

# The Canticles

*Incorporating Supplemental Liturgical Materials from*

## Enriching Our Worship

*Prepared by the Standing Liturgical Commission 1997*

## Canticle 12

**A Song of Creation** *Benedicite, omnia opera Domini*

*Song of the Three, 35–65*

*One or more sections of this Canticle may be used. Whatever the selection, it begins with the Invocation and concludes with the Doxology.*

### *Invocation*

Glorify the Lord, all you works of the Lord, \*  
sing praise and give honor for ever.

In the high vault of heaven, glorify the Lord, \*  
sing praise and give honor for ever.

### *I. The Cosmic Order*

Glorify the Lord, you angels and all powers of the Lord, \*  
O heavens and all waters above the heavens.  
Sun and moon and stars of the sky, glorify the Lord, \*  
sing praise and give honor for ever.

Glorify the Lord, every shower of rain and fall of dew, \*  
all winds and fire and heat.  
Winter and summer, glorify the Lord, \*  
sing praise and give honor for ever.

Glorify the Lord, O chill and cold, \*  
drops of dew and flakes of snow.  
Frost and cold, ice and sleet, glorify the Lord, \*  
sing praise and give honor for ever.

Glorify the Lord, O nights and days, \*  
O shining light and enfolding dark.  
Storm clouds and thunderbolts, glorify the Lord, \*  
sing praise and give honor for ever.

### *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.  
 O men and women everywhere, glorify the Lord, \*  
 sing praise and give honor for ever.

### *III. The People of God*

Let the people of God glorify the Lord, \*  
 sing praise and give honor for ever.  
 Glorify the Lord, O priests and servants of the Lord, \*  
 sing praise and give honor for ever.

Glorify the Lord, O spirits and souls of the righteous, \*  
 sing praise and give honor for ever.  
 You that are holy and humble of heart, glorify the Lord, \*  
 sing praise and give honor for ever.

### *Doxology*

Let us glorify the Lord: Father, Son and Holy Spirit; \*  
 sing praise and give honor for ever.  
 In the high vault of heaven, glorify the Lord, \*  
 sing praise and give honor for ever.

### **Canticle 15**

#### **The Song of Mary** *Magnificat*

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
 my spirit rejoices in you, O God my Savior, \*  
 for you have looked with favor on your lowly servant.  
 From this day all generations will call me blessed: \*  
 you, the Almighty, have done great things for me,  
 and holy is your name.  
 You have mercy on those who fear you \*  
 from generation to generation.  
 You have shown strength with your arm \*  
 and scattered the proud in their conceit,  
 Casting down the mighty from their thrones \*  
 and lifting up the lowly.

You have filled the hungry with good things \*  
 and sent the rich away empty.  
 You have come to the help of your servant Israel, \*  
 for you have remembered your promise of mercy,  
 The promise made to our forebears, \*  
 to Abraham and his children for ever.

### **Canticle 16**

#### **The Song of Zechariah** *Benedictus Dominus Deus*

Blessed are you, Lord, the God of Israel, \*  
 you have come to your people and set them free.  
 You have raised up for us a mighty Savior, \*  
 born of the house of your servant David.  
 Through your holy prophets you promised of old  
 to save us from our enemies, \*  
 from the hands of all who hate us,  
 To show mercy to our forebears, \*  
 and to remember your holy covenant.  
 This was the oath you swore to our father Abraham, \*  
 to set us free from the hands of our enemies,  
 Free to worship you without fear, \*  
 holy and righteous before you,  
 all the days of our life.  
 And you, child, shall be called the prophet  
 of the Most High, \*  
 for you will go before the Lord to prepare the way,  
 To give God's people knowledge of salvation \*  
 by the forgiveness of their sins.  
 In the tender compassion of our God \*  
 the dawn from on high shall break upon us,  
 To shine on those who dwell in darkness  
 and the shadow of death, \*  
 and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

**Canticle 18****A Song to the Lamb** *Dignus es**Revelation 4:11; 5:9-10,13*

Splendor and honor and royal power \*  
 are yours by right, O God Most High,  
 For you created everything that is, \*  
 and by your will they were created and have their being;

And yours by right, O Lamb that was slain, \*  
 for with your blood you have redeemed for God,  
 From every family, language, people, and nation, \*  
 a royal priesthood to serve our God.

