For a Wedding Anniversary

O Lord, we are grateful for a day of celebration. Another year has gone by with its experiences - good, bad, and indifferent.

We are together and thankful for our togetherness.

Through our life with each other we have so much for which to be thankful.

We have known all the intricate intimacies of two people learning to live together.

We have shared secrets together and have realized there are private places in each of us the other can never know.

We have known the ecstasy of physical union and the relief of t emporary apartness.

We have quarreled and quickly made up.

We have quarreled and not made up until we realized that life without the other was empty.

We have laughed with each other and at each other.

We have prayed together.

We have learned how words can cut and wound and how words can soothe and comfort.

We have learned too that there are times when it is better to be silent. We have felt upon occasion that our love was eternal and wondered at times if our marriage would last another week.

We have run the whole gamut of human emotions and feelings. So, gratefully, O God, we celebrate it all-the loving and the sharing, the anger and the frustration, the giving and the taking, the fire and the ashes.

Bless by your Presence the renewal of our promise and our covenant, in joy and in sorrow, in plenty and in want, in sickness and in health, as long as we both shall live.

Amen.