

Prayer Service for the Blessing of the Animals

Opening Prayer

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The animals of God's creation inhabit the skies, the earth, and the sea. They share in the ways of human beings. They have a part in our lives. Francis of Assisi recognized this when he called the animals, wild and tame, his brothers and sisters. Remembering Francis' love for these brothers and sisters of ours, we invoke God's blessing on these animals, and we thank God for letting us share the earth with all the creatures.



Scripture

A reading from the book of Genesis:

1:20-25

[In the beginning,] God said, "Let the water teem with an abundance of living creatures, and on the earth let birds fly beneath the dome of the sky." And so it happened: God created the great sea monsters and all kinds of swimming creatures with which the water teems, and all kinds of winged birds. God saw how good it was, and God blessed them, saying, "Be fertile, multiply, and fill the water of the seas; and let the birds multiply on the earth." Evening came and morning followed-the fifth day. Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth all kinds of living creatures: cattle, creeping things, and wild animals of all kinds." And so it happened: God made all kinds of wild animals, all kinds of cattle, and all kinds of creeping things of the earth. God saw how good it was. The Word of the Lord.

After a time of silence, those present offer prayer of intercession for their animals and for all creatures.

Prayers of Intercession

Presider:

God created us and placed us on this earth to be the stewards of all living things and so to proclaim the glory of their Creator. Let us bring our prayers to Him:

Blessed are you, O Lord, who created the animals and gave us the ability to train them to help us in our work. **Lord, hear us.**

Blessed are you, O Lord, who gave us food from animals to replenish our energies. **Lord, hear us.**

Blessed are you, O Lord, who for the sake of our comfort give us domestic animals as companions. **Lord, hear us.**

Blessed are you, O Lord, who show us a sign of your providence, as your Son told us, by caring for the birds of the air. **Lord, hear us.**

Blessed are you, O Lord, who offered your Son to us as the paschal lamb and in him willed that we should be called and should truly be your children. **Lord, hear us.**

Blessed are you, O Lord, who through your lowliest creatures never cease to draw us toward your love. **Lord, hear us.**

Those gathered are invited to hold or place their hands on their animals during the blessing:

Presider

O God,
you have done all things wisely;
in your goodness you have made us in your image
and given us care over other living things.

Reach out with your right hand
and grant that these animals may serve our needs
and that your bounty in the resources of this life
may move us to seek more confidently the goal of eternal life.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Animals are blessed with holy water.

Presider: May God, who created the animals of this earth as a help to us, continue to protect and sustain us with the grace his blessing brings, now and for ever.

May almighty God bless you, in the name of the Father, ✠ and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

