



Welcome to
The Cathedral Church of All Saints

The Feast of St. Francis of Assisi - Blessing of Pets Liturgy
October 4th or a Day When Convenient

THE BLESSING OF PETS

Leader Bless the Lord, all you his creatures,

All *And forget not all his benefits.*

Leader 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 perfectness of joy. O God, you have made us and all living things. You are even more wonderful than what you have made. We thank you for giving us these pets who bring us joy. As you take care of us, so also we ask your help that we might take care of those who trust us to look after them. By doing this, we share in your own love for all creation. We ask this in Jesus' name.

All *Amen.*

A READING FROM THE BOOK GENESIS (1:24-31)

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.

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.

Then 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."

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

God said, "See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so.

God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

The Word of the Lord.

All *Thanks be to God.*

Psalm 104: 10-25

- 10 You send the springs into the valleys; *
they flow between the mountains.
- 11 All the beasts of the field drink their fill from them, *
and the wild asses quench their thirst.
- 12 Beside them the birds of the air make their nests *
and sing among the branches.
- 13 You water the mountains from your dwelling on high; *
the earth is fully satisfied by the fruit of your works.
- 14 You make grass grow for flocks and herds *
and plants to serve mankind;
- 15 That they may bring forth food from the earth, *
and wine to gladden our hearts,
- 16 Oil to make a cheerful countenance, *
and bread to strengthen the heart.
- 17 The trees of the LORD are full of sap, *
the cedars of Lebanon which he planted,
- 18 In which the birds build their nests, *
and in whose tops the stork makes his dwelling.
- 19 The high hills are a refuge for the mountain goats, *
and the stony cliffs for the rock badgers.
- 20 You appointed the moon to mark the seasons, *
and the sun knows the time of its setting.
- 21 You make darkness that it may be night, *
in which all the beasts of the forest prowl.
- 22 The lions roar after their prey *
and seek their food from God.
- 23 The Sun rises, and they slip away *
and lay themselves down in their dens.
- 24 Man goes forth to his work *
and to his labor until the evening.
- 25 O LORD, how manifold are your works! *
in wisdom you have made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ST. MATTHEW (6:25-33)

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? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life?

And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these.

But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you--you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear?' For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

The gospel of our Lord

All *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*

THE PRAYERS

Leader Let us give thanks to God our Father for all his gifts so freely bestowed upon us.... 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 pet here may be treasured with care;

All *We thank you, Lord.*

Leader That we may love and honor all your works, O God;

All *We thank you, Lord.*

Leader That we may continue to grow in our grateful enjoyment of your abundant creation;

All *Amen*

THE BLESSING OF EACH PET (INDIVIDUALLY)

"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 N. enjoy life together and in joy with the God who created you."

THE BLESSING OF THE PEOPLE