

# A SERVICE FOR THE BLESSING OF ANIMALS

## PRAISE

God's Love has been poured into our hearts  
**We dwell in God and God with us.**

Give thanks to the Lord the maker of heaven and earth  
**Make known God's works amongst the peoples.**

Sing to the Lord, sing praise to God's name.  
**Tell of the Lord's marvelous works.**

Holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty,  
**Who was and who is and is to come.**

**HYMN:** If I Were a Butterfly

## THE CONFESSION

Lord God, through Your Word you created all that is. In all Creation, Your word resonates, so that even the stones proclaim You as Lord. The whales and all that move in the waters, the birds of the air, and the beasts of the wild, You call all creation to praise and glorify You. But our lips are often silent, our praise unspoken, and our thankfulness forgotten.

**O Lord, our creator, touch our lips and let us speak for you.**

You made the earth a home for all creatures, and made it holy by Your presence among us, teaching us to learn of Your kingdom by loving and caring for the creatures of the earth. But we often pass by and turn away from those creatures weaker and poorer than ourselves, and from those we fear.

**Come, Lord Jesus, among us, and reveal your kingdom in our midst.**

In You all creatures find the wellspring of life and You give us water from the earth to sustain us. You give Your creatures eyes to see and ears to hear but we are often blind and deaf to their pain because of our indifference, greed and carelessness.

**Come Holy Spirit, and kindle in us the fire of your love, Come Holy Spirit and renew the face of the earth.**

## SCRIPTURE READING

## THE HOMILY

**HYMN:** From the Tiny Ant

## THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

With confidence and trust let us pray to the Lord:

For all animals and creatures, their habitats and environment, their health and well-being, that they may continue to teach us of Your wisdom and grace:

**O Lord, our Creator, hear us.**

For the care and respect of all animals, especially those used for food and for experimentation

**O Lord, our Creator, hear us.**

For those who support and care for bird and animal sanctuaries

**O Lord, our Creator, hear us.**

For veterinarians and all who are involved in the farming of animals

**O Lord, our Creator, hear us.**

For growing awareness of our own responsibility for the care and nurture of all animal life

**O Lord, our Creator, hear us.**

For animal companions everywhere, that we may see reflected in them the goodness and love of God

**O Lord, our Creator, hear us.**

Gathering our prayers and praises into one, let us pray as our Savior taught us,

**Our Father in heaven**

**hallowed be Your Name**

**Your kingdom come**

**Your will be done**

**on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins**

**As we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial**

**and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours**

**now and for ever. AMEN**

## THE BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Almighty Father, we bless these animals for all they have done for us, in supplying our food, in carrying our burdens, providing us with clothing and companionship, and rendering a service to the human race since the world began.

*The minister blesses each animal with the following words. The owner of the animal pronounces the animal's name at the appropriate place.*

May God bless and protect you **(Name)** and those who care for you.

**HYMNS DURING THE BLESSING:** The Canticle of Brother Sun  
All Things Bright and Beautiful

## **WORDS OF ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI**

Animals have the same source as human beings. Like us, they derive the life of thought, will and love from the Creator. Not to hurt our humble animal brethren was our first duty to them; but to stop short there is a complete misapprehension of the intentions of Providence. We have a higher mission. God wishes us to help them whenever they require it.

## **THE PRAYER OF ST FRANCIS**

Lord, make us instruments of your peace  
Where there is hatred, let us sow love  
Where there is injury, pardon  
Where there is discord, union  
Where there is doubt, faith  
Where there is despair, hope  
Where there is darkness, light  
Where there is sadness, joy :  
Grant that we 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 forgiving that we are pardoned  
And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

## **PRAYER OF THE CONFERENCE OF ANIMALS ON WORLD EXTINCTION**

Heavenly Father, we beseech You to protect us from the two legged animal called man, who it is rumoured You created in Your own image. We ask You to save our hides, preserve our feathers, and protect our tusks from the power You have given humans over all other animals. We do not wish to become fur coats, handbags, ladies hats, piano keys, ashtrays, belts, and shoes, wall hangings or rugs for the fireplace. We ask You, Lord, to show them that their survival depends on our survival, and our salvation is tied to their salvation, for those who do not love nature cannot love each other. Amen

## **THE BLESSING OF THE PEOPLE**

I will pronounce upon you the blessing which St Francis gave to Brother Leo his companion,

The LORD bless you and watch over you.  
The LORD make His face shine on you  
and be gracious to you.  
The LORD look kindly on you  
and give you peace.  
My sisters, my brothers, the LORD bless you.

## **THE DISMISSAL**

Go in peace.  
Be good stewards of the Creation.  
Live in harmony with all things living  
**Thanks be to God.**