

# The of the Blessing Animals

in observance of the Feast Day of Saint Francis of Assisi

OCTOBER 6, 2024 | 5:00 PM | THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER  
Holy Eucharist in the Celtic Tradition



# GATHERING MUSIC

*In Sally Garden*

## OPENING WORDS

We gather to honor the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, and to honor the animals who share our lives. St. Francis is the patron saint of animals and ecology. Francis glorified in the beauty of the world God created, and we recall many takes of his affection for animals and their trust in him. Today we thank God for the gifts of companionship and beauty which animals and pets bring to our lives and homes, and ask God's blessing on them.

## OPENING HYMN

LET ALL THINGS NOW LIVING



1. Let all things now liv - ing a song of thanks - giv - ing to  
2. His law he en - for - ces, the stars in their cours - es and



God the cre - a - tor tri - um - phant - ly raise, who fash - ioned and  
sun in its or - bit o - be - dient - ly shine; the hills and the



made us, pro - tec - ted and stayed us, who still guides us  
moun - tains, the riv - ers and foun - tains, the deeps of the



on to the end of our days. God's ban - ners are o'er us, his  
o - cean pro - claim him di - vine. We too should be voic - ing our



light goes be - fore us, a pil - lar of fire shin - ing forth in the  
love and re - joic - ing; with glad a - dor - a - tion a song let us



night, 'till shad - ows have van - quished and dark - ness is  
raise, 'till all things now liv - ing u - -nite in thanks -



ban - ished, as for - ward we trav - el from light in - to light.  
- giv - ing: "to God in the high - est, ho - san - na and praise!"

## **A PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray. Most high, omnipotent, good Lord, grant your people grace to renounce gladly the vanities of this world; that, following the way of blessed Francis, we may, for love of you, delight in your whole creation with perfectness of joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## **FIRST LESSON**

*Psalm 104: 24-25, 27-28, 30-31*

O Lord, how manifold are your works!  
In wisdom you have made them all;  
The earth is full of your creatures.  
Yonder is the sea, great and wide,  
Creeping things innumerable are there,  
Living things both small and great.  
These all look to you  
To give them their food in due season;  
When you open your hand,  
They are filled with good things.  
When you send forth your spirit, they are created;  
And you renew the face of the ground.  
May the glory of the Lord endure forever...

The Word of the Lord.

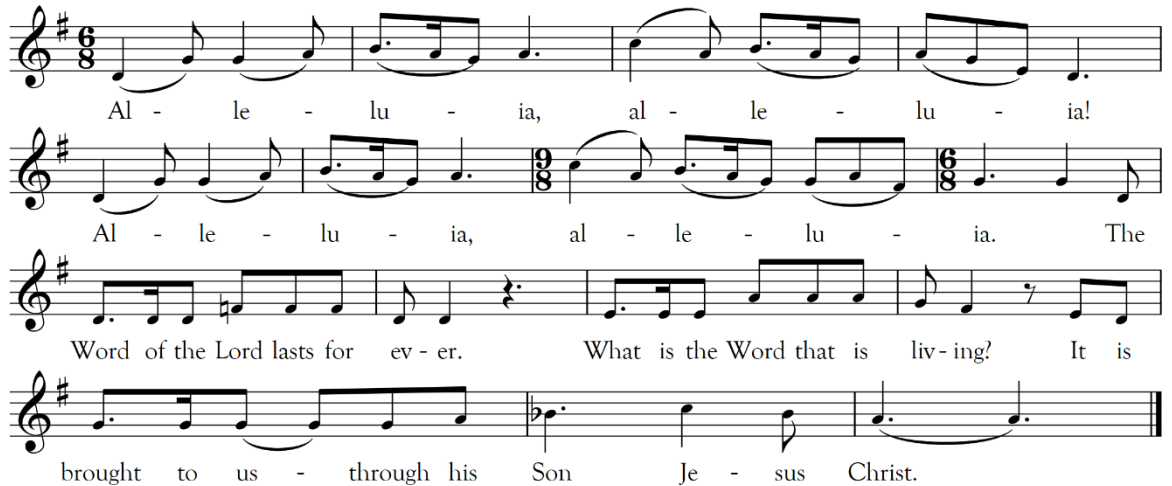
**Thanks be to God.**

## **THE RESPONSE**

'Apprehend God in all things,  
for God is in all things.  
Every single creature is full of God,  
and is a book about God.  
Every creature is a word of God.  
If I spent enough time with the tiniest creature  
even a caterpillar  
I would never have to prepare a sermon  
so full of God  
is every creature'

*- Meister Eckhart, a 13th century Christian mystic*

## GOSPEL SONG



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. The

Word of the Lord lasts for ev - er. What is the Word that is liv - ing? It is

brought to us - through his Son Je - sus Christ.

## THE GOSPEL

*Matthew 6:25-26*

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

‘Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them.’

