



Welcome to Grace Lutheran Church

To glorify God, to grow in faith,
to give in service, together in Christ

A collection of colorful paw prints in various sizes and colors (orange, blue, purple, green) arranged in a cluster.

Oct. 8
at noon

Grace
Lutheran
Church

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Blessing of the Animals, October 8, 2022

Greeting and Prayer

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the compassion of God, and the creative power of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Let us pray: Source and sustainer of life....**Amen.**

Song: “All God’s Critters Got a Place in the Choir” (st. 1-3)

Refrain (repeat first time)

All God's critters got a place in the choir
Some sing low, some sing higher
Some sing out loud on the telephone wire
And some just clap their hands, or paws or anything they got now.

Listen to the top where the little bird sings
The melody with the high voice ringing
The hoot owl hollers over everything
And the jaybird disagrees.

Refrain

Well the dogs and the cats they take up the middle
The honeybee hums and the crickets fiddle
The donkey brays and the pony neighs
The old coyote howls.

Refrain

Listen to the bass, it's the one on the bottom
Where the bullfrog croaks and the hippopotamus
Moans and groans with a big to do
And old cow just goes 'Moo'

Refrain

Reading: Genesis 1:1, 20-28

Word of God, Word of life.

Thanks be to God.

The animals of God's creation inhabit the skies, the earth, and the sea. They share in the fortunes of human existence and are part of human life. God, who gives us all things, has reminded often in Holy Scripture of animals that served as reminders of God's salvation.

- The paschal lamb in Exodus recalls the delivery of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt
- A giant fish saved Jonah
- Ravens brought bread to Elijah in 1 Kings
- A donkey saw an angel in the book of Numbers

...and animals share in Christ's redemption of all creation. As we give thanks for them, we ask God to richly bless these animals.

Let us pray:

Almighty God, you have made us and all living things. For these animals who give us joy, we thank and praise you. For these present, we thank and praise you. Make us faithful caretakers of these animals and all those on earth, as we share in your love for all creation.

We give thanks to you, O God, for animals that live in our homes, on farms, in the wild, and in havens of refuge. Make us ever aware of our responsibility to these, your creatures. Help us to be faithful in caring for them, through the one in whom all creation is made new, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Hear our prayers, O God, for our friends, the animals—especially for animals that are suffering; for all that are frightened or lost, or deserted or hungry; and for all those animals that must be put to death. We ask for them your providing care; and for those who deal with them, we ask a heart of compassion, gentle hands, and kind words. Help us to be true friends to animals, that through us they may know the blessing of the merciful; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Blessing of individual pets:

Bless, O Lord, this (these) creature(s),
and fill our hearts with thanksgiving for its (their) being.

Song: “All God’s Critters Got a Place in the Choir” (st. 4-6)

Refrain

All God's critters got a place in the choir
Some sing low, some sing higher
Some sing out loud on the telephone wire
And some just clap their hands, or paws or anything they got now.

Singing in the nighttime, singing in the day
The little duck quacks and he's on his way
The 'possum don't have much to say
And the porcupine talks to herself.

Refrain

Everybody here is a part of the plan
We all get to play in the great critter band
From the eagle in the sky to the whale in the sea
It's one great symphony.

Refrain

Dismissal with blessing

May God, who created the animals of this earth,
continue to protect and sustain us all,
now and for ever. **Amen.**



Grace Lutheran Church

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