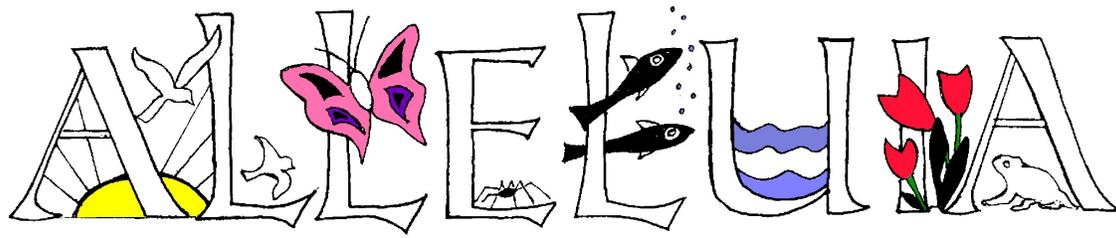


**Blessing of Animals**  
The Feast of St. Francis



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## The Feast of St. Francis

Opening Hymn #400 "All Creatures of our God and King" (st. 1 & 2)

1 All crea-tures of our God and King, lift up your voic-es, let us  
\*2 Great rush-ing winds and breez-es soft, you clouds that ride the heavens a -

1 sing: Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Bright burn - ing  
2 loft, O — praise him, Al - le - lu - ia! Fair ris - ing

1 sun with gold - en beams, pale sil - ver moon that gen - tly gleams,  
2 morn, with praise re - joice, stars night - ly shin - ing, find a voice,

*Refrain*  
O praise him, O praise him, Al - le - lu - ia,  
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Leader: The Lord be with you.

*People: And also with you.*

### Collect for the Feast of St. Francis

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.**

### Reading ~ Psalm 148: 7-14

Praise our God from the earth, you sea creatures and ocean depths,  
Lightning and hail, snow and mist, and storm winds that fulfill God's word,  
Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars,  
Wild animals and all cattle, small animals and flying birds,  
Rulers of the earth, leaders of all nations, all the judges in the world,  
Young men and young women, old people and children ~  
Let them all praise the Name of our God whose Name alone is exalted.  
Whose majesty transcends, heaven and earth,  
And who has raised up a Horn of God's people to the praise of the faithful,  
The children of Israel, the people dear to God! Alleluia!

### **Reading ~ Genesis 1: 21-25**

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. God blessed them, saying, 'Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.' And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day. 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. God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

### **Welcome & Introduction of Animals**

#### **The Prayers**

Leader: O God, we pray for your holy catholic Church;

**People: *That we may be one.***

Leader: Grant that every person may truly and humbly serve you;

**People: *That your name may be glorified by all people.***

Leader: O God, you have made all the earth and living creatures who dwell therein; help us, we pray, to treat with compassion the living creatures entrusted to our care;

**People: *That they may not suffer from our neglect nor become victims of any cruelty.***

Leader: We pray now for pets we know who are sick or need healing of any kind; Bless them we pray you, Lord, with health and well-being that they may continue to bring joy and comfort to those who care for them.

**People: *Grant that our pets may be healthy and reflect the love and glory of their creator in their play. Grant us strength and understanding to care for these living gifts, just as You care for us.***

Leader: Lord of all life, Creator of all creatures,  
we also name before You our beloved pets who have died:

*People may add their own petitions silently or aloud*

We miss them, for they brought us much joy and were a part of our lives.

**People: *May our animal friends rest in your Godly care as all creations await the fullness of liberation.***

Leader: Lord, make us instruments of your peace.

**People: *Where there is hatred, let us sow love.***

Leader: Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;  
to be loved, as to love.

**All:** *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.*

Leader: The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

**People:** *And also with you.*

*After the peace, all gather in a circle.*

### **The Blessing of the Animals**

Gracious and loving God, we give you thanks for sharing your love with us, by giving us these living creatures to care for and enjoy. Bless them, we pray, with health and well-being that they may continue to bring companionship, joy and comfort to those who care for them. Grant that they may reflect the love and glory of their creator in their play. Give us strength and understanding to care for these living gifts, as you would have them cared for in your love for them and us, through Christ who loves all whom God has made. **Amen.**

### **Anointing of Animals**

**Closing Hymn #400** “All Creatures of our God and King” (st. 7)

Let all things their creator bless,  
and worship him in humbleness,  
O praise him, Alleluia!  
Praise God the Father, praise the Son,  
and Praise the Spirit, Three in One;

*Refrain:* O praise him, O praise him, Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

### **Concluding Prayer**

We pray you, O God, to hear our supplications on behalf of the mute creation, who after their kind bless, praise and magnify you. Grant that all cruelty to animals may cease, and deepen our thankfulness to you for the faithful companionship of these whom we delight to call our friends, for Jesus' sake. **Amen.**