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

## THE HOMILY

*There will be a pause for silent reflection immediately following the homily.*

## THE PRAYERS

*Leader* Let us give thanks to God our Creator for all the gifts so freely bestowed upon us and for the beauty and wonder of your creation, in earth and sky and sea;

*All* **We thank you, Lord.**

*Leader* For the richness of the mountains, plains and rivers;

*All* **We thank you, Lord.**

*Leader* For all that is gracious in the lives of all people;

*All* **We thank you, Lord.**

*Leader* For all creatures that breathe, and move, and have life;

*All* **We thank you, Lord.**

*Leader* For the songs of birds and the loveliness of flowers and trees;

*All* **We thank you, Lord.**

*Leader* For the trust you have shown in giving into our care these, our pets;

*All* **We thank you, Lord.**

*Leader* That each pet here may be treasured with care;

*All* **We pray to you, Lord.**

*Leader* That we may love and honor all your works, O God;

*All* **We pray to you, Lord.**

*Leader* That we may continue to grow in our grateful enjoyment of your abundant creation;

*All* **To the honor and glory of your name, now and forever, we pray to you, Lord. Amen.**

## REMEMBRANCE OF PETS DEPARTED

Let us pray. O God of all creation, we thank you for the gift of companionship in the animals who have throughout our lives shared our earthly journey. Make us ever mindful of the love and devotion bestowed on us by the creatures we accept into our lives. Help us to remember and honor the gift of companionship which they have given so generously. Heal the deep grief and sorrow we feel at the death of beloved pets, especially those we now name, either silently or aloud. . . Help us to share our love and lives abundantly as we go forward. In Jesus' name. **Amen.**

## **BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS**

O Lord, who looks upon all creation and declares it to be very good: we thank you for the animals with whom we share this earth, and particularly those you have given into our care. Guard them, we pray. Tend to their necessities, relieve their suffering, and protect them from exploitation. Help us to see in them the beauty and glory of your creative hand. As you raised your servant, St. Francis, to declare the oneness of your work, help us to be instruments of your loving providence, that all creation may sing your praises. In God's name. **Amen.**

*Here all animals present receive a blessing.*

## **SHARING THE PEACE**

God makes peace within us.

**Let us claim it.**

God makes peace between us.

**Let us share it.**

## **THE HOLY COMMUNION**

### **OFFERTORY**

*Come and Find a Quiet Center*

*We encourage you to give your offering electronically today through our CoR App.*

*(Search Redeemer Cincy in your app store.) Or you may choose to give online via our secure online system located here: <https://redeemercincy.tpsdb.com/Give/offering> There are also two collection spots in the narthex (look for the Give Here signs) where you may deposit your offering safely.*

## **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

We offer you praise and hearts lifted high, O God. You breathe into us your Spirit, and by the blowing of the gentle breeze, you remind us of the constancy of your loving presence. Your glory is in the breath of each created thing, and through your creation we see the holiness and wonder of your being, And so with all the hosts of heaven and earth, with the wind that howls and the gentle breeze that soothes, we join in the praises of your unending greatness:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might, heav'n and earth are filled with your glo - ry, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord. ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est

Blessed are you, O God, for the great day of salvation prepared from the beginning of the world, when Christ, though rejected on earth, will be seen by all to be chosen and precious in your sight. We thank you for Jesus who carried sin's destructive powers to the cross that all people might be set free. Through Christ Jesus you inspire in us the hope that earth's forces of darkness will be scattered, and angels of glory and principalities of light will bring a new heaven and a new earth. On the night when he was betrayed took bread, and having blessed it, He broke the bread, and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take, eat; this is my body which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way he took wine, and having given thanks for it, he gave the cup to his disciples, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." **Remembering his eternal self-giving, we proclaim the mystery of Christ among us. Made one with him and one with each other, we offer these gifts and with them ourselves, a single, holy living sacrifice**

Sanctify us with your Holy Spirit, O God, and sanctify this bread and this wine to be the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, that through them we may be made strong again with the strength that only you supply. May our inner selves be nourished that in the outward things of life we may follow the way of Love and grow more and more into salvation; through Christ, by whom, with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty God, world without end. **AMEN.**  
As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now say,

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 forever. Amen

## **THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD**

The Bread of heaven is broken for the life of the world.  
The Cup of love is shared with all who seek God. Amen.

