

Leader: Bless the Lord, all you his creatures,

All: And forget not all God's benefits.

Leader: Let us pray.

God of the universe, all creation praises you: the sun rising over the waters, the birds in migration, the grazing deer, the purring cats, the happy-go-lucky dogs, and the glittering creatures of the creeks and seas. God of a thousand ears, the music of your creatures resounds throughout creation. Help us to wonder, Lord, to stand in awe, and so to praise you for the richness of the world you have laid before us. Amen.

A reading from the Book of Genesis

Reader: And God said, "Let the earth bring forth creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind, and it was so. Then 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. Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth." So God created human kind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth." God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good."

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

The Prayers

Leader: Let us give thanks to God for all
the gifts so freely given to us.
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, valleys and rivers;

All: We thank you, Lord.

Leader: For all that is gracious in the lives of your 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 placed in us to care for our pets;

All: We thank you, Lord.

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

All: We thank you, Lord.

Leader: For those animals you have given us for our livelihood;

All: We thank you, Lord.

Leader: For those who care for lost, abandoned,
and abused animals;

All: We thank you, Lord.

Leader: In all we do may we love and honor you;

All: Now and forever. Amen

The Blessing of Each Pet

Closing Prayer (*in unison*)

Leader: Let us pray.

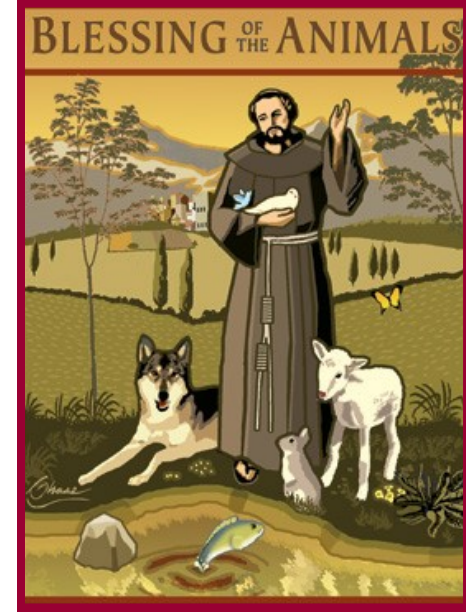
*All: God of Glory, creator of the world and all that lives,
following the way of Francis, may we, for love of you,
delight in your whole creation. We know that you are even
more wonderful than what you have made. We thank you
for giving us these pets who bring us joy. As you take care
of us, so also we ask your help that we might take care of
those who trust us to look after them. By doing this, we
share in your own love for all creation. We ask this in
Jesus' name. Amen.*

Benediction

Blessing

Doxology sung as the blessing for the meal:

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.*



St. Thomas Episcopal Church

Welcomes you to the
Blessing of the Animals
in celebration of St. Francis of Assisi