



THE BLESSING OF ANIMALS

*A celebration with creation
in honour of St Francis of Assisi.
Patron saint of Ecology*

Canticle of Creation (Opening Hymn)

Marty Haugen

**The heavens are telling the glory of God,
and all creation is shouting for joy,
come dance in the forest, come play in the field,
and sing, sing to the glory of the Lord.**

Praise for the sun, the bringer of day,
who carries the light, of the Lord in its rays,
the moon and the stars, they light up the way,
unto Your throne.

Praise for the wind, who blows through the trees,
the seas mighty storms, the gentlest breeze,
they blow where they will, they blow where they please,
to please the Lord.

Praise for the rain, that waters our fields,
and blesses our crops, so all the earth yields,
from death until life, her myst'ry reveals,
springs forth in joy.

Praise for the earth, who makes life to grow,
the creatures You made, to let Your light show,
the flowers and trees, that help us to know,
the heart of love.

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Priest: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit

All: Amen

Priest: The Lord Be with you

All: And with your spirit

Priest: Dear sisters and brothers, the animals of God's creation, inhabit the skies, the earth, and the sea. They share in the ways of human beings. They have a part in our lives. St Francis of Assisi recognised this, when he called the animals, wild and tame, his brothers and sisters. Remembering Francis' love for these brothers and sisters of ours, we invoke God's blessings on these animals, and we thank God for letting us share the earth with all His creatures.

Psalm 8

Your majesty is praised above the heaven,
on the lips of children and of babes.

You have found praise to foil Your enemy,
to silence the foe and the rebel.

**All: How great is Your name, O Lord our God,
through all the earth!**

When I see the heavens, the work of Your hands,
the moon and the stars which You arranged.

What is man that You should keep him in mind,
mortal man that You care for him?

**All: How great is Your name, O Lord our God,
through all the earth!**

Yet You have made him little less than a god,
with glory and honour You crowned him.

Gave him power over the works of Your hand,
put all things under his feet.



All: How great is Your name, O Lord our God, through all the earth!

All of them, sheep and cattle,
yes, even the savage beasts.
Birds of the air, and fish,
that make their way through the waters.

All: How great is Your name, O Lord our God, through all the earth!

Intercessions

Lead: Surrounded by the animals we love, we remember with gratitude the animal companions who have blessed our lives:

All: We give thanks for our childhood pets, who taught us to love and to cry.

We give thanks for our children's pets, who teaches them responsibility.

And we give thanks for the pets who brightens our days

Lead: Surrounded by our beloved pets, we remember the many animals who suffer:

All: We remember those badly treated, hunted, abandoned or hungry.

Lead: Surrounded by the animals we love, we know that many animals contribute to our lives:

All: We give thanks for those animals who help us.

Lead: Spirit of life, help us to remember, that we live, work, and love among the animals. Help us to be their friends: to love care and protect them from harm.

All: We pledge to care for them tenderly and faithfully.

Remembering that we are called to be responsible stewards of them.

Concluding prayer

Pet owners are invited to place their hands on their pets as the presider prays:

Priest: Blessed are You, Lord God, maker of all living creatures.

You called forth fish in the sea, birds in the air and animals on the land.

You inspired Saint Francis to call all of them his brothers and sisters.

We ask you to bless this pet.

By the power of your love, enable it to live according to your plan.

May we always praise you for all your beauty in creation.

Blessed are you, Lord our God, in all your creatures!

All: Amen

Concluding Hymn Canticle of Creation

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Animals are blessed at this point

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