

...how
majestic is
your name
in all the earth!

Psalm 8:9, NRSV



Animal Blessing Sunday
October 1, 2023

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

October 1, 2023
10 AM, 18th Sunday after Pentecost
Ministers: The People of Holy Trinity
Web Site: holytrinityfremont.org

Welcome! Enter with Prayer, Worship in Awe, Leave to Serve.

Our worship services are livestreamed on our YouTube channel and our website. If you do not wish to be filmed, please do not sit in the first four pews or the last pew. Children's Time and communion distribution are not filmed.

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

St. Francis was an Italian friar who took a vow of poverty and cared for the poor. He also believed that nature – including its creatures – was the mirror of God. He preached that it is our duty to protect and enjoy nature as both the stewards of God's creation and as creatures ourselves.

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

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

WELCOME

Please Stand

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of God is with you always.

All: And also with you.

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 siblings 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,
the sign marked at baptism.

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.

L: 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.

L: 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.

L: 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.

L: To recall our destiny, to renew our spirits, to reinvigorate our bodies,


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.

OPENING HYMN: “All Things Bright and Beautiful” vs 1,4


Refrain



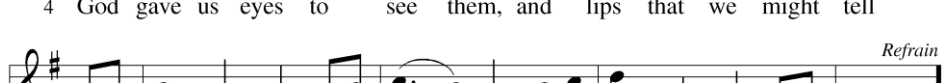
All things bright and beau - ti - ful, all crea - tures great and small,



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,
4 God gave us eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell



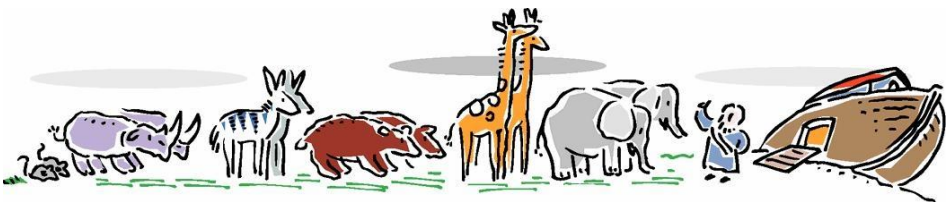
Refrain

God made their glow - ing col - ors, God made their ti - ny wings.
how great is God Al - might - y, who has made all things well.

GREETING

P: The joy of our Redeemer Jesus Christ, the compassion of God, and the creative power of the Holy Spirit is with you all.

All: And also with you.



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 rejoice in all life.

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

All: We rejoice in all life.

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

All: We rejoice in all life.

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

All: We rejoice in all life.

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 grateful.

All: We rejoice in all life.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Let us pray. 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. Amen.

Be Seated

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

WE LISTEN AND THINK

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

R: 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.

R: Today’s reading is from Philippians, chapter two, beginning with the first verse.

READING: *Philippians 2:1-13*

If our life in Christ means anything to you—if love, or the Spirit that we have in common, or any tenderness or sympathy can persuade you at all—then be united in your convictions and united in your love, with a common purpose and a common mind. That is the one thing that would make me completely happy. There must be no competition among you, no conceit, but everybody is to be humble: value others over yourselves, each of you thinking of the interests of others before your own. Your attitude must be the same as that of Christ Jesus:

Christ, though in the image of God,
didn’t deem equality with God
something to be clung to—
but instead became completely empty
and took on the image of oppressed humankind:
born into the human condition,
found in the likeness of a human being.
Jesus was thus humbled—
obediently accepting death, even death on a cross!

Because of this, God highly exalted Christ
and gave to Jesus the name above every other name,
so that at the name of Jesus every knee must bend
in the heavens, on the earth and under the earth,
and every tongue proclaim to the glory of God:
Jesus Christ reigns supreme!

Therefore, my dear friends, you who are always obedient to
my urging, work out your salvation with fear and trembling,
not only when I happen to be with you, but all the more now
that I'm absent. It is God at work in you that creates the desire
to do God's will.

R: 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 Matthew, the twenty-first chapter.*

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



GOSPEL: *Matthew 21:23-32*

Jesus entered the Temple precincts and began teaching. The chief priests and the elders of the people came to him and said, “By what authority are you doing what you do? Who gave you this authority?”

“And I,” replied Jesus, “will ask you a single question; if you give me the answer, I will tell you my authority for these actions. What was the origin of John’s right to baptize? Was it divine or was it human?”

They discussed it among themselves and said, “If we say, ‘divine,’ he will respond, ‘Then why did you refuse to believe him?’ But if we say ‘human,’ we have the people to fear, for they regard John as a prophet.” So they replied to Jesus, “We don’t know.”

Jesus said in reply, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.”

Jesus continued, “What do you think? There was a landowner who had two children. The landowner approached the elder and said, ‘My child, go out and work in the vineyard today.’ This first child replied, ‘No, I won’t,’ but afterwards regretted it and went. The landowner then came to the second child and said the same thing. The second child said in reply, ‘I’m on my way,’ but never went. Which of the two did what was wanted?”

They said, “The first.”

Jesus said to them, “The truth is, tax collectors and prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God before you. When John came walking on the road of justice, you didn’t believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes did. Yet even when you saw that, you didn’t repent and believe.

P: The Gospel of our Living God.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Be Seated

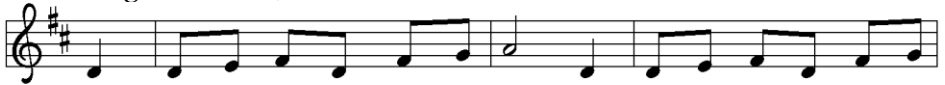
CHILDREN'S TIME – Pastor Tim

Blessing of Stuffed Animals and Prayer for Endangered Species.



