



## Blessing of the Animals Order of Service

### TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

#### GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

**PRIEST:** The earth belongs to God

**ALL:** The earth and all its creatures.

**PRIEST:** How good and lovely it is

**ALL:** to live together in unity.

**PRIEST:** Love and faith come together

**ALL:** justice and peace join hands.

**PRIEST:** Let us bless our God, creator and giver  
of all.

**ALL:** Blessed be God, now and for ever.

**PRIEST:** Lord open our lips

**ALL:** And our mouths shall proclaim your praise

**PRIEST:** O God, make speed to save us

**ALL:** O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the  
Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now,  
and will be for ever. Amen.

#### COLLECT FOR THE DAY

**PRIEST:** O God who made all the earth and  
every creature that dwells therein: help us, we  
pray, to treat with compassion all living creatures  
entrusted to our care, that they may not suffer  
from neglect nor become the victims of cruelty,  
and grant that in caring for them we may find a  
deeper understanding of your love for all  
creation; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**ALL:** Amen.

#### JUBILATE *Psalm 100*

**ALL:** Be joyful in Lord, all you lands;

serve the Lord with gladness

and come before his presence with a song.

Know this: The Lord himself is God;

he himself has made us, and we are his;

we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving;

go into his courts with praise;

give thanks to him and call upon his name.

For the Lord is good; his mercy is  
everlasting; and his faithfulness endures from  
age to age.

**READING** *Genesis 1: 1-31 (The Message  
version)*

This is the word of the Lord.

**ALL:** ...Thanks be to God

#### GOSPEL

**PRIEST:** The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus  
Christ according to Matthew

**People:** Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

*Matthew 6:25-34 (NRSV)*

**PRIEST:** The Gospel of Christ...

**People:** Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

#### REFLECTION

#### INTERCESSIONS AND THANKSGIVINGS

**PRIEST** We thank you, God, for the gift of  
life: for the beauty and wonder of creation,  
and for our own life which comes from you.

**People** Glory to you for ever and ever.

**PRIEST** We thank you for the richness of  
animal life: for fish and birds, insects,  
reptiles, and mammals.

**People** Glory to you for ever and ever.

**PRIEST** We thank you for the animals who  
give us faithful companionship, joy when we  
are happy and comfort when we are sad.

**People** Glory to you for ever and ever.

**PRIEST** We thank you for calling us to care  
for these animals. May we learn love and  
respect for all living things.

**People** Glory to you for ever and ever.

#### THE PEACE

**PRIEST:** The peace of the Lord be always  
with you.

**ALL:** And also with you.

#### PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

**PRIEST** Offer unto God the sacrifice of  
thanksgiving and pay thy vows unto the Most  
High.

**ALL:** Blessed be thou, Lord God of Israel, for ever and ever. All that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine.

All things come of thee, and of thine own have we given thee.

### **THE BLESSING OF THE PETS**

**PRIEST:** God of all creation, at the beginning of time you gave us all the creatures of the earth to be our helpers, and like all good things from you, they became more than that. They became our companions and friends. We ask you then to bless these, our animal friends, that they may have long and joyful lives. Keep them safe when we cannot be with them, protect them from sickness and harm, and heal their wounds. When the end of their lives come, grant them a peaceful death, free from pain and suffering.

And bless us too, their human companions, with your Holy Spirit, that we may care for them well and be wise and gentle stewards of your creation. May our relationship with them mirror your love as we strive to imitate the love of Jesus Christ and your servant Francis.

**ALL: Amen.**

### **BLESSING (over each animal)**

**PRIEST:** (*Pet name*), may you be blessed in the name of God who created you, and may you and (*owner name*) enjoy life together with God.  
Amen.

### **BLESSING SONG**

#### **All Things Bright and Beautiful**

*Refrain:*

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

1. Each little flow'r that opens,  
Each little bird that sings,  
He made their glowing colors,  
He made their tiny wings. *Refrain*

2. The cold wind in the winter,  
The pleasant summer sun,

The ripe fruits in the garden,  
He made them every one. *Refrain*

3. The rocky mountain splendor,  
the loon's wild haunting call,  
the great lakes and the prairies;  
the forest in the fall. *Refrain*

4. 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*

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**PRIEST** And now, as our saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

**ALL:** Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,  
on earth, as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver  
us from evil.

For Thine is the kingdom, the power, and the  
glory, for ever and ever. Amen

### **DOXOLOGY**

**ALL:** Glory to God whose power, working  
in us can do infinitely more than we can ask  
or imagine.

Glory to God from generation to generation  
in the Church and in Christ Jesus for ever and  
ever. Amen.

### **FINAL BLESSING**

**PRIEST:** May God who established the dance of  
creation, who marveled at the lilies of the field,  
who transforms chaos to order, lead us to  
transform our lives and the Church to reflect  
God's glory in creation.

**ALL: Amen.**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **DISMISSAL**

**PRIEST:** Go forth into the world, rejoicing  
in the power of the Spirit!

**ALL:** Thanks be to God!