



## **The Feast of St. Francis Blessing of the Animals October 25, 2020**



**Welcome to Holy Trinity!**

### **Animal Blessing Service**



#### **Opening Sentence:**

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

#### **Confession:**

*Officiant*     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;  
Help us to treat all animals in a humane and loving way;  
Help us and forgive us as we seek a new vision which  
you set before us,  
And as we strive to respond to Your call;  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

#### **Absolution**

*Officiant*     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.

*People*        **Amen.**

#### **Collect**

*Officiant*

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.**

## First Lesson: Genesis 9:8-17

*Deacon*

A Reading from Genesis

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.'

*Deacon*

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

*People*

**Thanks be to God.**



## Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi

Lord, make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. **Amen.**

## Second Lesson: Romans 8:18-25

*Reader*

A Reading from Romans

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.

*Reader* Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

## **Blessing of the Animals**

*Officiant* Bless O God, this your creature, and all who are involved in its care and protection. In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

## **Blessing & Dismissal**

*Officiant* We pray also for our deceased pets and for the joy they brought to our lives. **Amen.**

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 for ever. **Amen.**

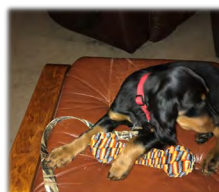
*Deacon* Go in peace to love and serve the poor, the abandoned and the needy!

*People* **Thanks be to God!**



**Join us any Sunday at 10:00 am for worship!**  
**Thanks for bringing your pet today and go in peace!**  
**Visit our website-holytrinityelkriver.org.**  
**See me any Wednesday, 10:00am to noon.**  
**You don't need to be a member.**

**Visit our Facebook page-[www.facebook.com/  
HolyTrinityElkRiver.org](http://www.facebook.com/HolyTrinityElkRiver.org)  
763-441-5482**



*Presider: The Rev. Dr. Rob Cavanna (Father Rob), Lead Pastor*

