

# ***Celebrating Creation***

## ***Blessing of Pets***



*A Blessing of Animals, in many congregations, witnesses to God's and the Church's love, care, and concern for creation.*

*As we recognize our mutual interdependence with God's creatures, the Church's witness of stewardship of creation is strengthened.*

*It is also a service with special appeal to children.*

## 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.

**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 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.

**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 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.

**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 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.



**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. God, who confers gifts on all living things, has often used the service of animals or made them reminders of the gifts of salvation. We, therefore, invoke God's blessing on these animals. As we do so, let us praise the Creator and thank God for setting us as stewards over all the creatures of the earth.

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## **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!**

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### **Intercessions**

**Priest:** God created us and placed us on the earth to be stewards of all living things, therefore let us proclaim the glory of our Creator, saying:

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

**Priest:** 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.

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

**Priest:** Blessed are you, O Lord of the Universe; you give us food from animals to replenish our energies.

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

**Priest:** Blessed are you, O Lord of the Universe; for the sake of our comfort you give us domestic animals as companions.

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

**Priest:** Blessed are you, O Lord of the Universe; you care for us even as you care for the birds of the air.

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

**Priest:** Blessed are you, O Lord of the Universe; you offered your Son to us as the passover lamb and in him willed that we should be called your children.

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

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### **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**

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

**All: Amen**

## Concluding Hymn All Creatures of Our God and King

Sister Armstrong

*Animals are blessed at this point*

All creatures of our God and king  
Lift up your voices and with us sing  
Alleluia! alleluia!

Thou burning with golden beam  
Thou silver moon with softer gleam  
O praise Him! O praise Him  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thou rushing wind that art so strong  
Ye clouds that sail in heaven along  
O praise Him! Alleluia!

Thou rising morn in praise rejoice  
Ye light of evening find a voice  
O praise Him! O praise Him  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

And all ye men of tender heart  
Forgiving others, take your part,  
O sing ye! Alleluia!

Ye who long pain and sorrow bear,  
Praise God and on Him cast your  
care!

O praise Him! O praise Him  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Let all things their Creator bless,  
And worship Him in humbleness,  
O praise Him! Alleluia!

Praise, praise the Father,  
Praise the Son,  
Praise, praise the Spirit, Three in  
One!

O praise Him! O praise Him  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

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ALL CREATURES GREAT AND SMALL

