

COMMEMORATION OF SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS



OCTOBER 5, 2025 AT 4:00 PM
SAINT MICHAEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

*In the order of service, congregational responses are printed in **bold**.*

WELCOME AND GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

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.

READINGS

Genesis 1:1, 20-28

¹In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, ²⁰And God said, "Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky." ²¹So 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. ²²God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." ²³And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

²⁴And 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. ²⁵God 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.

²⁶Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth."

²⁷So God created humankind in his image,
in the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.

²⁸God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth."

Psalms 148: 1-11

¹Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise him in the heights!

²Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his host! ³Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars! ⁴Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens! ⁵Let them praise the name of the LORD, for he commanded and they were created. ⁶He established them forever and ever; he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.

⁷Praise the LORD from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps, ⁸fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling his command! ⁹Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars! ¹⁰Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds!

¹¹Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth!

BLESSING OF ANIMALS

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Gracious God, in your love you created us in your image and made us stewards of the animals that live in the skies, the earth, and the sea. Bless us in our care for our pets and animals (all are invited to call out the names of your animals). Help us recognize your power and wisdom in the variety of creatures that live in our world, and hear our prayer for all that suffer overwork, hunger, and ill-treatment. Protect your creatures, and guard them from all evil, now and forever.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray...

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,

and the power, and the glory,

forever and ever. Amen.

CLOSING PRAYER

Let us pray.

O Lord, give us humility to thank you for the creation of animals that show affection which puts us to shame. Enlarge our respect for these your creatures, of whom we are guardians. And give us a sense of responsibility towards all of your creation, for the sake of your son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

BENEDICTION AND INVITATION FOR INDIVIDUAL BLESSING

God Almighty send you light and truth to keep you all the days of your life. The hand of God protect you; the holy angels accompany you; and the blessing of Almighty God: the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with you now and forever.

Amen.



All who desire an individual blessing are welcome to come forward.

(Name of Animal and Care-Giver) 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 and find joy with the God who created you.



*We have commemorative blessing certificates, as well as puppacinos,
take home treats and drinks for you and your pet(s).
Come to the Fellowship Hall walkway.*

We are so glad that you have joined us today.

Special paws for paw-ssistant paw-stors Jack & Sassy

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The Reverend Frank W. Anderson, Pastor

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