## **COMMUNION MUSIC**

*Inis Siar*

## **THE SHARING OF A HOLY MEAL**

### **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 pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.



## THE BLESSING OF ST. FRANCIS MEDALS

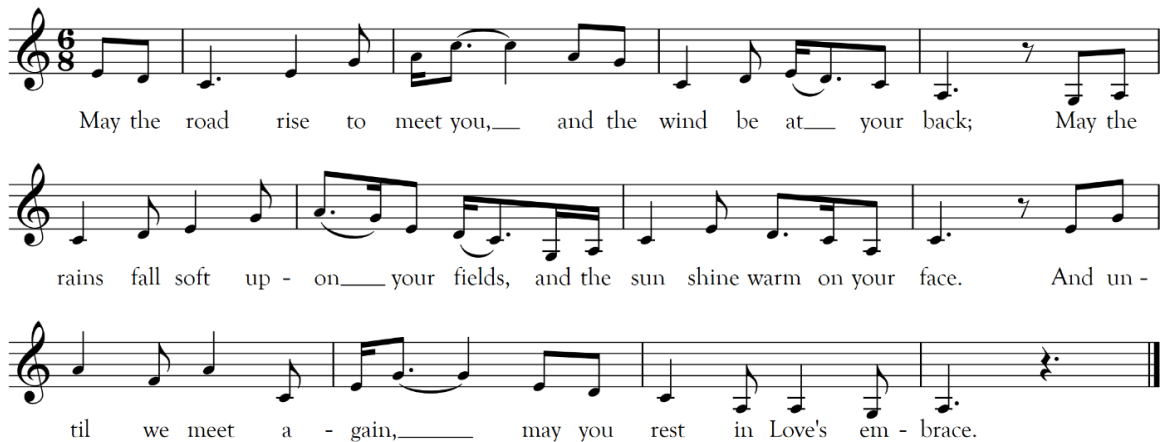
O God of the Saints, we thank you for the life and example of Saint Francis. We ask your blessing upon all your creatures and upon these medals which we bless now in your Name. Grant that the animals we love may be kept safe from harm and continue to grace our lives, through Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

## THE BLESSING

And the blessing of God almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be with you now and for ever. **Amen.**

## BLESSING SONG

CELTIC BENEDICTION



May the road rise to meet you, — and the wind be at — your back; May the  
rains fall soft up - on — your fields, and the sun shine warm on your face. And un -  
til we meet a - gain, — may you rest in Love's em - brace.

## THE DISMISSAL

Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.  
Thanks be to God.

## POSTLUDE

*The Parting Glass*

**FRANCIS OF ASSISI**, Friar and Deacon, 1226 Francis, the son of a prosperous merchant of Assisi, was born in 1182. His early youth was spent in harmless revelry and fruitless attempts to win military glory. Various encounters with beggars and lepers pricked the young man's conscience, however, and he decided to embrace a life devoted to Lady Poverty. Despite his father's intense opposition, Francis totally renounced all material values and devoted himself to serve the poor. In 1210, Pope Innocent III confirmed the simple Rule for the Order of Friars Minor, a name Francis chose to emphasize his desire to be numbered among the "least" of God's servants. The order grew rapidly all over Europe. But, by 1221, Francis had lost control of it, since his ideal of strict and absolute poverty, both for the individual friars and for the order as a whole, was found to be too difficult to maintain. His last years were spent in much suffering of body and spirit, but his unconquerable joy never failed. In his later years he was ordained as a deacon, but he resisted all efforts to persuade him to become a priest. Not long before his death, during a retreat on Mount La Verna, Francis received, on September 14th, Holy Cross Day, the marks of the Lord's wounds, the stigmata, in his own hands and feet and side. Pope Gregory IX, a former patron of the Franciscans, canonized Francis in 1228 and began the erection of the great basilica in Assisi where Francis is buried. Of all the saints, Francis is perhaps the most popular and admired but probably the least imitated; few have attained to his total identification with the poverty and suffering of Christ. Francis left few writings; but, of these, his spirit of joyous faith comes through most truly in the "Canticle of the Sun," which he composed at Clare's convent of St. Damian's. The version in The Hymnal begins (The Hymnal 1982, #406; #407):

## **PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S WORSHIP**

Celebrant & Preacher .....The Rev. Philip DeVaul  
Lector ..... Angela Lyman  
Lay Reader .....Carter Waide  
Intercessor ..... Anny Stevens-Gleason  
Celtic Guild..... John Calhoun  
Bread Guild..... Guy Byars  
Altar Guild .....Andrea Rogers, John Morabito, Pattie Kovach, Julia Joyce  
Flower Guild ..... Courtney Vice, Andrea Schenck Vicky Carroll Lynne Zajak

## **IN THANKSGIVING & MEMORY**

The flowers that beautify our worship spaces are given to the glory of God in thanksgiving for George, Jack, Emma, & Charlie by John & Anne Krug and in loving memory of Alan Rosswaag by Gary Lubin.



### VISION STATEMENT

We have a vision of a worshipping community  
that **knows Jesus and grows in love:**

- **United** in relationships of holy connection and communion;
- **Growing** with people of every age, race, gender, sexual orientation, socioeconomic situation, and political persuasion;
- **Inspired** by our understanding of why we are Christian, why we are Episcopalian, why Redeemer matters to us;
- **Sent** into the world, rooted and grounded in love, to serve all people with humility, compassion, and faithfulness.

**THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER**



**The Episcopal Church of the Redeemer**

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