Please Stand

HYMN OF THE DAY: “All Creatures Worship God Most High!” vs. 1,6



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!

Be Seated

MESSAGE – Pastor Tim

WE SHARE THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION TO OFFERING

L: God, our Creator, through your love you have given us these gifts to share. Accept our offerings as an expression of our deep thanks and our concern for those in need, including our fellow creatures on planet Earth.

All: With all creation, we bless our Creator.

THANKFUL OFFERING

Please Stand

OFFERTORY



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



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

Refrain

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

All: receive our prayer.

L: 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,

All: receive our prayer.

L: Trusting your goodness, we pray for all caregivers and people who are sick or suffering in any way. Give them encouragement and consolation in your presence. Merciful God,

All: receive our prayer.

L: 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,

All: receive our prayer.

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

Here other prayers may be offered.

L: Merciful God,

All: receive our prayer.

L: Remember us according to your steadfast love as we offer these and the prayers of our heart, trusting in your compassion made known through Jesus Christ.

All: Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

L: The Creator is with you and with all creation.

All: And also with you.

L: Open your hearts.

All: We open them to our Creator.

L: Let us give thanks to our Creator.

All: It is right to join creation in thanking God.

P: It is right to give you thanks, loving Creator. Your Word is the impulse for all things to be, for space, stars, and stardust to appear, for Earth to emerge from the deep, for life to be born of Earth and for humans to be born of Earth and the Spirit. You chose to be born a human being, to become a part of Earth, to suffer, die, and rise from death to redeem humankind, renew creation, and affirm all born of Earth and the Spirit. Your presence is the living impulse in all things, the Christ deep among us, filling Earth—land, sea and air; filling every element and place; filling the grain and the grape we share with you this day.

Therefore with angels and archangels, ancient voices in the forest, high voices from the sky, deep voices from the sea and the whole company of creation, we proclaim your presence among us:

All: Holy, holy, holy, God of all life, Earth and sea and sky and all things that exist are full of your presence and glorify your name. Amen.

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: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us, using the language or translation of our hearts.

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: Come, for all things are now ready. Come to the table with all your kin and share with all in need: the gift of healing for those in pain, the gift of forgiveness for those in sin, the gift of assurance for those in doubt, and the gift of hope for those in tears.

All: May we who share these gifts, share Christ with one another and with all our kin.

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.

Gluten-free wafers are available upon request.


Let an usher know if you need communion brought to you.

COMMUNION HYMN: "I Received the Living God"

Refrain



I re - ceived the liv - ing God, and my heart is full of joy.



I re - ceived the liv - ing God, and my heart is full of joy.



- 1 Je - sus said: I am the bread, knead - ed long to give you life;
- 2 Je - sus said: I am the way, and my Fa - ther longs for you;
- 3 Je - sus said: I am the truth; come and fol - low close to me.
- 4 Je - sus said: I am the life, far from whom no thing can grow,



Refrain

you who will par - take of me need not ev - er fear to die.
so I come to bring you home to be one with us a - new.
You will know me in your heart, and my word shall make you free.
but re - ceive this liv - ing bread, and my Spir - it you shall know.



COMMUNION HYMN: "You Satisfy the hungry Heart"

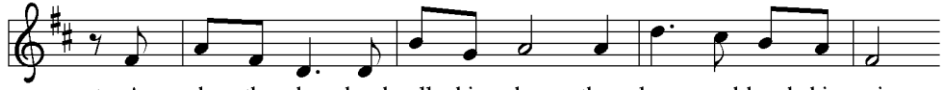
Refrain




You sat - is - fy the hun - gry heart with gift of fin - est wheat.



Come give to us, O sav - ing Lord, the bread of life to eat.



1 As when the shep - herd calls his sheep, they know and heed his voice;
2 With joy - ful lips we sing to you our praise and grat - i - tude
3 Is not the cup we bless and share the blood of Christ out-poured?
4 The mys - t'ry of your pres - ence, Lord, no mor - tal tongue can tell:
5 You give your - self to us, O Lord; then self - less let us be,



Refrain

so when you call your fam - 'ly, Lord, we fol - low and re - joice.
that you should count us wor - thy, Lord, to share this heav' n - ly food.
Do not one cup, one loaf, de - clare our one - ness in the Lord?
whom all the world can - not con - tain comes in our hearts to dwell.
to serve each oth - er in your name in truth and char - i - ty.

SINGING BOWL

Please Stand

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

P: Now may the power of Christ's body and blood reach deep into your heart, your mind, and your body to heal your wounds and through you to bring health and security to Earth and to the creatures of the Earth.

All: We thank you, Christ, for the meal we have celebrated with you and we pray that through your body and blood we may be healed and become agents of healing for Earth. 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

WE CARRY GOD'S LOVE TO THE WORLD

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!

SENDING SONG: "Earth Is Full of Wit and Wisdom" vs. 1, 3



1 Earth is full of wit and wis - dom, sound - ing God's de - light - ed laugh,
3 Earth is full of wit and wis - dom: pen - guin, pla - ty - pus, and snail,



from the ti - ny ro - ly - po - ly to the tree - top - tall gi - raffe.
cac - tus, sea slug, oak, and al - gae, from the mi - crobe to the whale.



All cre - a - tion sings in won - der; e - ven rocks and trees re - joice
In this great and strange cre - a - tion, with a breath God gives us birth:



as they join the ring - ing cho - rus: ech - oes of our Mak - er's voice.
born of soil to live as stew - ards, called to love and serve the earth.

DISMISSAL

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

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

POSTLUDE

**Join us on the patio with your pets
at 12:00 pm today for a
Blessing of the Live Animals service!**

