

**An Order for the Blessing of Pets  
October 2, 2022  
2:00 p.m. in the Afternoon  
St. Mark's Lutheran Church  
Williamsport, PA, 17701  
Rev. Brian D. Vasey, Pastor**



**GATHERING**

*When most of the pets and their friends have gathered, the assembly forms a circle.*

**GREETING**

The animals of God's creation inhabit the skies, the earth and the sea. They share in the fortunes of human existence and have a part in human life. God, who confers gifts on all living things, has often used the service of animals as reminders of the gifts of salvation. Animals were saved from the flood and afterwards made a part of the covenant with Noah. The paschal lamb recalls the passover sacrifice and the deliverance from slavery in Egypt. A giant fish saved Jonah. Ravens brought bread to Elijah. Animals were included in the repentance of Nineveh; and all creation shares in the redemption of Christ. Therefore, with thanksgiving, we invoke God's blessing on these animals gathered before us.

**PSALM 148**

<sup>1</sup>Hallelujah! Praise the LORD from the heavens;  
praise God in the heights.

<sup>2</sup>**Praise the LORD, all you angels;  
sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.**

<sup>3</sup>Praise the LORD, sun and moon;  
sing praise, all you shining stars.

<sup>4</sup>**Praise the LORD, heaven of heavens,  
and you waters above the heavens.**

<sup>5</sup>Let them praise the name of the LORD,

who commanded, and they were created,

**6**who made them stand fast forever and ever,  
giving them a law that shall not pass away.

<sup>7</sup>Praise the LORD from the earth,  
you sea monsters and all deeps;

**8**fire and hail, snow and fog,  
tempestuous wind, doing God's will;

<sup>9</sup>mountains and all hills,  
fruit trees and all cedars;

**10**wild beasts and all cattle,  
creeping things and flying birds;

<sup>11</sup>sovereigns of the earth and all peoples,  
princes and all rulers of the world;

**12**young men and maidens,  
old and young together.

<sup>13</sup>Let them praise the name of the LORD,  
whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over earth and heaven.

**14**The LORD has raised up strength for the people and praise for all faithful  
servants, the children of Israel, a people who are near the LORD. Hallelujah!

## **FROM THE GOSPELS**

*Matthew 6:26* Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns and yet your heavenly Father feeds them.

*Luke 15:4-6* Which of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the 99 in the wilderness and going after the one that is lost until he finds it? When he has found it, he lays it upon his shoulders and rejoices. And

when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors saying to them, “Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.”

## **THE BLESSING**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O Lord of the universe; you create the animals and give us the ability to train them to help us in our work.

**O God, how wonderful are the works of your hands.**

Blessed are you, O Lord of the universe; for the sake of our comfort you give us these animals as our companions.

**O God, how wonderful are the works of your hands.**

Blessed are you, O Lord of the universe; you care for us even as you care for the birds of the air.

**O God, how wonderful are the works of your hands.**

Blessed are you, O Lord of the universe you offered your Son to us as our Passover Lamb and in him willed that we should be called your children.

**O God, how wonderful are the works of your hands.**

Bless, O Lord, these our pets gathered before you, and fill our hearts with thanksgiving for their being.

**Amen.**

*Pets with their owners form a procession to receive an individual blessing*  
(Pet's name) The Lord bless you and keep you.

**Amen.**

*After each individual pet has been blessed, the following prayer is shared:*

As God has blessed you with these pets, so may they be blessed by your love and care; in the name of the Father, + and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

**HYMN (attributed to Francis of Assisi)**

**All creatures of Our God and King,  
Lift up your voice and with us sing:  
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**O burning sun with golden beam  
And silver moon with softer gleam:  
Oh praise him! Oh praise him!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Let all things their Creator bless  
And worship God in humbleness,  
Oh, praise, him! Alleluia!  
Oh, praise the Father, praise the Son,  
And praise the Spirit, Three in One,  
Oh, praise him! Oh, praise him!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**



**DISMISSAL**

**Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
Thanks be to God!**

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