**CONCERNING BLESSINGS**

*In accordance with a venerable tradition, church furnishings and ornaments are consecrated by being put to the use for which they were intended. If a rite of dedication is desired, one of the following forms may be used after the sermon (and Creed) at the Eucharist, or at the Daily Office at the time of the hymn or anthem following the Collects.*

*It is appropriate, when the object to be dedicated is fixed, that there be a procession to that place. If the procession is to a distant place, an anthem (the text of which may be the appointed antiphon), psalm, or hymn may be sung.*

*When the object is portable, it should be brought to the Holy Table and presented to the Celebrant.*

*The appointed antiphons may be read or sung by all, or by the Celebrant, or by some other person.*

**1. A Cross**

We will glory in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, in whom is our salvation, our life and resurrection.

Christ for us became obedient unto death.

*People* **Even death on a cross.**

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

O gracious God, in your mercy you ordained that your Son should suffer death on a cross of shame: We thank you that it has become for us the sign of his triumph and the banner of our salvation. Bless, we pray, this cross, that it may draw our hearts to him, who leads us to the glory of your kingdom; where you live and reign for ever and ever. **Amen.**

**2. Candlesticks and Lamps**

Before the throne were burning seven torches of fire, which are the seven spirits of God.

You are my lamp, O LORD,

*People*  **And my God lightens my darkness.**

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

O heavenly Father, who revealed to us the vision of your Son in the midst of the candlesticks, and of your Spirit in seven lamps of fire before your throne: Bless these lights (*lamps*), and grant them to be kindled for your glory, may be to us a sign of your presence and the promise of eternal light; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**3. Altar Cloths and Hangings**

This is the offering which you shall receive from the people: gold, silver, and bronze, blue and purple and scarlet cloth, and finely woven linen.

O LORD my God, you have become exceedingly glorious;

*People*  **You are clothed with majesty and honor.**

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

O glorious God, all your works proclaim your perfect beauty: Accept and bless our offering of *these altar cloths and hangings*, and grant that they may adorn this sanctuary and show forth your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**4. A Service Book**

Glorify the Lord, all you works of the Lord, praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

All kings shall fall down before him;

*People*  **All nations shall do him service.**

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

Bless, O Lord of hosts, this \_\_\_\_\_\_\_, which we dedicate to your service, and grant that as your saints and angels always serve you in heaven, so we may worship you acceptably on earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**5. A Bible, Lectionary, or Gospel Book**

For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road,

*People*  **While he opened to us the scriptures?**

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

O heavenly Father, whose blessed Son taught the disciples in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself: Bless this \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and grant that we may so diligently search your holy Word that we may find in it the wisdom that leads to salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**6. A Repository for the Scriptures**

When Moses had finished writing the words of this law in a book to the very end, Moses commanded the Levites, “Take this Book of the Law and put it by the side of the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God.”

Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road,

*People*  **While he opened to us the scriptures?**

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

Almighty God, who declared your will to the prophets and sages of Israel, and revealed your glory in the Word made flesh: Bless, we pray, this repository for the Holy Scriptures, and grant that through prayer and worship we may know you as you speak to us today; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**7. An Aumbry or Tabernacle for the Sacrament**

Aaron shall set the bread before the LORD on the table of pure gold; it is from the people of Israel as a covenant forever.

As often as you eat this bread and drink the cup,

*People*  **You proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

O Lord God, Father of our Savior Jesus Christ, who before his passion instituted the Sacrament of his Body and Blood: Bless this aumbry *or* tabernacle which we set apart today, that the outward signs of his covenant may be kept in safety, and that we may show forth his death and resurrection until he comes in glory; who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

**8. An Aumbry for the Oils**

For the people of Israel and the sons of Levi shall bring the contribution of grain, wine, and oil to the chambers, where the vessels of the sanctuary are.

You have anointed my head with oil,

*People*  **And my cup shall be full.**

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

O Lord God of hosts, you commanded priests of the Old Covenant to set apart oil for the anointing of kings and priests, and by your Apostle James you commanded the presbyters of your Church to anoint the sick: Bless this aumbry for the safe-keeping of the oils set apart for the anointing of baptism and for the ministry of healing; through him who was anointed as the Christ, and who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

**9. Chairs, Benches, and Prayer Desks**

Around the throne were twenty-four thrones, and seated on the thrones were twenty-four elders.

The LORD has prepared his throne in heaven.

*People*  **And my kingdom rules over all.**

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

O Lord God Almighty, you disclosed in a vision the elders seated around your throne: Bless this *chair* for the use of those called to minister in your earthly sanctuary, and grant that those who serve you here may do so with reverence and love, to your honor and glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**10. A Stained Glass Window**

I will make your windows of agate, and all your wall of precious stones.

Look upon the rainbow and praise him who made it,

*People*  **Exceedingly beautiful in its brightness.**

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

Almighty God, the whole world is filled with the radiance of your glory: Bless this window which we now dedicate to you for the adornment of this place and the inspiration of your people. Grant that as the light shines through it in many colors, so our lives may show forth the beauty of your manifold gifts of grace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**11. Pictures and Statues**

Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation, for by him all things were created.

The Word became flesh,

*People*  **And dwelt among us.**

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

Almighty God, whose Son our Savior manifested your glory in his flesh, and sanctified the outward and visible to be a means to perceive realities unseen: Bless, we pray, this representation of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_; and grant that as we look upon it, our hearts may be drawn to things which can be seen only by the eye of faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**12. An Organ or other Musical Instrument**

They sing to the tambourine and the lyre and rejoice to the sound of the pipe.

Praise him with the sound of the trumpet;

*People*  **Praise him upon the lute and harp.**

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

O Lord, before whose throne trumpets sound, and saints and angels sing the songs of Moses and the Lamb: Bless this *organ* for the worship of your temple, that with the voice of music we may proclaim your praise and tell it abroad; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**13. A Censer**

And another angel came and stood at the altar with a golden censer, and he was given much incense to offer, and the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, rose before God.

The four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, *People*  **Each holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.**

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

Almighty God, whose only-begotten Son received from the wise men a gift of incense and made for us the pure oblation foretold by the prophet: Bless this censer, that our prayers may ascend in your sight as the incense, and the pure oblation of our Lord be proclaimed from farthest east to farthest west; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**14. Surplices and Albs**

Behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands.

He has clothed me with the garments of salvation;

*People*  **He has covered me with the robe of righteousness.**

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

O God, before whose heavenly throne your servants minister to you, clothed in white robes: Bless this *surplice/alb* which we dedicate for the use of the ministers of your Church, that serving before your earthly throne, they may worship you in spirit and in truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**15. A Funeral Pall**

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my soul shall exult in my God.

He has clothed me with the garments of salvation;

*People*  **He has covered me with the robe of righteousness.**

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

O God, who in baptism has made us members of the Body of your Son Jesus Christ;Bless this pall, and make it a sign of our common membership in Christ, that we may know those who have departed this earthly life, not as the world esteems them, but as you know and love them; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**16. Any Object for Use in Worship or Devotion**

Solomon beautified the sanctuary, and multiplied the vessels of the temple.

Glory and majesty are before him;

*People*  **Power and honor are in his sanctuary.**

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

O God, whose blessed Son has sanctified and transfigured the use of material things: Bless this \_ which we offer, and grant that it may proclaim your love, benefit your Church, and minister grace and joy to those who use it; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**