

Blessing of the Animals



October 9, 2021 at 9:30 a.m. in the courtyard

Christ the King Lutheran Church
2353 Rice Boulevard, Houston, Texas 77005
713-523-2864 ctkelc.org

Gathering

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

Amen.

Siblings in Christ:

Today we gather with thankful hearts
as we seek God's blessings
upon these our fellow creatures.

Word

First Reading

Genesis 1:20-25

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." 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. God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

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.

**¹O LORD our Lord,
 how majestic is your name in all the earth!—
²you whose glory is chanted above the heavens
out of the mouths of infants and children;
 you have set up a fortress against your enemies,
 to silence the foe and avenger.
³When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers,
 the moon and the stars you have set in their courses,
⁴what are mere mortals that you should be mindful of them,
 human beings that you should care for them?
⁵Yet you have made them little less than divine;
 with glory and honor you crown them.
⁶You have made them rule over the works of your hands;
 you have put all things under their feet:
⁷all flocks and cattle,
 even the wild beasts of the field,
⁸the birds of the air, the fish of the sea,
 and whatever passes along the paths of the sea.
⁹O LORD our Lord,
 how majestic is your name in all the earth!**

Second Reading

Genesis 2:18-20a

Then the Lord God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner." So out of the ground the Lord God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. The man gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every animal of the field.

Blessing

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of heaven and earth;
You made the whole earth for your glory; all creation praises you.

We lift our voices to join the songs of heaven and earth,
of things seen and unseen.

You stretched out the heavens like a curtain;
you divided the day from the night;
you appointed times and seasons for work and rest,
for tearing down and building up.

You blessed your people through all generations
and guided them in life and death:

Abraham and Sarah; Moses and Miriam;

Isaiah and all the prophets;

Mary, mother of our Lord;

Peter, James, John, and all the apostles;

and all the saints, especially Francis of Assisi,

and all the witnesses in your Church of ages past,

in whom your Spirit spoke and moved.

Be with us now and bless us and these animals to your glory and praise.

Grant us faith to know your gracious purpose in all things,

give us joy in them,

and lead us to become good stewards of your creation;

through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord,

who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

A pastor will go to each pet. The human being will announce the name of the animal. The pastor will then ask God's blessing on the animal by saying: "May God bless you and fulfill in you the purpose for which you were created." After all the pets present are blessed, the pastor will bless those pets attending via livestream and pray also for those whose pets have died in the past year.

Prayer

Let us pray.

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;

Where there is sadness, joy.

O divine Master, 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;

It is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

Amen.

Francis of Assisi (1181? - 1226)

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The blessing of almighty God,

the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,

be with you all. **Amen.**

Chris Eklof, Bellringer

The Rev. Amandus Derr, Interim Senior Pastor

The Rev. Sergio Rodriguez, Pastor for Community Ministry

Rick Erickson, Deacon