

PET BLESSING

shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church



October 13, 2024 5:15PM

3525 Bee Caves Road

Austin, Texas 78746

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Come, let us gather together.

All: Let us join the gathering, with feathers, scales, and fur, with barks and purrs, with joy and delight.

Leader: Come, let us praise our Creator,

All: Who loves us all!

SONG

All Creatures, Worship God Most High

All creatures, worship God most high!

Sound ev'ry voice in earth and sky: Alleluia! Alleluia!

Sing, brother sun, in splendor bright;

sing, sister moon and stars of night:

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

O sisters, brothers, take your part,

and worship God with humble heart: Alleluia! Alleluia!

All creatures, bless the Father, Son,

and Holy Spirit, Three in One:

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

PRAYER

SCRIPTURE READING

Job 12:7-10

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

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 6:25-26a

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.

BLESSING OF ALL GOD'S CREATURES

CLOSING PRAYER & BENEDICTION

SONG

All God's Critters Got a Place in the Choir

Refrain: All God's critters got a place in the choir
Some sing low, some sing higher
Some sing out loud on the telephone wire
And some just clap their hands, or paws or anything they
got now

Well, listen to the bass, it's the one on the bottom
Where the bullfrog croaks and the hippopotamus
Moans and groans with a big to do
And the old cow just goes, 'Moo' *Refrain*

Well, the dogs and the cats they take up the middle
The honeybee hums and the crickets fiddle
The donkey brays and the pony neighs
The old coyote howls *Refrain*

Well, listen to the top where the little bird sings
The melody with the high voice ringing
The hoot owl hollers over everything
And the jaybird disagrees *Refrain*

Everybody here is a part of the plan
We all get to play in the great critter band
From the eagle in the sky to the whale in the sea
It's one great symphony *Refrain*

COMMISSIONING

Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God, and WE WILL!

The Blessing of Animals

A Blessing of Animals, in many congregations, witnesses to God's and the Church's love, care, and concern for creation. As we recognize our mutual interdependence with God's creatures, the Church's witness of stewardship of creation is strengthened. It is also a service with special appeal to children. A service such as this often takes place on or around the celebration (saint day) of St. Francis of Assisi.

Who is St. Francis?

St. Francis of Assisi was born in the 12th century and lived in Italy. Francis is one of the most venerated religious figures in history. He is remembered for his generosity to the poor, his willingness to minister to the lepers, and for his love for animals and nature. He is the Catholic Church's patron saint of animals and the environment.

Many people bring their pets to the church to be blessed on St. Francis' feast day because of his love for animals as expressed in his Canticle of Creatures. You can pray for and bless your pets and animals at home too. The following Pet Blessing can be used:

Blessed are you, Lord God, maker of all living creatures.

You called forth fish in the sea, birds in the air, and animals on the land.

You inspired St. Francis to call all of them his brothers and sisters.

We ask you to bless this pet.

By the power of your love, enable it to live according to your plan.

May we always praise you for all your beauty in creation.

Blessed are you, Lord our God, in all your creatures! Amen.

All Creatures, Worship God Most High. Text: Francis of Assisi, 1182-1226; tr. composite. Text © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

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