

PROPOSER

Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music

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HOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HB / Prayer Book, Liturgy and Church Music

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None required

RESOLUTION TEXT

1 *Resolved*, the House of Deputies concurring, that the 77th General Convention  
 2 make available the following liturgical materials, for use in a variety of settings to  
 3 provide pastorally for people caring for animals.

4

5 **Service at the Loss of a Beloved Animal**

6

7 The opening anthem may be said or sung.  
 8 Canticle 12 A Song of Creation Benedicite, omnia opera Domini  
 9 from *Enriching Our Worship* 1, page 25

10

## 11 Invocation

## 12 II. The Earth and Its Creatures

13 Let the earth glorify the Lord,\*

14 sing praise and give honor for ever.

15 Glorify the Lord, O mountains

16 and hills, and all that grows upon the earth,\*

17 sing praise and give honor for ever.

18 Glorify the Lord, O springs of water, seas, and streams,\*

19 O whales and all that move in the waters.

20 All birds of the air, glorify the Lord,\*

21 sing praise and give honor for ever.

22 Glorify the Lord, O beasts of the wild,\*

23 and all you flocks and herds [and all you cats and dogs].

24 O men and women everywhere, glorify the Lord, \*

25 sing praise and give honor for ever.

26

## 27 Doxology

28 Officiant God be with you.

29 People And also with you.

30 Officiant Let us pray.

31

32 God of grace and glory, we remember before you today N.'s beloved companion

33 A. We thank you for giving her to us to be a source of abundant love, affection,  
34 and joy. In your compassion, comfort us who grieve. Give us faith to commit this  
35 beloved creature of your own making to your care, for you live  
36 and reign for ever and ever. Amen.

37

### 38 **The Readings**

39 One or more of the following passages may be read.

40 Job 12:7-10; Isaiah 11:6-9; Psalm 148:7-14; Tobit 5:21-6:2a; Matthew 10:27-31;

41 Mark 16:14-15;

42 Romans 8:19-25; Revelation 4:1-2, 6b-7, 9-11.

43 Psalm 104:24, 28b-30

44

45 O Lord, how manifold are your works!

46 In wisdom you have made them all;

47 the earth is full of your creatures.

48 When you open your hand

49 they are filled with good things.

50 When you hide your face, they are dismayed;

51 when you take away their breath,

52 they die and return to their dust.

53 When you send forth your spirit, they are created;

54 and you renew the face of the ground.

55

56

57 The Prayers of the People

58

59 Officiant God be with you.

60 People And also with you.

61 Officiant Let us pray.

62

63 *Officiant and People*

64 Our Father in heaven,

65 hallowed be your Name,

66 your kingdom come,

67 your will be done,

68 on earth as in heaven.

69 Give us today our daily bread.

70 Forgive us our sins

71 as we forgive those

72 who sin against us.

73 Save us from the time of trial,

74 and deliver us from evil.

75 For the kingdom, the power,

76 and the glory are yours,

77 for ever. Amen.

78

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 this day our daily bread.

Forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those

who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation,

But deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,

and the power, and the glory, now and

For ever and ever. Amen.

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

82

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

88

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

93

94 *These biddings may be used when appropriate.*

95

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

100

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

107

108 *A period of silence may be kept.*

109

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

111

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

116

117 *The following hymn may be said or sung*

118

119 All creatures of our God and King,  
120 Lift up your voices, let us sing, Alleluia, Alleluia

121

122 Bright burning sun with golden beams,  
123 Pale silver moon that gently gleams!  
124 O praise Him! O praise Him!

125 Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

126

127 Let all things their Creator bless,

128 And worship Him in humbleness,

129 O praise Him! Alleluia!

130 Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,

131 And praise the Spirit, Three in One!

132

133 O praise Him! O praise Him!

134 Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

135

136 ***Closing Prayer***

137

138 God of creation, through your great mercy you renew us:

139 send us now back to the love and labor of this day

140 with joy and compassion in our hearts;

141 through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen

142

143 Officiant All life is interwoven.

144 People All life is a gift from God.

145

146 *Then may be added*

147 Officiant Let us bless the Lord.

148 People Thanks be to God.

149

150 *Prayers Suitable for Use in Church or for Other Gatherings, at the Adoption,*

151 *Illness, Loss, or Death of Companion, Service, or Other Beloved Animals*

152

153 ***At the adoption of an animal***

154 God, whose nature and whose name is Love: We thank you for this new

155 relationship between N. [and N.] and this animal A. Let their home be filled

156 with kindness and care; let them be the delight of one another's hearts; and watch

157 over and keep them from this day forward in safety and peace; for your Name's

158 sake. Amen.

159

160 ***For a lost or missing animal***

161 Almighty God, you watch over every creature, every moment of every day: Hear

162 our prayers for N. as she worries for the safe return of A. By the grace of your

163 Holy Spirit, protect and keep them both, and bring A. quickly home. Amen.

164

165 ***For a sick animal***

166 God, whose compassion and mercy are over all your works: Hear our prayers for

167 A., this creature of yours, in her illness. Ease her suffering and help her not to be

168 afraid. Help her to rest and heal, and comfort us who worry, [especially N. and

169 N.]. We pray through your beloved Son Jesus and by the power of your Holy

170 Spirit. Amen.

171

172 ***For one whose beloved animal has died***

173 God, the refuge and strength of all who mourn: Hear our prayers for N. [and N.],  
174 who grieves the death of her beloved A. Bring comfort in loneliness, peace in  
175 distress, and joy in remembering; and lift her heart in thanksgiving for the gift of  
176 companionship she has known. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

177

178 ***At the euthanizing of an animal***

179 God, your wisdom and mercy are over all your works: Be with us who have  
180 decided to end the suffering of A., this creature of yours entrusted to our care.  
181 Our power to heal has reached its end, and we put our trust in your mercy.  
182 Reassure and comfort us, that we make these decisions in compassion and  
183 kindness, as we pray through the kindness of Jesus Christ and the grace of your  
184 Holy Spirit. Amen

185

186 ***For the suffering of animals during warfare***

187 Eternal God, the comfort and peace of all your creatures: Hear our prayers for all  
188 animals that suffer in times of war, especially for those that bear burdens, those  
189 that serve as food, those that detect mines, those that search for the missing and  
190 the dead, and for all creatures in the path of war's destruction. May your divine  
191 assistance be with them according to their need; and may our swords be beaten  
192 into plowshares and our hearts be softened toward animals of every kind; for they  
193 are yours, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.

194

195 ***For the loss of a farm animal***

196 Gracious Lord, we are the people of your pasture and the sheep of your hand: We  
197 thank you for placing us among beasts of the field and for allowing us to care for  
198 them, and that through them, you provide us with food, clothing, and livelihood.  
199 We grieve this day the death of A., a creature of your own making, and a sign for  
200 us of your generosity and love; through Jesus Christ, our Good Shepherd. Amen.

201

202 ***At the death of a wild animal***

203 Almighty God, who make the beasts of the wild move in beauty and show forth  
204 the glory of your Name: We grieve the death of this creature, whose existence  
205 was a reminder to us of your creative presence in the world. We give you thanks  
206 for that which was never ours to claim, but only to behold with wonder; through  
207 Jesus Christ our Redeemer, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
208 one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

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**EXPLANATION**

These liturgical texts respond to resolution 2009-Co78, which directed the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music to develop liturgical resources to observe the loss of a companion animal. The Commission proposes to make these texts available electronically.