

Blessing of the Animals

And now, O God, bless these animals, our friends, and your creatures. Surround them with your Spirit of life and love and make them a sign to us of your care for all your creation.

All this we ask in the name of God who created us, God who redeemed us, and God who sustains us. *Amen.*

The leader then bless each animal by name:

Bless, Oh Lord, this your creature _____; may *he/she* remind us that all animals and creatures share your world with us, and we are entrusted with their care as they bring us companionship and joy. AMEN.

The Dismissal

Leader: Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

People: *Thanks be to God.*



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A SERVICE OF BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Opening Collect for Knowledge of God's Creation:

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: *And also with you.*

Leader: Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, you made the universe with all its marvelous order, its atoms, worlds, and galaxies, and the infinite complexity of living creatures: Grant that, as we probe the mysteries of your creation, we may come to know you more truly, and more surely fulfill our role in your eternal purpose; in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Old Testament 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 sea, 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 so it was. 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.

Reader: The Word of the Lord

People: *Thanks be to God*

A Litany of the Animals

The congregation will say the following:

Praise God for all the creatures of the earth, the birds of the air and the fish of the sea.

Praise God for the air we breathe and the water we drink.

Praise God for the warmth of the sun and the worms that keep the soil good.

Praise God for the deep dark sea which gives forth shrimp, crabs and lobsters that are good to eat.

Thank you Lord for life and for the good earth, our is land home.

Help the human beings that you have made to know that they share the earth with all the creatures you have made.

Teach the human beings, the men, women, boys and girls, to care for the earth and all the creatures you have made.

Guide the people of the earth to care for everything you have made, to use it wisely, and to leave it clean and new for those who come after them.

Thank you, Lord, for the world. Amen.

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: *And also with you.*

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: *It is right to give him thanks and praise.*

Leader: We thank you, almighty God, for the gift of creation, for the earth which you have made, and for the animals, the birds and the fish who share this world with us. You have given us dominion over all the creatures of the earth, to shepherd, care for and respect. Make us mindful of our responsibility to all your creation.

We thank you also Lord, for the animals you have given us as companions and friends along life's way. Especially, Lord, we thank you for our pets who are members of our households, and who bring joy and happiness to our hearts.

We are grateful for our cats, dogs, fish, turtles, rabbits, hamsters, and all the other creatures you have given into our care.