

Blessing of the Animals



*St. Mark's Episcopal Church
October 5th, 2025
4:00 p.m.
Reverend Daisy Colon, officiant*

*We welcome you to join our services on
Sunday mornings!*

*8:30 am Holy Eucharist, no music
10:30 Holy Eucharist, with music
12:30 Holy Eucharist, in Spanish on
2nd & 4th Sundays*

Blessing of the Animals

Celebrant: Blessed by the God of all creation.
People: ***And blessed be God's holy Name for ever.***

Celebrant: Bless your Creator, all animals of the land.
People: ***Praise and exalt our Creator for ever.***

Celebrant: Bless your Creator, all the birds of the air.
People: ***Praise and exalt our Creator for ever.***

Celebrant: Bless your Creator, all creatures of the sea.
People: ***Praise and exalt our Creator for ever.***

Celebrant: Bless your Creator, all the children of God.
People: ***Praise and exalt our Creator for ever.***

Celebrant: God be with you.

People: ***And also with you.***

Celebrant: Let us pray.

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 perfect joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. ***Amen***

First Lesson: A Reading from *The Brothers Karamazov* by Fyodor Dostoevsky

Love all God's creation, the whole and every grain of sand in it. Love every leaf, every ray of God's light. Love the animals, love the plants, love everything. If you love everything, you will perceive the divine mystery in things. Once you perceive it, you will begin to comprehend it better every day. And you will come at last to love the whole world with an all-embracing love. Love the animals: God has given them the rudiments of thought and joy untroubled. Do not trouble it, don't harass them, don't deprive them of their happiness, don't work against God's intent.

Litany for All Creation

Celebrant: Call out the names of those animals for whom we care. Call out the names of those animals who are no longer with us.

Silence

Celebrant: Holy God, Creator of heaven and earth,

People: ***Have mercy upon us.***

Celebrant: Holy and Mighty, Redeemer of the world,

People: ***Have mercy upon us.***

Celebrant: Holy Immortal One, Sanctifier of the faithful,

People: ***Have mercy upon us.***

Celebrant: Grant that all your creatures may serve you with thanksgiving;

People: ***Pour out your blessing on earth, O God.***

Celebrant: Grant favorable weather, temperate rain, and fruitful seasons, providing food and drink for all your creatures;

People: ***Pour out your blessing on earth, O God.***

Celebrant: Open our eyes to the wonder of creation that we may see you in all your works;

People: ***Pour out your blessing on earth, O God.***

Celebrant: Stir in us the desire to care for your creation;

People: ***Pour out your blessing on earth, O God.***

Celebrant: Make us wise and faithful servants of creation, caring for the earth, the waters, the air, and all that live therein;

People: ***Pour out your blessing on earth, O God.***

Celebrant: Forgive us who waste and pollute your creation and strengthen us to restore what we have disregarded;

People: ***Pour out your blessing on earth, O God.***

Celebrant: Make us wise and faithful servants of creation, caring for the earth, the waters, the air, and all that live therein;

People: ***Pour out your blessing on earth, O God.***

Celebrant: Forgive us who waste and pollute your creation and strengthen us to restore what we have disregarded;

People: ***Pour out your blessing on earth, O God.***

Celebrant: Look with compassion on those that are abused and mistreated, show us their dignity in your creation;

People: ***Pour out your blessing on earth, O God.***

Celebrant: Remember those creatures that have died yet remain dear to us, that they may rejoice in your new creation;

People: ***Pour out your blessing on earth, O God.***

Celebrant: Holy Immortal One: No sparrow falls without your knowing it; nothing dies but is remembered by you; nothing comes into being that you do not see. Give us courage and resolve to build up the common good, holding fast to the hope of a new creation in which all shall dwell eternally, through Jesus Christ, our Risen Savior. ***Amen.***

The Blessing of the Animals

Celebrant: God's animals inhabit the skies, the land, and the sea; we share earth with them, and like them rely on God's blessing to sustain and preserve us. We gather today in communion and friendship with Francis of Assisi who preached to animals and moved throughout the known world sharing God's unconditional love for all beings. Remembering Francis's love for all God's creatures, bring forward the animals entrusted to your care that we may bless them.

Pets and their human companions come forward for a personal blessing. Please offer the pet's name followed by the owner's name.

N.(name of the pet) May God who created and preserves you bless, defend, heal, and keep you this day and always. ***Amen.***

Let us pray.

God of all creation: We give you thanks and praise. Open our eyes to see your hand at work in all creation. May your bountiful blessing be upon us all, God our Redeemer, now and for ever. ***Amen.***

Celebrant: God be with you.

People: ***And also with you.***

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Celebrant & People:
***Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed by 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,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.***

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

People: ***Thanks be to God.***



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