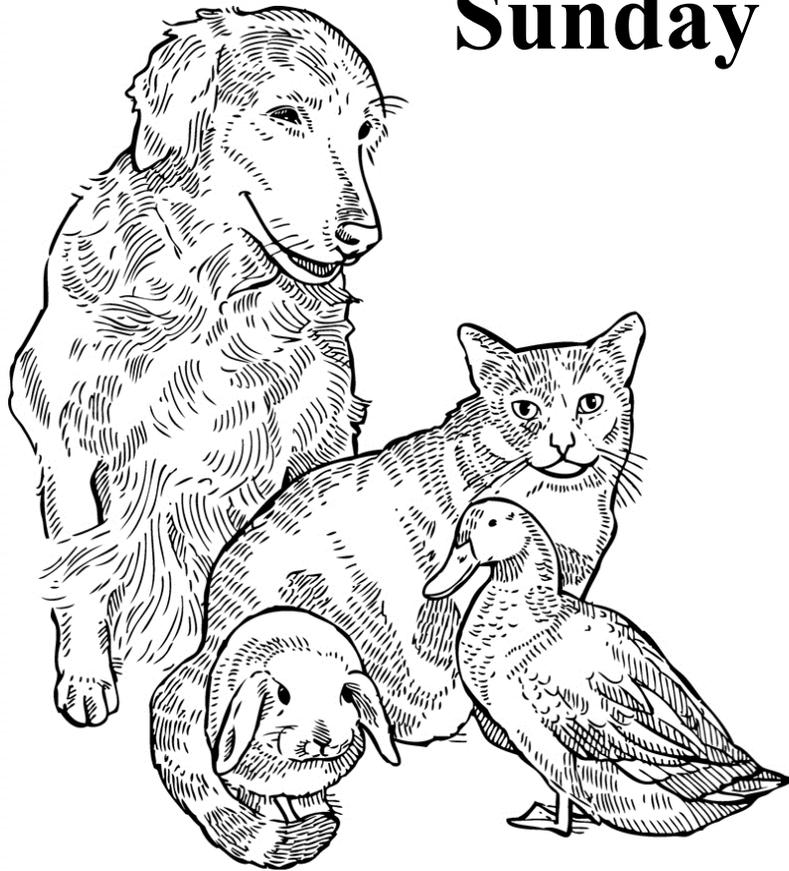


DEUM BENEDICITE  
ANIMALIBUS

# Animal Blessing Sunday



October 07, 2018

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church  
38801 Blacow Road  
Fremont, CA 94536  
Church: (510) 793-6285

October 07, 2018  
8:45 AM, 20<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
Ministers: The People of Holy Trinity  
Web Site: holytrinityfremont.org

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*Today's gospel combines a saying that makes many of us uncomfortable with a story we find comforting. Jesus' saying on divorce is another of his rejections of human legislation in favor of the original intent of God's law. Jesus' rebuke of the disciples who are fending off the children should challenge us as well. What does it mean to receive the kingdom of God as a child does?*

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## WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

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All invitations to stand or kneel are for those who are able.

Singing Bowl

During the ringing of the bowl, you are encouraged to center your thoughts on God the Creator, Christ the Redeemer, and the Holy Spirit our Comforter.

**PRELUDE** . . . *Leilani Camara and Michael Keating*

**WELCOME**

Please Stand

**SHARING OF THE PEACE**

*P: The peace of God is with you always.*

**All: And also with you.**

## CALL TO WORSHIP

L: God our Creator, you have brought us here together so that we can give you thanks and praise for all the wonderful things you have done.

**All: We thank you for all that is beautiful in the world and for the happiness you have given us.**

L: We praise you for the sun and daylight and for your Word which lights up our minds.

**All: We praise you for the earth, and for all the animals and the people who live on it, and for our life which comes from you.**

L: We know that you are good. You love us and do great things for us.

**All: God our Creator, our voices now join those all over the world in praising your name. Amen.**

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism.

