

# Blessing of the Animals



*God made wild animals of the  
earth of every kind...  
and God saw that it was good.  
~Genesis 1:25*

First Lutheran Church  
October 7, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.

*Welcome to our Blessing of the Animals Service. We are glad that you and your pet are here! We understand that this experience might be new for both of you and if at any time you need to get up and stretch your hind legs, take a walk, or make some noise, that's great. God welcomes the praise and presence of every creature here today.*

## GATHERING

**SONG:** "All Things Bright and Beautiful"

*Rf:* All things bright and beautiful, All creatures great and small,  
All things wise and wonderful: The Lord God made them all.

*Vs. 1:* Each little flow'r that opens, Each little bird that sings,  
He made their glowing colors, He made their tiny wings. (*refrain*)

*Vs. 2:* He gave us eyes to see them, And lips that we might tell  
How great is God Almighty, Who has made all things well. (*refrain*)

Leader: Jesus Christ, we gather with all your creatures in this circle of life.

**People: We ask you to join us and celebrate with us.**

Leader: Jesus Christ, as we join in celebration with you and all creation,

**People: We ask for your blessing, on the creatures present here that we love, and on all creatures celebrating in the wild.**

Leader: In the name of God, who creates all life,  
In the name of Jesus Christ, who redeems all life,  
and the name of the Holy Spirit, who renews all life,

**People: Amen!**

### **THANKSGIVING, CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS**

L: Lord, for all the animals in the whole wide world,

**P: We thank you, God!**

L: Lord, for all the fun and friendship we have with animals,

**P: We thank you, God!**

L: Lord, for all the times we have hurt or neglected animals,

**P: We are sorry.**

L: Lord, for all the times we have destroyed the homes of animals in the forests, oceans, or fields,

**P: We are sorry.**

L: In the name of Jesus Christ, your sins against the creatures of the Earth are forgiven. May God our Creator give you compassion to honor and protect all animals, and walk with them as companions here on Earth.

**P: Amen.**

## WORD

### **Genesis 9:9-10**

The animals of God's creation inhabit the skies, the earth, and the sea. They share in the fortunes of human existence and have a part in human life. God, who confers gifts on all living things, has often used the service of animals or made them reminders of the gifts of salvation. Animals were saved from the flood and afterwards made a part of the covenant with Noah.

**Psalm 148:1-5, 7-13** (*Adapted*) *Read responsively by verse.*

L: Hallelujah! Praise God from the heavens; praise God in the heights.

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

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

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

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

**P: Praise God from the earth, you sea-monsters and all deeps;**

L: Fire and hail, snow and fog, tempestuous wind, obeying God's will;

**P: Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars;**

L: Wild beasts and all cattle, creeping things and winged birds;

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

L: Young men and women, old and young together.

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

### **Isaiah 11:6-9**

<sup>6</sup> The wolf shall live with the lamb,  
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,  
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,  
and a little child shall lead them.

<sup>7</sup> The cow and the bear shall graze,  
their young shall lie down together;  
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

<sup>8</sup> The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,  
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

<sup>9</sup> They will not hurt or destroy  
on all my holy mountain;  
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord  
as the waters cover the sea.

# SENDING AND BLESSING

## THE PRAYER OF SAINT FRANCIS

L: Lord, make us instruments of your peace.

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

L: Where there is injury, pardon;

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

L: Where there is despair, hope;

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

L: Where there is sadness, joy.

L: O Divine Master, Grant that we may

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

L: To be understood as to understand;

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

L: For it is in giving that we receive;

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

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

## BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

*Bless, O Lord, this (these) creature(s),*

*and fill our hearts with thanksgiving for its (their) being.*

## BLESSING SONG: “This Little Light of Mine”

This little light of mine

I’m gonna let it shine

This little light of mine

I’m gonna let it shine

This little light of mine

I’m gonna let it shine,

Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine

**Verses:**

Nobody’s gonna (pfff) it out...

Hide it under a bushel – no!...

All around Topeka...

Shine with all God’s creatures...

## DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace to serve Christ and love all creatures!

**P: Thanks be to God.**