

A Blessing of Animals

According to God's providence, many animals have a certain role to play in human existence by helping with work or providing food and clothing. Today, October 5, 2025, we gather to remember St. Francis and celebrate the joy and companionship of our animals, and to pronounce God's blessing on them, as God blesses all that has been made.

Introductory Rites

Rev. Dr. Matt Meinke

Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

Leader: May God, who is wonderful in all his works, be with you all.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: The animals of God's creation inhabit the skies, the earth, and the sea. They share in the fortunes of human existence and have part in human life.

People: **God has blessed us all, both human and animal, and has made the animal as symbolic reminders of the gift of salvation.**

Animals were saved from the flood and afterwards made a part of the covenant with Noah (Genesis 9:9-10). The paschal lamb brings to mind the Passover sacrifice and the deliverance from the bondage of Egypt (Exodus 12:3-14); a giant fish saved Jonah (Jonah 2:1-11); ravens brought bread to Elijah (1 Kings 17:6); animals were included in the repentance enjoined on humans (Jonah 3:7). And animals share in Christ's redemption of all of God's creation. We therefore invoke God's divine blessing on these animals as we remember the creative and redemptive work of God. Let us praise God, our Creator and thank him for setting us over other creatures of the earth. As we do that, let us also ask, in humility, that we may remember our place as stewards of God's creation, and seek to walk always in God's law.

Psalm 8

O Lord, our God,
how glorious is your name over all the earth!
You have exalted your majesty above the heavens.

O Lord our God, how wonderful is your name in all the earth.

When I behold your heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars which you set in place -
What are we that you should be mindful of us
or the son of man that you should care for him?

O Lord our God, how wonderful is your name in all the earth.

You have given us rule over the works of your hands,
putting all things under our feet:
All sheep and oxen
yes, and the beasts of the field.

O Lord our God, how wonderful is your name in all the earth.

The birds of the air, the fishes of the sea,
and whatever swims the paths of the seas.

O Lord our God, how wonderful is your name in all the earth.

MEDITATION

Brother Lance Wiesmann

PRAYER OF BLESSING

**O God,
the author and giver of every gift,
animals are an essential part of your creation,
and a way you provide help for our needs and labors.
We pray, on this day of St. Francis of Assisi,
that you will continue to enrich our lives with our pets
and give us all things needed to maintain a decent human life.**

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE BLESSING OF ALL

May God bless you and keep you, and may his face shine on you. And 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 forever.

People: **Amen.**

THE BLESSING OF EACH PET (INDIVIDUALLY)

One of the ministers lays hands on each animal and pronounces a blessing.

*"N.(name of animal) may you be blessed in the Name of the Father, and of the
Son and of the Holy Spirit. May you and your family enjoy life together with our
God who created you."*

You are invited to join us afterward for refreshments for you and your pet.