

Service at the Loss of a Beloved Animal

The opening anthem may be said or sung.

Canticle 12 A Song of Creation *Benedicite, omnia opera Domini*
from *Enriching Our Worship 1*, page 25

Invocation

II. The Earth and Its Creatures

Let the earth glorify the Lord,*
sing praise and give honor for ever.
Glorify the Lord, O mountains
and hills, and all that grows upon the earth,*
sing praise and give honor for ever.

Glorify the Lord, O springs of water, seas, and streams,*
O whales and all that move in the waters.
All birds of the air, glorify the Lord,*
sing praise and give honor for ever.
Glorify the Lord, O beasts of the wild,*
and all you flocks and herds [and all you cats and dogs].
O men and women everywhere, glorify the Lord, *
sing praise and give honor for ever.

Doxology

Officiant God be with you.

People And also with you.

Officiant Let us pray.

God of grace and glory, we remember before you today N.'s beloved companion A. We thank you forgiving her to us to be a source of abundant love, affection, and joy. In your compassion, comfort us who grieve. Give us faith to commit this beloved creature of your own making to your care, for you live and reign for ever and ever. Amen.

The Readings

One or more of the following passages may be read.

Job 12:7-10; Isaiah 11:6-9; Psalm 148:7-14; Tobit 5:21-6:2a; Matthew 10:27-31; Mark 16:14-15; Romans 8:19-25; Revelation 4:1-2, 6b-7, 9-11.

Psalm 104:24, 28b-30

O Lord, how manifold are your works!
In wisdom you have made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.

When you open your hand
they are filled with good things.

When you hide your face, they are dismayed;
when you take away their breath,
they die and return to their dust.

When you send forth your spirit, they are created;
and you renew the face of the ground.

The Prayers of the People

Officiant

People

Officiant

God be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Officiant and People

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

God, your blessed Son, Jesus, told us that not even one, tiny sparrow is forgotten in your sight. Strengthen our confidence in your love for all your creatures; in your goodness... Blessed Creator, hear our prayer.

Loving God, you brought this beloved animal into the life of N. [and N.] to share kindness, joy, and faithful companionship: Receive our thanks and praise for the community between your animals and your people, and all the ways in which we bless each other's lives; in your goodness, Blessed Creator, hear our prayer.

Gracious God, you have given us the blessing and responsibility of caring for animals: If in any way we have failed in that responsibility, we ask for your pardon and trust in your mercy; in your goodness, Blessed Creator, hear our prayer.

These biddings may be used when appropriate.

Dear God, the source of all life, wisdom, and love, bring your peace to N., into whose hands was placed the decision to end A.'s suffering. Give her comfort in the knowledge of a loving decision well made; in your goodness, Blessed Creator, hear our prayer.

Holy God, we pray for N., for the loss of her companion, and for all pets and animal companions. Help us to care for their needs, to tend their injuries, to heal their illnesses, and to relieve their suffering. Grant us wisdom to care for all the creatures of the earth and to respect their place in your Creation; in your goodness, Blessed Creator, hear our prayer.

A period of silence may be kept.

The burial, or scattering of ashes, may take place here, followed by this prayer.

**We return A.'s remains to the earth with gratitude for your care for us and for all that you have made.
Your mercy is over all your works,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.**

The following hymn may be said or sung

**All creatures of our God and King,
Lift up your voices, let us sing, Alleluia, Alleluia
Bright burning sun with golden beams,**

Pale silver moon that gently gleams!

**O praise Him! O praise Him!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Let all things their Creator bless,
And worship Him in humbleness,
O praise Him! Alleluia!
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,
And praise the Spirit, Three in One!**

**O praise Him! O praise Him!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Closing Prayer

**God of creation, through your great mercy you renew us:
send us now back to the love and labor of this day
with joy and compassion in our hearts;
through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen**

Officiant **All life is interwoven.**
People **All life is a gift from God.**

Then may be added

Officiant
People

Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Indianapolis, 2012* (New York: General Convention, 2012), pp. 719-721.