

**Blessing of the Animals**  
**St. Francis Day**  
**Oct. 4, 2021**



*Following St. Francis of Assisi's lead, we take this time to give thanks for all of our animal companions and all of creation as we remember that we are animals and we are also part of creation.*

## **OPENING**

*We will take some time to introduce our animal friends who are gathered with us.*

## **GREETING**

Leader: Blessed be God, Creator of Heaven and Earth.

**All: All creation sings your praises.**

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray:

**All: Most high, omnipotent, good Lord,  
grant your people grace to renounce gladly the vanities of this  
world; that, following the way of blessed Francis, we may for love of  
you delight in your whole creation with perfectness of joy;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and  
the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen**

**PSALM 148:1-5, 7-13** *read responsively by verse.*

Hallelujah!

Praise God from the heavens; praise God in the heights.

**Praise God, all you holy angels;  
praise God, all the heavenly host.**

Praise God, sun and moon; praise God, all you shining stars.

**Praise God, heaven of heavens,  
and you waters above the heavens.**

Let them praise God's name,  
who commanded, and they were created.

**Praise God from the earth, you sea-monsters and all deeps;  
Fire and hail, snow and fog, tempestuous wind, obeying God's will;**

**Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars;  
Wild beasts and all cattle, creeping things and winged birds;**

**Monarchs of the earth and all peoples,  
rulers and all judges of the world;**

Young men and women, old and young together.

**Let them praise God's name, for God's name only is exalted,  
and God's splendor is over earth and heaven.  
Hallelujah!**

**READING : GENESIS 1:20-25**

<sup>20</sup> And God said, "Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky." <sup>21</sup> So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. <sup>22</sup> God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." <sup>23</sup> And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

<sup>24</sup> And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind." And it was so. <sup>25</sup> God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

Lector: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**THE PRAYER OF ST. FRANCIS**

Leader: Lord, make us instruments of your peace.

**All: Where there is hatred, let us sow love;**

Leader: Where there is injury, pardon;

**All: Where there is doubt, faith;**

Leader: Where there is despair, hope;

**All: Where there is darkness, light;**

Leader: Where there is sadness, joy.

Leader: O Divine Master, Grant that we may

**All: not so much seek to be consoled as to console;**

Leader: To be understood as to understand;

**All: To be loved as to love.**

Leader: For it is in giving that we receive;

**All: It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;**

Leader: And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen

### **PRAYER FOR PETS**

**Leader: Almighty and everlasting God, Creator of all things and giver of all life, let your blessing be upon all these animals. May our relationships with them mirror your love, and our care for them be an example of your bountiful mercy. Grant the animals health and peace. Strengthen us to love and care for them as we strive to imitate the love of Jesus Christ our Lord and God's servant Francis. Amen.**

### **BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS**

Holy God, we thank you for the gift of animal's name in the life of person's name. Through this animal you have brought many blessings. Today we pause to name our gratitude, and to pray a blessing on animal's name. For the companionship of our pets we say thanks. Bless this animal's life in our care; may *she/he/it* know love through all *her/his/its* days. **Amen.**

### **THE BLESSING (FROM ST. CLARE)**

Leader: Live without fear: your Creator has made you holy, has always protected you, and loves you as a mother. Go in peace to follow the good road and may God's blessing be with you always. Amen

### **THE DISMISSAL**

Leader: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**