*P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, the one who fashions us, the one who heals us, the one who reforms us again and again.*

**All: Amen.**

*P: Let us confess our sin, calling for God's transforming power.*

Silence is kept for reflection

*P: Source of all life,*

**All: we confess that we have not allowed your grace to set us free. We fear that we are not good enough. We hear your word of love freely given to us, yet we expect others to earn it. We turn the church inward,**

**rather than moving it outward. Forgive us. Stir us. Reform us to be a church powered by love, willing to speak for what is right, act for what is just, and seek the healing of your whole creation. Amen.**

*P: God hears our cry and sends the Spirit to change us and to empower our lives in the world. Our sins are forgiven,*

**All: God's love is unconditional, and we are raised up as God's people who will always be made new, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

## OPENING HYMN. . . "All Creatures, Worship God Most High!" vs 1, 6

Text: Francis of Assisi - Tune: *Geistliche Kirchengesänge* - ELW #835



1 All crea-tures, wor-ship God most high! Sound ev-'ry voice in earth and  
6 O sist-ers, broth-ers, take your part, and wor-ship God with hum-ble



sky: Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Sing, broth-er sun, in splen-dor  
heart: Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! All crea-tures, bless the Fa-ther,



bright; sing, sis-ter moon and stars of night: Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-  
Son, and Ho-ly Spir-it, Three in One:



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

## GREETING

*P: God of hosts most gracious, God the Son who saves us, God the Spirit placed upon us, be with you all.*

**All: And also with you.**

## LITANY ON ANIMALS

L: We now celebrate a number of the animals which have served God's purposes. The dove released from the ark by Noah which brought confirmation that the flood had ended.

**All: Be welcome in this world we share together.**

L: We remember the ram caught in a bush as God's substitute for Abraham's sacrifice of Isaac.

**All: Be welcome in this world we share together.**

L: We give thanks for the ravens which brought Elijah food as he hid during the drought.

**All: Be welcome in this world we share together.**

L: Now, think of the hippopotamus, what strength he has! Job calls him the masterpiece of God's work. A whole river could pour down his throat without his caring. And think of the mighty lion and all the wild beasts and those animals of the forests which we have tamed as our pets, each with a loving name.

**All: Be welcome in this world we share together.**

L: Think now of Snoopy, Clifford, Tigger, Winnie the Pooh, Elmo, Big Bird, Froggy, and Pete the Cat. They tell us more of ourselves and of feelings deeper than surface emotion, but most of all, they invite us to play and dream.

**All: Be welcome in this world we share together.**

L: Think well of the animals of literature and their lovely meanings: of Peter Rabbit, the Ugly Duckling, the adventures of the Berenstain Bears and the love of the Velveteen Rabbit and the compassion they offer as they pad gently through our imaginations.

**All: Be welcome in this world we share together.**

L: We give thanks to God for those animals which have provided us with the gifts of companionship, protection, comfort, courage and love.

**All: Be welcome in this world we share together. Amen**

## THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Sovereign God, you have created us to live in loving community with one another.

**All: Form us for life that is faithful and steadfast, and teach us to trust like little children, that we may reflect the image of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Be Seated

**CHOIR ANTHEM . . .** *“O God, Your Creatures Fill the Earth”*

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**WE LISTEN AND THINK**

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**READING . . .** *Genesis 1:1-26*

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. But the earth became chaos and emptiness, and darkness came over the face of the Deep—yet the Spirit of God was brooding over the surface of the waters. Then God said, “Light: Be!” and light was. God saw that light was good, and God separated light from darkness. God called the light “Day” and the darkness “Night.” Evening came, and morning followed—the first day.

Then God said, “Now, make an expanse between the waters! Separate water from water!” So it was: God made the expanse and separated the water above the expanse from the water below it. God called the expanse “Sky.” Evening came, and morning followed—the second day.

Then God said, “Waters under the sky: be gathered into one place! Dry ground: appear!” So it was. God called the dry ground “Earth” and the gathering of the waters “Sea.” And God saw that this was good. Then God said, “Earth: produce vegetation—plants that scatter their own seeds, and every kind

of fruit tree that bears fruit with its own seed in it!” So it was: the earth brought forth every kind of plant that bears seed, and every kind of fruit tree on earth that bears fruit with its seed in it. And God saw that this was good. Evening came, and morning followed—the third day.

Then God said, “Now, let there be lights in the expanse of the sky! Separate day from night! Let them mark the signs and seasons, days and years, and serve as luminaries in the sky, shedding light on the earth.” So it was: God made the two great lights, the greater one to illumine the day, and a lesser to illumine the night. Then God made the stars as well, placing them in the expanse of the sky, to shed light on the earth, to govern both day and night, and separate light from darkness. And God saw that this was good. Evening came, and morning followed—the fourth day.

