

## Service of Remembrance or Funeral of a Beloved Pet

Words to be said are in this style: **All:** say these words.

*Instructions are in italics.*

*This service may be taken by those in Minor Orders. A large room where the people and animals may form a circle is to be preferred. Often a favourite photo of the recently departed pet is displayed. If a church with fixed pews, adapt this service according to circumstances. Some people may bring their pets to this service and arrangements need to be made as necessary. Drinking water bowls for the animals should be provided. This service may be held outdoors. When most animals and their friends have arrived, the leader invites all to form a large circle.*

### **Introit**

**Leader:** Let us worship God together and remember [pet's name] recently departed to the Lord from the care of [owners name]. In the name of the Father, + Son and Holy Spirit.

**All:** Amen.

*A hymn may be sung or a suitable item of music video may be shown, or a suitable piece of music played.*

**Leader:** Let us say together

**All:** Let the earth glorify the Lord,

Sing praise and give honour for ever.

Glorify the Lord, O mountains and hills, and all that grows upon the earth,

Sing praise and give honour 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,

Sing praise and give honour for ever.

Glorify the Lord, O beasts of the wild,

and all you flocks, herds; all you cats, dogs and horses.

Glorify the Lord, O men and women everywhere,

Sing praise and give honour for ever.

*A hymn may be sung or a suitable item of music video may be shown, or a suitable piece of music played.*

### **Blessing**

*This or a similar blessing is said*

**Leader:** May our Lord God, who created the animals of this earth in beauty and with divine instinct, help us to see how we can learn from these creatures, help us to recognise that we are just creatures too and to be humble as they are. Continue merciful God to protect, love and sustain us all, now and for ever.

**All:** Amen.

*Silence may be kept.*

**Leader:** Let us pray

O Lord, creator of all humans & animals, we remember today [names of the people mourning the loss of their pet] bereaved of their beloved companion[s]. We celebrate the togetherness, and the companionship that [pet's name] brought to them. We thank you for giving them to us to be a source of abundant love, affection, joy and healing for us. 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.

**All:** Amen.

*Silence may be kept.*

## **Reading**

Job 12 v.7-10

*or other suitable passage of scripture is read. This may be read by a member of the congregation.*

## **Responsorial Reading**

*(based on Psalm 104)*

**Leader:** All the creatures wait expectantly for you to give them their food as you determine.

**All:** Every day my heart will sing praises to God.

**Leader:** You come near and they all gather around, feasting from your open hands, and each is satisfied from your abundant supply.

**All:** Every day my heart will sing praises to God.

**Leader:** But if you were to withhold from them and turn away, they would be disturbed. And when you choose to take away their breath, each one dies and returns to the dust.

**All:** Every day my heart will sing praises to God.

**Leader:** When you release your Spirit-wind, life is created, ready to replenish life upon the earth.

**All:** Every day my heart will sing praises to God.

**Leader:** May God's glorious splendour endure forever! May the we all take joy and pleasure in all that God has made.

**All:** Every day my heart will sing praises to God.

**Leader:** For the earth's overseer has the power to make it tremble; just a touch of his finger and volcanoes erupt

as the earth shakes and melts.

**All:** Every day my heart will sing praises to God.

**Leader:** I will sing my song to the Lord as long as I live!

Every day my heart will sing praises to God.

**All:** Every day my heart will sing praises to God.

**Leader:** May you be pleased with every sweet thought I have about you,  
for you are the source of my joy and gladness,

**All:** And you are Lord of us all.

## **Gospel**

*Please stand for the Gospel which should be read by the Leader. This or another suitable Gospel should be used.*

Matthew 10 v 27-31

## **Homily**

*A Short Homily and eulogy should be given here*

*This may be given by the animals owner, or friend or any other suitable person.*

## **Burial or Scattering of Ashes**

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

**Leader:** We return [name of pet] (or this animal's) remains to the earth with gratitude for your care for us and for all that you have made.

Your mercy extends over all of us, all your creatures.

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever.

**All:** Amen.

*Eucharist may be celebrated here if the service is lead by a priest*

*or Informal Communion if the service is taken by those in minor orders*

## **Final Prayers**

*Prayers should be said for the bereaved owner as well as for the animal that has passed.*

*They should be mentioned by name. Prayers should also be given for ourselves, each other and our animals.*

**Leader:** Let us pray...

Beloved Jesus Christ,

Bring us all one day to that eternal union with you,

To heaven with our loved ones who have gone before us.

We believe in you for this as

You live and reign forever and ever.

**All:** Amen.

*Or*

On this feast day of our shalom  
May the grace of Jesus,  
The love of God  
And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, Our Mother in Heaven  
Be with all creatures now and forever.  
**All:** Amen.

*Or*

May all these prayers, those of all our animals and the thoughts and intentions of all our hearts' of all creatures, be gathered before God's throne by Mary who prays alongside us:  
Hail Mary, full of grace  
The Lord is with you  
Blessed are you among women  
And blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.  
Holy Mary, Mother of God,  
Pray for us sinners  
now, and for a perfect end.  
**All:** Amen.

*A hymn may be sung or a suitable item of music video may be shown, or a suitable piece of music played.*

## ***Dismissal***

*This or another dismissal shall be said*

**Leader:** Lord of all creation, we commend to you [owners name] and their pet [animal name] now in your care. May the memories be blessed and cherished for many more years.

**All:** Amen

*And finally all say:*

**All:** We go in peace. May the remembrance of one of your creation today transform us, for the sake of others and our animals too, into the body of believers here on earth and in heaven. Amen.

## **END of service**

*Please pray for yourselves, the animals in your care and the Old Catholic Apostolic Church regularly.*