Readings for Sunday, October 5, 2025
Blessing of the Animals service

First Lesson: Genesis 1:20-25
20 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. ’21 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. 22 God blessed them, saying, ‘Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth. ’23 And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day. 24 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. 25 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.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.
All: **Thanks be to God**

Prayer of St. Francis (to be said in unison)
Lord, make me an instrument of your peace,
where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
and where there is sadness, joy.

O, God, grant that I may not so much seek to
be consoled as to console;
to be understood as to understand;
to be loved as to love;
for it is in giving that we receive;
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

Second Lesson: Job 12:7-10
7 ‘But ask the animals, and they will teach you;
the birds of the air, and they will tell you;
8 ask the plants of the earth, and they will teach you;
and the fish of the sea will declare to you.
9 Who among all these does not know
that the hand of the Lord has done this?
10 In his hand is the life of every living thing
and the breath of every human being.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.
All: **Thanks be to God**

Gospel: Matthew 6:25-28
Minister: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew
People: **Glory to you Lord Christ.**

'Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?
Minister: The Gospel of the Savior.
All: **Praise to you Lord Christ.**

The Prayers
Leader: Let us give thanks to God our Creator for all the gifts so freely bestowed upon us and for the beauty and wonder of your creation, in earth and sky and sea;
All: **We thank you, Lord.**
Leader: For the richness of the mountains, plains and rivers;
All: **We thank you, Lord.**
Leader: For all that is gracious in the lives of men and women;
All: **We thank you, Lord.**
Leader: For all creatures that breathe, and move, and have life;
All: **We thank you, Lord**.
Leader: For the songs of birds and the loveliness of flowers and trees;
All: **We thank you, Lord.**
Leader: For the trust you have shown in giving into our care these, our pets;
All: **We thank you, Lord.**
Leader: That each animal here may be treasured with care;
All: **We pray to you, Lord.**
Leader: That we may love and honor all your works, O God;
All: **We pray to you, Lord.**
Leader: That we may continue to grow in our grateful enjoyment of your abundant creation;
All: **To the honor and glory of your name, now and forever, we pray to you, Lord. Amen.**