God then said, “Waters: swarm with an abundance of living beings! Birds: fly above the earth in the open expanse of the sky!” And so it was: God created great sea monsters and all sorts of swimming creatures with which the waters are filled, and all kinds of birds. God saw that this was good and blessed them, saying, “Bear fruit, increase your numbers, and fill the waters of the seas! Birds, abound on the earth!” Evening came, and morning followed—the fifth day.

Then God said, “Earth: bring forth all kinds of living soul—cattle, things that crawl, and wild animals of all kinds!” So it was: God made all kinds of wild animals, and cattle, and everything that crawls on the ground, and God saw that this was good. Then God said, “Let us make humankind in our image, to be like us. Let them be stewards of the fish in the sea, the birds of the air, the cattle, the wild animals, and everything that crawls on the ground.”

L: Word of God, word of life.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

Please Stand

### ALLELUIA VERSE

All: Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia!

*P: The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the tenth chapter.*

**All: Glory to You, O Lord.**

### GOSPEL . . . Mark 10:2-16

*Jesus announced and enacted in history the new reality of God’s surprising activity. These two stories demonstrate this new reality: Women and children are accepted and valued, not dismissed as inferior to adult men.*

Some Pharisees came, and to test [Jesus] they asked, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?” He answered them, “What did Moses command you?” They said, “Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of dismissal and to divorce her.” But Jesus said to them, “Because of your hardness of heart he wrote this commandment for you. But from the beginning of creation, ‘God made them male and female. For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.’ So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.”

Then in the house the disciples asked him again about this

matter. He said to them, “Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her; and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery.”

People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, “Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.” And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

*P: The Gospel of the Lord.*

**All: Thanks be to Christ.**

Be Seated

**CHILDREN’S TIME . . . Pastor Tim**

**Blessing of Stuffed Animals  
and Prayer for Endangered Species.**



Please Stand

**HYMN OF THE DAY . . . “Blest Be the Tie That Binds”**

vs. 1, 3, 4

Text: John Fawcett - Tune: Johann G. Nægeli - Cranberry Book #656



1 Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Chris-tian love;  
3 We share our mu - tual woes, our mu - tual bur - dens bear,  
4 From sor - row, toil, and pain, and sin we shall be free;



the u - ni - ty of heart and mind is like to that a - bove.  
and of - ten for each oth - er flows the sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.  
and per - fect love and friend-ship reign through all e - ter - ni - ty.

Be Seated

**MESSAGE . . . Pastor Tim**

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**WE SHARE THE LORD’S SUPPER**

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**INVITATION TO OFFERING**

L: Brothers and sisters in Christ, we have received much from God—grace, mercy, abundance, the love of Christ, and the gift of life itself.

**All: In our worship, we praise God and give God thanks for these gifts. Let us now offer what we can as a way of saying, “Thank you.” In gratitude for God’s generosity, let us share God’s abundance with one another.**

**THANKFUL OFFERING**

Please Stand

## OFFERTORY

*Refrain*



All: As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were  
gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from  
all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.

1 As this cup of bless-ing is shared with-in our midst,  
2 Let this be a fore-taste of all that is to come when

*Refrain*

may we share the pres - ence of your love.  
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

L: Gracious and loving God, we thank you for these gifts and ask that they be used to help the needy in our community and throughout the world.

All: **As we offer you these gifts, we offer ourselves as well, that together we might transform the world with your grace and love. Amen.**



## THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

L: Longing for God's will to be fulfilled among us, we pray persistently for the church, the world, and all people in need. We praise you for the animals of the field, the birds of the air, the fish of the sea, and all the works of your hands. Let our care for all you have made reflect your desire for the health of all creation. Hear us, O God.

All: **Your mercy is great.**

L: Rule the nations of this world with the same grace you employ to align planets, stars, and moons. Where there is disorder, move us toward righteousness and justice. Hear us, O God.

All: **Your mercy is great.**

L: Deliver your care to your children who feel unworthy of care. Bend down low to lift up people who struggle to find others who will embrace them in time of need. Hear us, O God.

