

Online Edition Blessing of the Animals

September 6, 2020

Online

GATHERING

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS (*Pastor Rob*)

CALL TO WORSHIP

“Oh, Come, Let Us Sing to the Lord”

Psalm 95/John Tirro

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS (*Pastor Rob*)

L: Merciful God, it isn't easy for us to follow the commandments of loving.

C: Jesus said the greatest commandment is to love God and to love our neighbors. But we have allowed misunderstanding, fear, hatred, and prejudice to cloud our spirits, turning them away from those who need our love.

L: We place a test before you, asking that you prove your love to us, or we threaten not to believe in you.

C: Please forgive us for this foolishness and stubbornness. Give us the courage to be people who will care for others. Let us dedicate our lives in your service, always aware of your awesome love for us. This we ask in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

L: Though our hearts were hardened to the needs of others, God has touched them with compassionate care, healing our wounds and giving courage and strength to our souls. Rejoice, and be assured that God's love is poured out for you! AMEN.

SONG OF PRAISE

“Majestic”

Lincoln Brewster/Dan Galbraith

PRAYER OF THE DAY (*Assistant*)

L: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, who in your self-emptying love gathered up and reconciled all creation to the Father. Innumerable galaxies of the heavens worship you. Creatures that grace the earth rejoice in you. All those in the deepest seas bow to you in adoration. As with them we give you praise, grant that we may cherish the earth, our home, and live in harmony with this good creation, for you live an reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and Forever.

C: Amen.

WORD

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

FIRST READING (*Heather Kambeitz*)

Genesis 1:20-25

And God said, 'Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.' So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. God blessed them, saying, 'Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.' And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day. And God said, 'Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.' And it was so. 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.

SECOND READING

Job 12:7-10

'But ask the animals, and they will teach you; the birds of the air, and they will tell you; ask the plants of the earth, and they will teach you; and the fish of the sea will declare to you. Who among all these does not know that the hand of the LORD has done this? In his hand is the life of every living thing and the breath of every human being.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW #173

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 6:25-27

Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life?

L: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Rob Norris-Weber

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

L: Creator God, We give thanks that all things belong to you. We praise you for giving us the animals, birds and fish which fill your world. We give thanks for our pets that bring us joy and who help teach us the value of unconditional love. Grant that we may good caretakers for our pets that they may also know the joy of unconditional love. May our shared lives together always bring joy to others as we live, serve, and love all of your creatures, both great and small.

O Lord, we pause and give thanks for the memories of those pets we have loved. We give thanks for their life and for the ways in which they enriched our lives.

We prayer all this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The blessing of each pet (individually)

C: (Name of animal) may you be blessed in the Name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. May we enjoy life together and find joy with the God who joined us in this bond of love. Amen.

SONG OF THE DAY

“This is My Father’s World”

ELW #824

THE APOSTLES’ CREED (*Assistant*)

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION (*Assistant*)

L: Called together as brothers and sisters in Christ, let us pray for the church, our community, and our world...

L: God of grace,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: All these things, and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your care through Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

OFFERTORY

“Create in Me a Clean Heart”

ELW #185

THE LORD’S PRAYER (*Assistant*)

C: 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, forever and ever. Amen.

SENDING

COUNCIL UPDATE

BENEDICTION (*Pastor Rob*)

L: Go out into the world in peace; Love the lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind; and love your neighbor as yourself. Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

SENDING SONG

“All Creatures, Worship God Most High”
Verses 1,4, 6

ELW #835

DISMISSAL (*Assistant*)

L: Go in peace. Share the Good News.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE