

Blessing of the Animals

The Feast of St. Francis

October 2, 2021

10am

Opening Hymn “Prayer of St. Francis”

Opening Prayer

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

All And blessed be God’s kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

Let us pray. 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.

All Amen.

Holy Gospel

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Matthew.

All Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him “Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Homily

Prayers of the People

God created us and all animals, sharing the spirit of life with us and all creatures; therefore let us praise God, saying: O God, how wonderful are the works of your hands.

We thank you, God, for the gift of life: for the beauty and wonder of creation, and for our own life which comes from you.

All O God, how wonderful are the works of your hands.

We thank you for the richness and variety of animal life: for fish and birds, insects, reptiles, and mammals.

All O God, how wonderful are the works of your hands.

We thank you for animals of the farm: cattle and goats, pigs, sheep and chickens.

All O God, how wonderful are the works of your hands.

We thank you for animals of the forest: wolves and foxes, deer, wild sheep, bears and badgers, elk and mountain lions.

All O God, how wonderful are the works of your hands.

We thank you for the animals who give us faithful companionship, joy when we are happy, and comfort when we are sad.

All O God, how wonderful are the works of your hands.

We thank you for animals who are our parents in daily life and work: seeing eye dogs, rescue, service and police dogs, animals that pull plows, wagons and sleighs.

All O God, how wonderful are the works of your hands.

And now we ask for any prayer requests for healing, anniversaries, birthdays or traveling mercies.

Prayers requests and extemporaneous prayer

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation, especially Justin, Evan, Grace, Anna, Max, Roger, Ellie, Rob, Doug, Sal, Maggie, Joanne, Stephen, Leslie, Diane, Amanda, Albert, Bill, Tom, Peter, Sue, Susie, Craig, Sophia, Ron, Debbie, Nolan, Kris, Bud, Millie, Tom, Laura, Michelle, Eliane,

Parrish, Peggy, Cindy, Martha, Laura, Richard, and John. Lord, in your mercy,

We commend to your mercy all who have died that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom, especially Carl J. Baird and Michael DeLibero. Lord, in your mercy,

Celebrant Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All And also with you.

Song “Good Good Father”

Communion

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

All And also with you.

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

All We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Creator God, it is a good, right and joyful thing always and everywhere to praise you together with all your creatures. They came forth from your all-powerful hand; they are yours, filled with your presence and your tender love. For you are the source of light and life, you made us in your image, profoundly joined us with everything that is, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

All **Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

All **Christ has died.**

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with St. Francis and all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.

All Amen.

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

**All Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

All Therefore let us keep the feast.

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Sharing and receiving the bread and the wine

Blessing of the Animals

Celebrant Bless O God, this your creature, and all who are involved in its care.

Song – “So Will I”

Song – “Let all Creation Sing”

Dismissal

Deacon Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**