All: **Your mercy is great.**

L: Bring reconciliation among this community. Heal relationships that are broken. When we face division, open our eyes to signs of new life. Hear us, O God.

All: **Your mercy is great.**

L: God of all, hear now the prayers of our heart said silently or aloud.

Here other prayers may be offered.

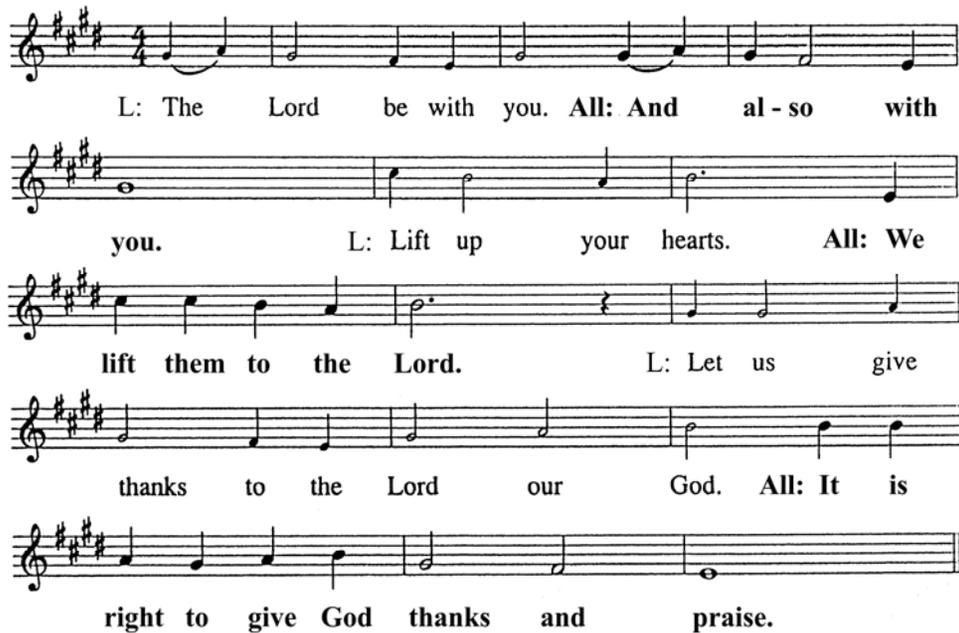
L: Hear us, O God.

All: **Your mercy is great.**

L: Enfold all things in your compassion, O God, and bring us into your life through the faithfulness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

All: **Amen.**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



L: The Lord be with you. All: And al - so with  
you. L: Lift up your hearts. All: We  
lift them to the Lord. L: Let us give  
thanks to the Lord our God. All: It is  
right to give God thanks and praise.

*P: 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. By the leading star he was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of Jordon you proclaimed him your beloved Son, and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory. And so, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name.*

**All: Holy are you, and blessed is the light of the world, Christ Jesus.**

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

*P: O God, you created a world of amazing animals of every kind. You created our world, and gave it to us and the animals, to share together. From every kind of danger, from Noah's time till now, you saved your creatures and cared for them with gentleness. In Jesus your Son every creature had a friend, a brother who knew the good of*

*being alive. We stand with him, O God, as we come to this table: for all your creatures grow hungry and look to you for food and drink. So we remember on the night before he died, Jesus ate and drank with his friends. And while in the midst of their Seder banquet, filled with the symbolism of God's grace, he took the common bread, broke it, again symbolizing his broken body, and gave it to them. He said: "Take this and eat it, all of you, for it is my body which is given up for you." Later he took the cup of wine and thanked you for it, and gave it to his friends. He said: "Take this and drink from it, for it is the cup of my blood and that of a new and everlasting covenant for you and all people so that sins may be forgiven. Do this in memory of me." Let us proclaim the mystery of faith.*

**All: Dying, Jesus destroyed our death. Rising, he restored our life.**

*P: Come let us build that home where the lion and the lamb can live in peace together. We praise and thank you, O God, through Christ our Lord and in the unity of the Holy Spirit with all honor and glory belonging to you, forever and ever.*

**All: Amen**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

*P: Let us pray with confidence in the words our Risen Savior gave us:*

**All: 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.**

## FRACTION RITE

*P:* God gives food to those who hunger. Come, be fed, be healed.

