Al Chet--For the Sin of Destroying God’s Creation
by Rabbi Danny Nevins

Eternal God, You created the earth and heavens with mercy, and breathed life into animals and humans.
We were created amidst a clean and pure world, but now it is headed for destruction in our hands.
Not on our own merits do we beseech You, Lord our God, for we have sinned, we have wasted, we have destroyed:
   For the sin of filling the sea and land with filth and garbage;
   For the sin of destroying forever species which in Your great mercies were saved from the flood;
   And for the sin of laying bare the forests and habitats from which all creatures receive life;
Eternal God, open our eyes that we might see the splendor of Your creation. Then we shall praise you as it is written: “How great are Your works, Lord! You have made them all with wisdom; the earth is filled with your possessions.” (Psalm 104)
Please God, remove the heart of stone from our flesh, and give us a feeling heart.
Grant us wisdom and determination to save our world, and to safeguard the garden of life beneath the heavens.

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