chose to begin a relationship that started with liking each other and that deepened into a love. Over time both of you started thinking - Hey maybe this is the one? You made plans for a future together.

Brian got on his knee on that beautiful beach in Florida and proposed the 2 of you spend your life together - and Aly accepted. All of these steps throughout your courtship were carefully considered and chosen by the two of you, right?

Well, NOT ENTIRELY TRUE. Let me tell you what really happened... There is a book in the Old Testament called Proverbs. It's one of my favourites because it gives practical wisdom that can be used throughout life. Purportedly much of it was written by King Solomon.

There is a passage in Chapter 16 Verse 9 composed of just 13 words. But it explains what really happened in your relationship and why you are here today.

BRIAN & ALY

Proverbs 16:9

*In their hearts humans plan their course,
but the Lord establishes their steps.*

You are here today, because Almighty God ordained, before you were born, that you would marry here today. In his Grace and love for all Mankind, he decided to create Brian & Aly for the express purpose of uniting them in Marriage this very day.

Brian & Aly, the only decision you are making today is to Follow God's Will.

At times, I contemplate what Heaven could be like. I have this vision where all of the Saints that have gone on before us, can Walk, Talk and converse with Christ whenever they want. Maybe they even play Golf together. And that God has shared with these Saints the plans he has for you.

Brian, I can see the Lord talking to your Sainted Grandfather about this woman Aly that he created for you to marry. Aly, I smile when I think that God took your maternal grandfather aside, Russ Johnson, and told him about his Granddaughter, who was not yet even born, and the man he would create for her to share her life with. And all in Heaven rejoiced in God's Plans for you.

I said that we would come back to the reading that Uncle Mike read from Ecclesiastes today. It talked about how the 2 of you love, support, comfort & defend each other. And then the last line says "a cord of THREEE Strands is not quickly broken"

3 strands? Well who or what is the 3rd strand? Clearly Brian & Aly make up 2 of these Strands - but the 3rd? The simple answer would be "God must be the 3rd Strand" It could be - in fact it should be. But that 3rd Strand to your cord is whatever you choose it to be.

BRIAN & ALY

And that is the challenge before you. In a life ahead that presents many choices - both Good & Bad- it is up to you to make decisions that keep you together, that grow your love, that keep you centered on your faith.

I implore you to make that 3rd Strand, your Savior, your faith, your family, your friends, your love for each other - all the things that keep strong the Commitment you are making today.

Brian, I will leave a last bible verse with you, again from Proverbs..... This one verse 19:14

*Houses and wealth are inherited from parents,
but a prudent wife is from the Lord.*

Brian, you & I have at least one thing in common. In the Marriage Derby, both of us Hit the Lotto - without ever buying a ticket.

May both of you grow your love, faith, happiness throughout the life you have in front of you. There is nothing that can defeat you if you face it with the 3 strands of your cord you tie today.

In Jesus Name, Amen.

BRIAN & ALY

- Ceremony Of The Rings.

Brian & Aly will you turn towards your family & friends please.....

Brian & Aly, as a symbol of your love and commitment you will shortly be exchanging wedding rings. Although you each wear only one of them, these rings essentially belong to you both. For they are a symbol of the love you share and the promise you make to each other that it will be a strong and lasting love.

Throughout the years these rings will remind you of your vow to grow along with one another, to face the challenges of life, to remain one another's first earthly priority and keep your relationship rich and full. These rings are visual symbols of strength and comfort in times of uncertainty. They will heighten your joy of the new life you share together starting in but a few minutes. They symbolize that you never again walk alone - for your love will be with you forever.

At this time, I would like to invite Brian & Aly's Wedding Party, their parents, grandparents, brothers & sisters to pass the rings between one another and to warm the precious metal with their wishes, prayers, and blessings for Brian & Aly.

As they do this I ask that all others present offer a silent blessing or prayer for this couple, for their marriage, and their future.

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BRIAN & ALY

- The Vows

Brian & Aly, will you turn towards me please.

Well, this has all been pretty fun so far, but as the Phantom of The Opera observed late in the final act- We Have Reached The Point of No Return! Eddie's On Charley, they're in the Gate and the Flag is Up? Are you ready to get married?

All Right Then.... Here we go.....Mr. Best Man, be at the ready with those Rings.... Miss Maid of Honor will you take Aly's Flowers?

Aly & Brian will you please face each other.

Brian, take Aly's left hand & place this ring on her finger while you repeat after me:

I, Brian Russell Grewe, take you Alyssa Nicole Gray, to be my wedded wife, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, 'til death do us part: according to God's holy ordinance, and thereto I pledge you my love and faithfulness.

Aly, take Brian's left hand & place this ring on his finger and repeat after me:

I, Alyssa Nicole Gray, take you, Brian Russell Grewe, to be my wedded husband, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, 'til death do us part: according to God's holy ordinance, and thereto I pledge you my love and faithfulness.

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- **The Wedding Prayer**

Let us pray for Aly & Brian in their life together.

Faithful Lord, source of love, pour down your Grace upon Aly & Brian, that they may fulfill the vows they have made this day and reflect your steadfast love in their life-long faithfulness to each other.

As members with them of the Body of Christ, use us to support their life together; and from your great store of strength give them Power & Patience, Affection & Understanding, Courage and Love toward you, toward each other and toward the world, that they may continue together in mutual growth according to your will in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

- **The Pronouncement**

Aly and Brian if you would join hands and face your family & Friends....

By the authority vested me by the County of Kane, in the State of Illinois, in these United States of America, and most importantly through the divine will of our Lord Jesus Christ,

I proudly pronounce Brian & Aly are now husband & wife. What Almighty God has joined together, let no one put asunder.

Brian, you may kiss your bride.

Ladies & Gentleman it is my distinct honour to introduce to you for the first time... Mr & Mrs Brian Grewe!

- **The Recession**