And so, to the One who sits upon the throne, \*  
 and to Christ the Lamb,  
 Be worship and praise, dominion and splendor, \*  
 for ever and for evermore.

**Canticle 21****We Praise You, O God** *Te Deum laudamus*

We praise you, O God,  
 we acclaim you as Lord;  
 all creation worships you,  
 the Father everlasting.  
 To you all angels, all the powers of heaven,  
 the cherubim and seraphim, sing in endless praise:  
 Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
 heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
 The glorious company of apostles praise you.  
 The noble fellowship of prophets praise you.  
 The white-robed army of martyrs praise you.  
 Throughout the world the holy Church acclaim you:  
 Father, of majesty unbounded,  
 your true and only Son, worthy of all worship,  
 and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide.  
 You, Christ, are the king of glory,  
 the eternal Son of the Father.  
 When you took our flesh to set us free  
 you humbly chose the Virgin's womb.  
 You overcame the sting of death  
 and opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers.

You are seated at God's right hand in glory.  
 We believe that you will come to be our judge.  
 Come then, Lord, and help your people,  
 bought with the price of your own blood,  
 and bring us with your saints  
 to glory everlasting.

### **Canticle A**

**A Song of Wisdom** *Sapientia liberavit*  
*Wisdom 10:15-19, 20b-21*

Wisdom freed from a nation of oppressors \*  
 a holy people and a blameless race.  
 She entered the soul of a servant of the Lord, \*  
 withstood dread rulers with wonders and signs.

To the saints she gave the reward of their labors, \*  
 and led them by a marvelous way;  
 She was their shelter by day \*  
 and a blaze of stars by night.

She brought them across the Red Sea, \*  
 she led them through mighty waters;  
 But their enemies she swallowed in the waves \*  
 and spewed them out from the depths of the abyss.

And then, Lord, the righteous sang hymns to your Name, \*  
 and praised with one voice your protecting hand;  
 For Wisdom opened the mouths of the mute, \*  
 and gave speech to the tongues of a new-born people.

### **Canticle B**

**A Song of Pilgrimage** *Priusquam errarem*  
*Ecclesiasticus 51:13-16, 20b-22*

Before I ventured forth,  
 even while I was very young, \*  
 I sought wisdom openly in my prayer.  
 In the forecourts of the temple I asked for her, \*  
 and I will seek her to the end.  
 From first blossom to early fruit, \*  
 she has been the delight of my heart.  
 My foot has kept firmly to the true path, \*

diligently from my youth have I pursued her.  
 I inclined my ear a little and received her; \*  
 I found for myself much wisdom and became adept in her.  
 To the one who gives me wisdom will I give glory, \*  
 for I have resolved to live according to her way.  
 From the beginning I gained courage from her, \*  
 therefore I will not be forsaken.  
 In my inmost being I have been stirred to seek her, \*  
 therefore have I gained a good possession.  
 As my reward the Almighty has given me the gift of language, \*  
 and with it will I offer praise to God.

### **Canticle C**

#### **The Song of Hannah**

*1 Samuel 2:1-8*

My heart exults in you, O God; \*  
 my triumph song is lifted in you.  
 My mouth derides my enemies, \*  
 for I rejoice in your salvation.  
 There is none holy like you, \*  
 nor any rock to be compared to you, our God.  
 Do not heap up prideful words or speak in arrogance; \*  
 Only God is knowing and weighs all actions.  
 The bows of the mighty are broken, \*  
 but the weak are clothed in strength.  
 Those once full now labor for bread, \*  
 those who hungered now are well fed.  
 The childless woman has borne sevenfold, \*  
 while the mother of many is forlorn.  
 God destroys and brings to life, casts down and raises up; \*  
 gives wealth or takes it away, humbles and dignifies.  
 God raises the poor from the dust; \*  
 and lifts the needy from the ash heap  
 To make them sit with the rulers \*  
 and inherit a place of honor.  
 For the pillars of the earth are God's \*  
 on which the whole earth is founded.