**All:** We come with thanks to God's abundant table.  
Amen.

Be Seated

## LAMB OF GOD



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

Holy Communion is open to all.  
Grape juice is white, wine is red.  
If you desire communion brought to you,  
please let an usher know.



## COMMUNION HYMN . . . "Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether"

Text: Percy Dearmer - Tune: Harold Friedell - ELW #470



1 Draw us in the Spir - it's teth - er, for when hum - bly  
2 As dis - ci - ples used to gath - er in the name of  
3 All our meals and all our liv - ing make as sac - ra -  
in your name two or three are met to - geth - er,  
Christ to sup, then with thanks to God the giv - er  
ments of you, that by car - ing, help - ing, giv - ing,  
you are in the midst of them. Al - le - lu - ia!  
break the bread and bless the cup, Al - le - lu - ia!  
we may be dis - ci - ples true. Al - le - lu - ia!  
Al - le - lu - ia! Touch we now your gar - ment's hem.  
Al - le - lu - ia! so now bind our friend - ship up.  
Al - le - lu - ia! We will serve with faith a - new.



## COMMUNION HYMN . . . “All Things Bright and Beautiful”

Text: Cecil F. Alexander - Tune: English Tune – WOV #767



All things bright and beau - ti - ful, all crea - tures great and small,



all things wise and won - der - ful, the Lord God made them all.



- 1 Each lit - tle flow'r that o - pens, each lit - tle bird that sings,
- 2 The pur - ple - head - ed moun - tains, the riv - er run - ning by,
- 3 The cold wind in the win - ter, the pleas - ant sum - mer sun,
- 4 God gave us eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell



God made their glow - ing col - ors, God made their ti - ny wings.  
 the sun - set, and the morn - ing that bright - ens up the sky.  
 the ripe fruits in the gar - den, God made them ev - 'ry one.  
 how great is God Al - might - y, who has made all things well.

Singing Bowl

Please Stand

## POST COMMUNION BLESSING

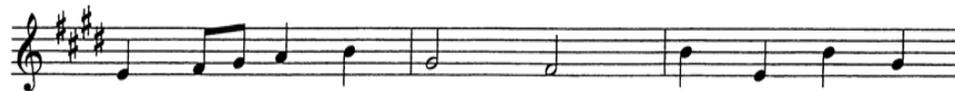
*P:* We give you thanks, O God, that you welcome us to your table and satisfy our deepest hunger and thirst.

**All:** By your gifts of word and holy meal, strengthen us to take up the cross as we go about our callings in this world, following after Jesus Christ, our servant Lord.  
**Amen.**

## POST COMMUNION THANKS



All: Praise to you, O God of mer - cy:



Thanks be to you for ev - er! Rais - ing high the



weak and low - ly: Thanks be to you for - ev - er!



Strong is your faith - ful - ness, strong is your love, re -



mem - b'ring your cov - e - nant of life with us.



From of old you loved and sought us: Thanks be to you for



ev - er! Truth and jus - tice you have taught us.



Thanks be to you for ev - er. Thanks be to you for - ev - er!

Be Seated

## COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please Stand

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**WE CARRY GOD'S CARING LOVE TO  
 THE WORLD**

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## BENEDICTION

*P:* We leave this church, O God, with songs of new life on our lips.

**All:** With a message of hope in our hearts, with a determination to serve on our minds, with the love of Jesus Christ binding us together in faith community.  
**Amen.**

## SENDING SONG . . . “Let the Whole Creation Cry” vs. 1, 3

Text: Stopford A. Brooke - Tune: Jakob Hintze - Cranberry Book #876



1 Let the whole cre - a - tion cry, “Glo - ry to the Lord on high!”  
3 Men and wom - en, young and old, raise the an - them loud and bold,



Heav'n and earth, a - wake and sing, “Praise to our al - might - y king!”  
and let chil - dren's hap - py hearts in this wor - ship take their parts;



Praise God, an - gel hosts a - bove, ev - er bright and fair in love;  
from the north to south - ern pole let the might - y cho - rus roll:



sun and moon, lift up your voice; night and stars, in God re - joice.  
“Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly One; glo - ry be to God a - lone!”

## DISMISSAL

*L:* Go in peace. Care for all creation.

**All:** Thanks be to God.



“Now the Feast and Celebration” Musical setting by Marty Haugen  
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