

ANTHEM: All God's Critters (Tom Paulson and Pastor Laura)

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Please remain seated until either Pastor approaches you. Introduce your pet to the Pastor and stand around the pet as the Pastor offers a blessing. If your pet is skittish or nervous, simply let the Pastor know and they will offer a "hands-off" blessing.

SENDING PRAYER

P: Gracious and loving God, you place all living things into the care of humankind. We pray that companionship with household pets will deepen our care for animals everywhere. Help us to balance our needs with theirs and lead us in ways of life together that will be sustainable for all. We pray in Jesus' name.

C: Amen. (ASL)

POSTLUDE All God's Critters (Reprise)

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Join us for our Live-Stream Worship every Sunday at 9:30am on our YouTube Channel (Crown of Glory Chaska MN)!

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpQgiY9QBdODty9PfURMcbQ>



Blessing of the Animals
Crown of Glory Lutheran Church

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **And also with you. (ASL)**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.
Holy God, we thank you for the gift of life. Recalling St. Francis who celebrated your love for all creation, today we embrace our connectedness to all: to wind, sea, and sky; to earthworm, giraffe, and chicken; to fish and puppy, to cats of the jungle and in our homes. Deepen our care for all that lives; in the name of Jesus, our teacher, savior, and friend.

C: **Amen. (ASL)**

LITANY OF REPENTANCE AND LONGING

In the beginning, the Spirit moved over the deep;
new life daily unfolding at God's call.

Darkness and light: Good.

Skies, lands, and seas: Good.

The earth and all that fills it—plants and rocks,
the finned, the feathered, the furry: Good.

At the last, humankind in God's image: Very good.

Yet we have failed to draw from that goodness
in care for God's creation.

Forgive us, God, for the ways we have
exploited this earth and its creatures.

We have misunderstood our calling
to be protectors of God's creation.

Forgive us, God, for the ways we
have exploited this earth and its creatures.

We long for new relationships with God's creation
that has been entrusted to us.

Help us, God, to make a new community
with all that lives alongside us.

May the merciful God who calls us
to tend this earth and all its creatures,
deepen our knowledge of creation's interweaving,
so that our lives are shaped in wholeness and peace
with all living things; in Jesus' name. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING: Genesis 1: 1, 20-28

¹In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, ²⁰And God said, "Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky." ²¹So 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. ²²God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." ²³And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

²⁴And 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. ²⁵God 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.

²⁶Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth."

²⁷So God created humankind in his image,
in the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.

²⁸God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth."