

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

PRAYER ATTRIBUTED TO SAINT FRANCIS

LORD, MAKE ME AN INSTRUMENT OF YOUR PEACE, WHERE THERE IS HATRED, LET ME SOW LOVE;
WHERE THERE IS INJURY, PARDON; WHERE THERE IS DOUBT, FAITH; WHERE THERE IS DESPAIR, HOPE;
WHERE THERE IS DARKNESS, LIGHT; AND WHERE THERE IS SADNESS, JOY. O, GOD, GRANT THAT I
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.

CALL TO WORSHIP: Job 12: 7, 8b, 10a

The presiding minister addresses the assembly.

But ask the animals, and they will teach you;
the birds of the air, and they will tell you;
...and the fish of the sea will declare to you.
In God's hand is the life of every living thing...
Amen

Silence follows the Call to Worship

OPENING READING: From Genesis 1

The presiding minister leads the assembly in prayer.

God said, "Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky." So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. And God blessed them.

And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind, cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind." And it was so. And God saw that it was good.

Then God said, "Let us make humankind". And God blessed them. God saw everything that God had made, and indeed, it was very good.

OPENING PRAYER/PROCESSIONAL

The presiding minister leads the assembly in prayer.

Come, let us gather together.
Let us join the gathering.

Come, all is ready for all of creation.
Let us join the gathering.

Come let us praise our Creator.
We are loved.

Amen.

GATHERING SONG: *Rise and Shine*

The Lord said to Noah:
There's gonna be a floody, floody
The Lord said to Noah:
There's gonna be a floody, floody
Get those children out of the muddy, muddy
Children of the Lord

Refrain

Rise and shine
And give God the glory, glory
Rise and shine
And give God the glory, glory
Rise and shine
And give God the glory, glory
Children of the Lord

The Lord told Noah
To build him an arky, arky
The Lord told Noah
To build him an arky, arky
Build it out of gopher barky, barky
Children of the Lord

He called for the animals,
They came in by twosie, twosies
He called for the animals,
They came in by twosie, twosies
Elephants and kangaroosie, roosies
Children of the Lord

It rained and it poured
For forty daysie, daysies
It rained and it poured
For forty daysie, daysies
Almost drove those animals crazy, crazies,
Children of the Lord

The sun came out and
It dried up the landy landy
The sun came out and
It dried up the landy landy
Everything was fine and dandy, dandy
Children of the Lord

The animals they came off
They came off by three-sies three-sies
Animals they came off
They came off by three-sies three-sies
Grizzly bears and chimpanzee-sies zee-sies
Children of the Lord

That is the end of,
The end of my story, story
That is the end of,
The end of my story, story
Everything is hunky dory, dory
Children of the Lord

LITANY OF CONFESSION ON THE OCCASION OF THE BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

The presiding minister leads the assembly in the Litany of Confession. The assembly responds.

Creator God,
You have made a beautiful world filled with wonder and surprises!
We adore you.

Creator God,
who has gifted us with the blessing of animals, those in the wild, those on farms, those in our own homes
We adore you.

Creator God,
you brought into being that which we could not imagine for ourselves,
life we cannot see without the aid of microscopes, animals we can only see in pictures from remote regions of this planet earth,
We adore you.

We thank you for abundant life;
for the birds we hear in the morning,
for the drone of the bees when we are outside,
for the vast tapestry of life which is interwoven,
We give you thanks.

We thank you for the gift of our own animal companions;
For the joy they bring us,
For the unconditional love and forgiveness which teaches us about you;
For the confidant, the listener, the stress-releaser,
For the benefits they are to our health-and to our Spirit.
We give you thanks.

And yet, we know that we have not always been faithful caretakers of our animals;
Forgive us when we have dirtied their environment, erased places of shelter, polluted the waters, killed off their food supplies or neglected to feed or tend animals in our own communities.

Forgive us when we have neglected our own animal companions;
we have said we are too busy to play with them, when we have shooed them away;
when we have made excuses, saying we are too tired...too busy...more important engagements have come up...so that we do not walk them, cuddle them, spend time with them.
Forgive us.

(continued on next page).

Forgive us when we have not loved them as they have loved us.

Forgive us when we have not considered the wider picture; when we have neglected the animals in the wild, the cruelty inflicted in the name of 'sport', or in the name of food production.

Forgive us when we have focused only on our 'favorites' and neglected the care of the supposedly less beautiful, those who hold a lower public profile

Each year more animals are becoming extinct, or are added to the endangered species list: forgive us, for allowing beauty to be forever destroyed.

**Forgive us when we neglect to see all animals as part of your creation,
forgive us when we neglect to acknowledge that your love beats in all hearts,
and that you give breath to all creation**

God is love.

Through Christ your sins are forgiven. Take hold of this forgiveness, And live your life, knowing that you are forgiven, and deeply loved. Know that the Holy Spirit will enable you to live fully, richly, and deeply.

Amen

SCRIPTURE: 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...'

SECOND READING: Philippians 2:1-13

The reading may be announced:

A reading from Philippians.

¹If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, ²make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. ⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, ⁷but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, ⁸he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.

⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

¹²Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

The reading may be concluded:

The word of the Lord.

The assembly responds:

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: Matthew 11:25-30

The gospel is announced.

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁵At that time Jesus said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; ²⁶yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²⁷All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

²⁸Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

The gospel concludes:

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

REFLECTION BEFORE THE SERMON

‘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’

SERMON

*The assembly is seated.
Silence for reflection follows the sermon.*

HYMN OF THE DAY: Make Me A Channel Of Your Peace

Make me a channel of your peace
Where there is hatred let me bring your love
Where there is injury your pardon Lord
And where there's doubt, true faith in you

Make me a channel of your peace
Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope
Where there is darkness, only light
And where there's sadness ever joy

O Master grant that I may never seek
So much to be consoled as to console
To be understood as to understand
To be loved as to love with all my soul

Make me a channel of your peace
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned
In giving to all that we receive
And in dying that we're born to eternal life.

APOSTLE'S CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion. The following examples may be adapted or used as appropriate.

Remembering the caring and generous works of God, we pray for the church, creation, and the needs of our neighbors.

A brief silence.

We put our trust in you as we pray for the church. Give bishops, pastors, deacons, and teachers the gifts of wisdom and discernment. Be with them in bold truth and faithful witness. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Lead us in your truth as we pray for creation. Empower us to look to the interests of others as we make choices that impact the environment. Summon us to be advocates for healthy waterways, habitats, and air. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Lead us in justice as we pray for those in government, the military, and other positions of authority (*local and national leaders may be named*). Give them humble and willing hearts, looking to the needs of others. We pray also for our enemies. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Trusting your goodness, we pray for all caregivers and people who are sick or suffering in any way (*especially*). Give them encouragement and consolation in your presence.

Be especially with all those we name now: Karl B (7/30/23), Kate S. (7/30/23), Pamela (5/28/23), Jerry (5/28/23), Cindy (5/28/23), Jay (5/28/23), Lauren (5/28/23), Frieda L. (5/17/23), Paul S. (4/16/23), Rebecca M. (1/16/22), Gary M. (11/14/21), Tim R. (12/18/18), and all our family members and friends; Give them comfort, reconciliation, and hope. Be their help and their shield. Calm all who are facing illness, surgery, or a new diagnosis. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Teach us your paths as we pray for this congregation. Be at work in us and unite us in your love as we labor together for the sake of the gospel. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts of time, talents, and finances, which we receive from your bounty that we might, as good stewards, share them for the feeding, nurture, and healing of the world. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

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. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We give thanks for all the saints who died secure in the knowledge of salvation. Keep us fearless in our faith and certain of your resurrection. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION CONCLUSION

Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abundant mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

The assembly is seated.

MEAL

GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE

The presiding minister greets the assembly and invites all present to give thanks.

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 our thanks and praise.

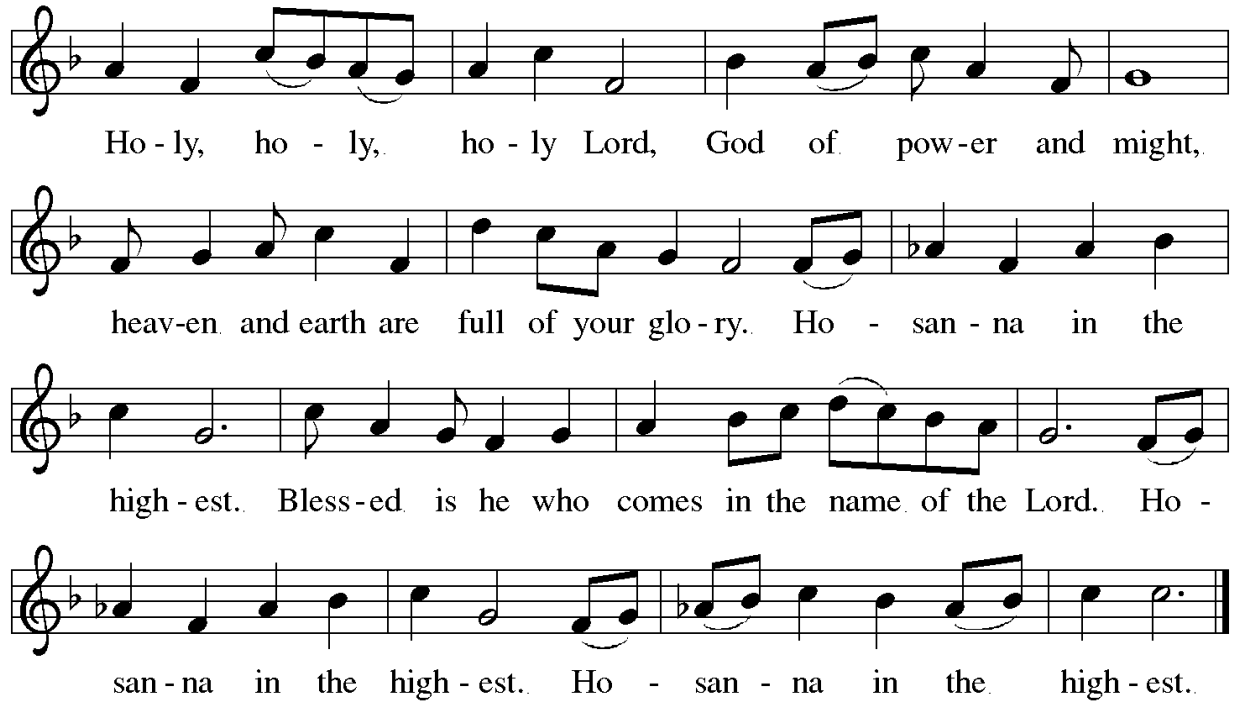
PREFACE

The thanksgiving continues with the preface for the day or season:

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ;
who on this day overcame death and the grave,
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS

"Holy, Holy, Holy" maybe sung.



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na in the
high - est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

The presiding minister continues, using one of the following or another appropriate form.

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
who preached good news to the poor,
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

(continued on next page).

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,
we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory, now and forever.
Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

The presiding minister may introduce the Lord's Prayer.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The presiding minister may address the assembly in these or similar words.

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

At this time, the assembly may commune receiving the communion sacrament(s).

AGNUS DEI

"Lamb of God" may be sung.

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you
take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace.

TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

The presiding minister leads the following prayer after communion.

Let us pray.

God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Pets may be brought forward to be individually blessed. The blessing is usually done with the sprinkling of water over the animal and the owner.

[name of pet], you were created by God, and you are loved by God. May you and your human family experience joy and companionship together, and continue to be a blessing to each other. In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, Amen.'

REMEMBRANCE OF THOSE WHO HAVE DIED

We remember our animal companions who are no longer with us physically.

We give thanks for the gifts they gave us and the variety of ways they enriched and blessed our lives. We are confident that our Creator continues to care for them.

Amen

SENDING

BLESSING

Prayed in unison.

Let us pray.

**God, our Creator, help us to love
all creatures as kin,
all animals as partners on Earth,
all birds as messengers of praise,
all minute beings as expressions of your mysterious design,
and as voices of hope.**

Amen (adapted from Norman Habel)

**Go out into the world, love one another.
Cherish your animal family,
protest against abuse and neglect of our animals;
exercise stewardship of ALL creation, so that ALL can experience God's Shalom.
Go out into the world, my horizontal and vertical brothers and sisters in Christ.**

In the name of the Father, ✠ Son and Holy Spirit,
Amen

SENDING SONG: *If I Were a Butterfly*

If I Were A Butterfly,
I'd Thank You, Lord, For Giving Me Wings.
And If I Were A Robin In A Tree,
I'd Thank You, Lord, That I Could Sing.
And If I Were A Fish In The Sea,
I'd Wiggle My Tail And I'd Giggle With Glee;
But I Just Thank You, Father,
For Making Me 'Me'.

Refrain

For You Gave Me A Heart
And You Gave Me A Smile,
You Gave Me Jesus
And You Made Me Your Child,
And I Just Thank You, Father,
For Making Me 'Me'.

If I Were An Elephant,
I'd Thank You, Lord, By Raising My Trunk,
And If I Were A Kangaroo,
You Know I'd Hop Right Up To You.
And If I Were An Octopus,
I'd Thank You, Lord, For My Fine Looks;
But I Just Thank You, Father,
For Making Me 'Me'.

If I Were A Wiggly Worm,
I'd Thank You, Lord, That I Could Squirm.
And If I Were A Billy Goat,
I'd Thank You, Lord, For My Strong Throat.
And If I Were A Fuzzy-Wuzzy Bear,
I'd Thank You, Lord, For My Fuzzy-Wuzzy Hair;
But I Just Thank You, Father,
For Making Me 'Me'.

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DISMISSAL

The assisting minister may send the assembly into mission.

Go in peace. Share the good news.

Thanks be to God.

PEACE

The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ. The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words.

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

MISSION NOTES

We are so glad that you are here with us for worship, and invite you to consider other ways to deepen faith and connect with the Redeemer community and the world around us - to which God calls us in loving service!

From Civil Rights to BLM

Where The \$%&* Did The Church Go?

The Adult Academy, an ecumenical series, will be hosting the Rev. Dr. George McClain who has been a tireless voice for racial justice since his days as a freedom rider. In this discussion, we'll explore how white Christian institutions left the civil rights movement, ask if they lost their moral compass, too, and what do we do now?

This event will be held on Sunday, Oct. 8 at 11 a.m. at the New Paltz Methodist Church, 1 Grove St., New Paltz, NY. All are welcome at this community discussion brought to you by St. Andrew's Episcopal, Redeemer Lutheran, and the New Paltz Methodist churches.

Congregation Mission Gathering

Please plan to join us on Saturday, Oct. 28th from 10am to 2pm at Redeemer, New Paltz for a time to celebrate what God in Christ has and is doing for and through us for the world, and to consider in curious, prayerful, and playful ways how we can build our way forward in support of Redeemer's mission to „Share Christ's Welcome” in the Coming Year. Questions? Suggestions? Please contact Rebecca Maher at rebeccarogersmaher@gmail.com or Pastor Tobias at tobias.song@gmail.com.