

**AT THE LOSS OF A PET:
A LITURGY OF GRIEVING AND THANKSGIVING**
Adapted from a Service written by the Reverend Robert E. Stiefel, Ph.D.

Concerning the Service

All living creatures share the same source of life and are equally subject to death. The very love we have for each other is extended as a ministry of stewardship and a gift of love to the pets and animals who abide with us as fellow creatures and companions. Therefore, it is appropriate to gather in prayer at the loss by death of a beloved pet entrusted to our charge and care.

The service is intended for celebration in a home or other suitable gathering place, including the chancel of a church or a small chapel or in the out of doors at a burial site.

March 20, 2008

**AT THE LOSS OF OUR BELOVED COMPANION
TENNO**

his registered pedigree name - Biscay Tenno

January 30, 1995 – March 3, 2008



photo taken by Bob on January 30, 2008, his 13th birthday

*The Service was at the home of
The Reverend Canon Richard T. Nolan and Robert C. Pingpank*

The officiant begins by saying

Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

Response: Glory to God for ever and ever.

Officiant: The Lord be with you.

Response: And also with you.

Officiant: Let us pray, saying together

O God, you created all that is, and you love all that you have made: we come to you in sorrow and with thanksgiving. We grieve the death of our beloved Tenno, who has been our companion on the way, and we thank you for the gift of his presence among us as an effective sign of the richness of your creation and of the generosity of your love as lived by your son Jesus. *Amen.*

O loving Father of all, who has filled the world with beauty and with mysteries we do not grasp: Open our eyes to behold your gracious hand in all your works; that, rejoicing in your whole creation, we may learn to serve you with gladness. *Amen.*

Most merciful God, comfort us in our grief and sadness. Surround us with your love, that we may not be overwhelmed by our loss, but, like Job, continue to have confidence in your goodness in the midst of things we do not understand. *Amen.*

The officiant proclaims these words from the 6th chapter of the Book of Deuteronomy:

.... Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one! You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart.

The following passage from the first chapter of Genesis is read.

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day. And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

And God said, "Let the waters swarm with swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the heavens." So God created the great sea creatures and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarm, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. And God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures according to their kinds—livestock and creeping things and beasts of the earth according to their kinds." And it was so. And God made the beasts of the earth according to their kinds and the livestock according to their kinds, and everything that creeps on the ground according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.

Psalm 23 is prayed in unison.

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

The following prayer is said together.

O God our Maker, from the beginning you have permitted us, the sons and daughters of Adam and Eve, to name our brother and sister creatures of earth, sea, and sky: We commend Tenno to your everlasting love. O Lord God, foundation of our comfort and our power to cope: Console us who grieve, and by the sign of the rainbow help us to trust in your everlasting love for all your creatures. *Amen.*

As Jesus has taught us, we now pray

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. And 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, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Officiant: Let us confess our sins against God, our fellow creatures, and one another.

Said together

O God of compassion, have mercy upon us; forgive us for our known and unknown mistreatment and neglect of the creatures with whom we share this garden Earth, for what we may have done to harm them, and for what we may have left undone to help them; we are truly sorry, and we ask you to fill us with your Spirit, that we may care for one another, and for all your creatures, according to your will and in the fullness of your love. *Amen.*

An absolution is said in unison.

Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of your Spirit keep us in the everlasting life we have here begun. *Amen.*

Said together in unison as Tenno's chest of ashes is blessed.

Most merciful God, we entrust to your love Biscay Tenno, a creature of your own making and your gift within our lives. We praise you for his beauty and shrewdness, his playfulness and strength, and his grace and power; we thank you for his faithful companionship in our joys and sorrows; and we bless you for the time during which you entrusted him into our care. We affirm our trust that you have received Tenno into your providential care. *Amen.*

Officiant: Let us bless the Lord!

Response: *Thanks be to God!*

The service concludes with the following said in unison.

May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Creator's Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

[Romans 15:13]