



The earth is the
LORD's, & everything
in it, the world, & all
who live in it.

P s a l m 2 4 : 1

Animal Blessing Sunday

October 03, 2021

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

October 3, 2021
19th Sunday after Pentecost
Ministers: The People of Holy Trinity
Web Site: holytrinityfremont.org

GATHERING . . . WORD . . . SENDING

[Click here for a video of the service.](#)

PRELUDE . . . “*O God, Your Creatures Fill the Earth*” vs 1,2

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WELCOME

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.

INVOCATION

P: In the name of the Creator of all animal life, the name of Christ, the lamb of God, and the name of the Spirit, the breath in all life. Amen.

All: Holy! Holy! Holy! Earth is filled with God’s presence.

P: Christ, we come into your presence today, to worship in this sanctuary Earth.

All: Holy! Holy! Holy! Earth is filled with your presence.

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: We invite our animal family to worship with us,

All: All our kin living on this planet, from the busiest bee to the tallest giraffe.

L: We remember our animal relatives who have become extinct,

All: Dinosaurs, dodos and Texas grey wolves, Oregon bison and the woolly mammoth.

L: We join our brothers and sisters in praising God,
All: Gliding eagles and watchful cougars, Gorillas in the mist and polar bears in the snow.

L: We summon the kin we have come to love,
All: The stray cat and the backyard dog, the goat, the pony, and the little lamb.

L: All our animal family in all the world,
All: Raise your voices to the skies in a chorus of praise.

L: Sing, creation, sing!
All: A song of praise for all creatures!

L: We celebrate with the entire animal family.
All: Sing, family, sing!

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross.

P: We have forgotten who we are. We have alienated ourselves from the unfolding of the cosmos. We have become estranged from the movements of the earth. We have turned our backs on the cycles of life.

All: We have forgotten who we are.

P: We have sought only our own security. We have exploited simply for our own ends. We have distorted our knowledge. We have abused our power.

All: We have forgotten who we are.

P: Now the land is barren and the waters are poisoned and the air is polluted.

All: We have forgotten who we are.

P: Now the forests are dying and the creatures are disappearing and humans are despairing.

All: We have forgotten who we are.

P: We ask forgiveness. We ask for the gift of remembering. We ask for the strength to change.

All: We have forgotten who we are.

Silence is kept for reflection

P: To bring new life to the land, to restore the waters, to refresh the air,

All: we join with the earth and with each other.

P: To renew the forests, to care for the plants, to protect the creatures,

All: we join with the earth and with each other.

P: To celebrate the seas, to rejoice in the sunlight, to sing the song of the stars,

All: we join with the earth and with each other.

P: To recreate the human community, to promote justice and peace, to remember our children,

All: we join together as many and diverse expressions of one loving mystery: for the healing of the earth and the renewal of all life.

A LITANY OF GRATITUDE

L: We live in all things. All things live in us.

All: We rejoice in all life.

L: We live by the sun. We move with the stars.

All: We eat from the earth. We drink from the rain. We breathe from the air.

L: We share with the creatures. We have strength through their gifts.

All: We depend on the forests. We have knowledge through their secrets.

L: We have the privilege of seeing and understanding. We have the responsibility of caring. We have the joy of celebrating.

All: We rejoice in all life.

L: We are full of the grace of creation. We are graceful. We are grateful.

All: We rejoice in all life as we sing...

HYMN OF PRAISE . . . “Glory Be to God in Heaven” vs. 1,3
Setting 10 from Evangelical Lutheran Worship

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Source and sustainer of life, we cherish the myriad works of your hands. Water, earth, and sky are yours, as are all their inhabitants, wild and tame.

All: We thank you for creatures that nourish and serve us, befriend, enrich, entertain, and protect us.

L: May we, who are made in your image, care for them well.

All: And may your groaning yet wondrous creation rally and thrive, revealing to all who come after us your wise, redemptive, transfiguring love; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

GATHERING . . . WORD . . . SENDING

INTRODUCTION TO THE WORD

Reader: You are the living God who sustains all life in continually unfolding ways. And now may we open our ears to your continually unfolding Word. You speak to us in new and vital and imperative ways.

All: With all the power you have given us, let us be silent and open to listening... for nourishment, comfort, for challenge and new focus. Amen.

READING . . . *Psalm 8*

O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens.

Out of the mouths of babes and infants you have founded a bulwark because of your foes, to silence the enemy and the avenger.

When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established.

What are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them?

Yet you have made them a little lower than God and crowned them with glory and honor.

You have given them dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under their feet,

all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field, the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas.

O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Reader: Word of God, word of life.

All: Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S TIME . . . *Pastor Tim*

HOMILY . . . *Pastor Tim*

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

L: When the Spirit flows through us, we are people of honesty and justice.

All: When Christ works within us, we are disciples of mercy and compassion. Let us be agents of God's overflowing grace as we collect today's offering.

OFFERING

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: Made children and heirs of God's promise, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need. Holy One, you have raised up faithful leaders throughout history. Empower those discerning a call to ministry and all seminarians, that they continue to be formed for the sake of the gospel. God, in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

L: You have established a diverse and beautiful creation. Revive declining species and preserve endangered lands. Cultivate in us a sense of wonder for the world you created. God, in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

L: You share in our experiences and struggles. Bless all who live with any mental or physical disability. Inspire creative communities, spaces, and environments that are accessible and hospitable. God, in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

L: You have established and nurtured relationships that extend beyond those gathered here today. Bless members who can no longer travel to worship with us and remind us of their continued role in this community of faith. God, in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

L: Hear now the prayers of our hearts said silently or aloud.

Here other prayers may be offered.

L: God, in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

L: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us, using the language or translation we choose:

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.

GATHERING . . . WORD . . . SENDING

BENEDICTION

P: Christ calls you to be his disciples, to serve him with love and compassion, to serve Earth by caring for her creatures. Will you care for creation?

**All: We will care for creation! We will nurture our animals!
We will celebrate the circle of life with them!**

DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace, serving Christ and loving all creatures!

All: We go in peace, serving Christ and loving our Earth!

POSTLUDE . . . “All Things Bright and Beautiful” vs. 1,4
WOV 767

SINGING BOWL

Pastor: Tim Huff
Lay Liturgist: Tori Valcarcel
Reader: Sharon Pickering
Music: Leilani Camara and Dean Sieglaff
Video Editing: Carmen Blair
Web and Social Media: Keith Hillesland and Kathy Miedema