

Animal Blessing Service*

Opening Sentence:

How many are your works O God! In wisdom you made them all.

-Psalm 104:24

Confession:

Let us confess our sins to God:

Almighty God and Creator of all,

You have chosen humankind for a position of special responsibility in your world;

We have failed to respond in awe at Your wonders;

We have misinterpreted our role of dominion and abused our power.

We have caused the animal kingdom needless suffering.

Forgive us as we seek anew the vision which You set before us,

And as we strive to respond to Your call;

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Absolution:

Almighty God grant you forgiveness of your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ and the strength and grace to respond with love to all God's creation.

Collect:

O Lord, give us humility to thank You for the creation of animals, who can show affection which sometimes puts us to shame. Enlarge our respect for these your creatures, of whom we are the guardians. And give us a sense of responsibility towards all your creation, for Jesus Christ's sake, Amen.

*-A Prayer from Robert Runcie, 102nd Archbishop of
Canterbury*

First Lesson: Genesis 9:8-17

Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, ‘As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.’ God said, ‘This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.’ God said to Noah, ‘This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.’

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm: 104:1, 10-15, 25

1 Bless the Lord, O my soul; *

O Lord my God, how excellent is your greatness!

you are clothed with majesty and splendor.

10 You send the springs into the valleys; *

they flow between the mountains.

11 All the beasts of the field drink their fill from them, *

and the wild asses quench their thirst.

12 Beside them the birds of the air make their nests *

and sing among the branches.

13 You water the mountains from your dwelling on high; *

the earth is fully satisfied by the fruit of your works.

14 You make grass grow for flocks and herds *

and plants to serve mankind;

15 That they may bring forth food from the earth, *

and wine to gladden our hearts,

25 O Lord, how manifold are your works! *

in wisdom you have made them all;

the earth is full of your creatures.

Second Lesson: Romans 8:18-25

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Blessing of the Animals

(Animals to be blessed are brought forward in line and the following prayer may be used with or without holy water)

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

Blessing & Dismissal

May God, the Creator of all that is, God the Redeemer of all Creation, and God the life giving Spirit, bless you all, now and forever. AMEN.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

** This service adapted from the "Animal Blessing Service" published by the Anglican Society for the Welfare of Animals, UK by the Rev. D. Rebecca Deinsen for the Episcopal Network for Animal Welfare, USA, <http://www.enaw.org>.*