**Canticle D****A Song of the Wilderness***Isaiah 35:1-7,10*

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, \*  
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;  
It shall blossom abundantly, \*  
and rejoice with joy and singing.  
They shall see the glory of the Lord, \*  
the majesty of our God.  
Strengthen the weary hands, \*  
and make firm the feeble knees.  
Say to the anxious, "Be strong, do not fear! \*  
Here is your God, coming with judgment to save you."  
Then shall the eyes of the blind be opened, \*  
and the ears of the deaf be unstopped.  
Then shall the lame leap like a deer, \*  
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.  
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness \*  
and streams in the desert;  
The burning sand shall become a pool \*  
and the thirsty ground, springs of water.  
The ransomed of God shall return with singing, \*  
with everlasting joy upon their heads.  
Joy and gladness shall be theirs, \*  
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.



**Canticle E****A Song of Jerusalem Our Mother***Isaiah 66:10-14*

Rejoice with Jerusalem and be glad for her \*  
 all you who love her,  
 Rejoice, rejoice with her, \*  
 all you who mourn over her,  
 That you may drink deeply with delight \*  
 from her comforting breast.  
 For thus says our God, \*  
 "I will extend peace to her like a river,  
 the wealth of nations like an overflowing stream.  
 "You shall nurse and be carried on her arm,  
 and you shall nestle in her lap.  
 "As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you; \*  
 you shall be comforted in Jerusalem.  
 "You shall see, and your heart shall rejoice, \*  
 you shall flourish like the grass of the fields."

**Canticle F****A Song of Lamentation***Lamentations 1:12,16; 3:19,22-24,26*

Is it nothing to you, all you who pass by? \*  
 Look and see if there is any sorrow like my sorrow,  
 Which was brought upon me, \*  
 inflicted by God's fierce anger.  
 For these things I weep; my eyes flow with tears, \*  
 for a comforter is far from me, one to revive my courage.  
 Remember my affliction and my bitterness, \*  
 wormwood and gall!  
 The steadfast love of God never ceases, \*  
 God's mercies never end.  
 They are new every morning; \*  
 great is your faithfulness.  
 "God is my portion," says my soul, \*  
 "therefore will I hope in God."  
 It is good that we should wait quietly \*  
 for the coming of God's salvation.

**Canticle G****A Song of Ezekiel***Ezekiel 36:24-28*

I will take you from among all nations; \*  
 and gather you from all lands to bring you home.  
 I will sprinkle clean water upon you; \*  
 and purify you from false gods and uncleanness.  
 A new heart I will give you \*  
 and a new spirit put within you.  
 I will take the stone heart from your chest \*  
 and give you a heart of flesh.  
 I will help you walk in my laws \*  
 and cherish my commandments and do them.  
 You shall be my people, \*  
 and I will be your God.

**Canticle H****A Song of Hosea***Hosea 6:1-3*

Come, let us return to our God, \*  
 who has torn us and will heal us.  
 God has struck us and will bind up our wounds, \*  
 after two days revive us,  
 On the third day restore us, \*  
 that in God's presence we may live.  
 Let us humble ourselves, let us strive to know the Lord, \*  
 whose justice dawns like morning light,  
 its dawning as sure as the sunrise.  
 God's justice will come to us like a shower, \*  
 like spring rains that water the earth.

**Canticle I**  
**A Song of Jonah**  
*Jonah 2:2-7,9*

I called to you, O God, out of my distress, and you answered me; \*  
 out of the belly of Sheol I cried, and you heard my voice.  
 You cast me into the deep, into the heart of the seas, \*  
 and the flood surrounded me;  
 all your waves and billows passed over me.  
 Then I said, "I am driven away from your sight; \*  
 how shall I ever look again upon your holy temple?"  
 The waters closed in over me, the deep was round about me; \*  
 weeds were wrapped around my head at the roots of the mountains.  
 I went down to the land beneath the earth, \*  
 yet you brought up my life from the depths, O God.  
 As my life was ebbing away, I remembered you, O God, \*  
 and my prayer came to you, into your holy temple.  
 With the voice of thanksgiving, I will sacrifice to you; \*  
 what I have vowed I will pay, for deliverance belongs to the Lord!

**Canticle J**  
**A Song of Judith**  
*Judith 16:13-16*

I will sing a new song to my God, \*  
 for you are great and glorious, wonderful in strength, invincible.  
 Let the whole creation serve you, \*  
 for you spoke and all things came into being.  
 You sent your breath and it formed them, \*  
 no one is able to resist your voice.  
 Mountains and seas are stirred to their depths, \*  
 rocks melt like wax at your presence.  
 But to those who fear you, \*  
 you continue to show mercy.  
 No sacrifice, however fragrant, can please you, \*  
 but whoever fears the Lord shall stand in your sight for ever.

**Canticle K****A Song of Our Adoption***Ephesians 1:3-10*

Blessed are you, the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, \*  
 for you have blessed us in Christ  
 with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places.  
 Before the world was made, you chose us to be yours in Christ, \*  
 that we should be holy and blameless before you.  
 You destined us for adoption as your children through Jesus Christ, \*  
 according to the good pleasure of your will,  
 To the praise of your glorious grace, \*  
 that you have freely given us in the Beloved.  
 In you, we have redemption through the blood of Christ,  
 the forgiveness of our sins,  
 According to the riches of your grace \*  
 which you have lavished upon us.  
 You have made known to us, in all wisdom and insight, \*  
 the mystery of your will,  
 According to your good pleasure which you set forth in Christ, \*  
 as a plan for the fullness of time,  
 To gather together all things in Christ, \*  
 things in heaven and things on earth.

**Canticle L****A Song of Christ's Humility***Philippians 2:6-11*

Though in the form of God, \*  
 Christ Jesus did not cling to equality with God,  
 But emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, \*  
 and was born in human likeness.  
 Being found in human form, he humbled himself \*  
 and became obedient to death, even death on a cross.  
 Therefore, God has highly exalted him \*  
 and given him the name above every name,  
 That at the name of Jesus, every knee shall bow, \*  
 in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
 And every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, \*  
 to the glory of God the Father.

**Canticle M**  
**A Song of Faith**  
*1 Peter 1:3-4,18-21*

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, \*  
 by divine mercy we have a new birth into a living hope;  
 Through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, \*  
 we have an inheritance that is imperishable in heaven.  
 The ransom that was paid to free us \*  
 was not paid in silver or gold,  
 But in the precious blood of Christ, \*  
 the Lamb without spot or stain.  
 God raised Jesus from the dead and gave him glory \*  
 so that we might have faith and hope in God.

**Canticle N**  
**A Song of God's Love**  
*1 John 4:7-11*

Beloved, let us love one another, \*  
 for love is of God.  
 Whoever does not love does not know God, \*  
 for God is Love.  
 In this the love of God was revealed among us, \*  
 that God sent his only Son into the world,  
 so that we might live through Jesus Christ.  
 In this is love, not that we loved God but that God loved us \*  
 and sent his Son that sins might be forgiven.  
 Beloved, since God loved us so much, \*  
 we ought also to love one another.  
 For if we love one another, God abides in us, \*  
 and God's love will be perfected in us.

## Canticle O

### A Song of the Heavenly City

*Revelation 21:22-26, 22:1-4*

I saw no temple in the city, \*  
 for its temple is the God of surpassing strength and the Lamb.  
 And the city has no need of sun or moon to light it, \*  
 for the glory of God shines on it, and its lamp is the Lamb.  
 By its light the nations shall walk, \*  
 and the rulers of the world lay their honor and glory there.  
 Its gates shall never be shut by day, nor shall there be any night; \*  
 into it they will bring the honor and glory of nations.  
 I saw the clean river of the water of life, bright as crystal, \*  
 flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb.  
 The tree of life spanned the river, giving fruit every month, \*  
 and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of nations.  
 All curses cease where the throne of God and the Lamb stands,  
 and all servants give worship there; \*  
 there they will see God's face, whose Name shall be on their foreheads.

## Canticle P

### A Song of the Spirit

*Revelation 22:12-17*

"Behold, I am coming soon," says the Lord,  
 "and bringing my reward with me, \*  
 to give to everyone according to their deeds.  
 "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, \*  
 the beginning and the end."  
 Blessed are those who do God's commandments,  
 that they may have the right to the tree of life, \*  
 and may enter the city through the gates.  
 "I, Jesus, have sent my angel to you, \*  
 with this testimony for all the churches.  
 "I am the root and the offspring of David, \*  
 I am the bright morning star."  
 "Come!" say the Spirit and the Bride; \*  
 "Come!" let each hearer reply!  
 Come forward, you who are thirsty, \*  
 let those who desire take the water of life as a gift.

**Canticle Q****A Song of Christ's Goodness***Anselm of Canterbury*

Jesus, as a mother you gather your people to you; \*  
     you are gentle with us as a mother with her children.  
 Often you weep over our sins and our pride, \*  
     tenderly you draw us from hatred and judgment.  
 You comfort us in sorrow and bind up our wounds, \*  
     in sickness you nurse us and with pure milk you feed us.  
 Jesus, by your dying, we are born to new life; \*  
     by your anguish and labor we come forth in joy.  
 Despair turns to hope through your sweet goodness; \*  
     through your gentleness, we find comfort in fear.  
 Your warmth gives life to the dead, \*  
     your touch makes sinners righteous.  
 Lord Jesus, in your mercy, heal us; \*  
     in your love and tenderness, remake us.  
 In your compassion, bring grace and forgiveness, \*  
     for the beauty of heaven, may your love prepare us.

**Canticle R****A Song of True Motherhood***Julian of Norwich*

God chose to be our mother in all things \*  
     and so made the foundation of his work,  
     most humbly and most pure, in the Virgin's womb.  
 God, the perfect wisdom of all, \*  
     arrayed himself in this humble place.  
 Christ came in our poor flesh \*  
     to share a mother's care.  
 Our mothers bear us for pain and for death; \*  
     our true mother, Jesus, bears us for joy and endless life.  
 Christ carried us within him in love and travail, \*  
     until the full time of his passion.  
 And when all was completed and he had carried us so for joy, \*  
     still all this could not satisfy the power of his wonderful love.  
 All that we owe is redeemed in truly loving God, \*  
     for the love of Christ works in us;  
     Christ is the one whom we love.

**Canticle S**  
**A Song of Our True Nature**  
*Julian of Norwich*

Christ revealed our frailty and our falling, \*  
our trespasses and our humiliations.  
Christ also revealed his blessed power, \*  
his blessed wisdom and love.  
He protects us as tenderly and as sweetly when we are in greatest need; \*  
he raises us in spirit  
and turns everything to glory and joy without ending.  
God is the ground and the substance, the very essence of nature;\*  
God is the true father and mother of natures.  
We are all bound to God by nature, \*  
and we are all bound to God by grace.  
And this grace is for all the world, \*  
because it is our precious mother, Christ.  
For this fair nature was prepared by Christ  
for the honor and nobility of all, \*  
and for the joy and bliss of salvation.