

St. Matthew's Lutheran Church

Blessing of the Animals

October 4, 2026 – 6:00 p.m.



This evening's worship service is special! We'll be worshipping outdoors and will have an opportunity to bring our pets forward for a Pet Blessing. Pray for good weather! When God created the plants and animals, God also provided for them. God cares for them! And any pet owner knows that our pets also care for us and are a gift from God, so let's give thanks!

This Sunday also commemorates St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals and known for teaching a love for creation.

Pastor Christian McMullan
Daniel S. Bower, Music Director
Craig Miller, Director of Youth and Family Ministries

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WELCOME

GREETING

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

C: And also with you.

HYMN

All Creatures, Worship God Most High ELW 835

All creatures, worship God most high!
Sound ev'ry voice in earth and sky:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Sing, brother sun, in splendor bright;
Sing, sister moon and stars of night:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Sing, brother wind; with clouds and rain
you grow the gifts of fruit and grain:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Dear sister water, useful, clear,
make music for your Lord to hear:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Sing, brother fire, so mirthful, strong;
drive far the shadows, join the throng:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Dear mother earth, so rich in care,
praise God in colors bright and rare:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

O sisters, brothers, take your part,
and worship God with humble heart:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
All creatures, bless the Father, Son,
and Holy spirit, Three in One:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

PRAYER OF THE DAY *(attributed to St. Francis of Assisi)*

C: 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.

READING

Psalm 104

A: A reading from Psalm 104.

A: ¹ Bless the Lord, O my soul. O Lord my God, you are very great.
You are clothed with honor and majesty,

C: ² wrapped in light as with a garment.

You stretch out the heavens like a tent;

A: ³ you set the beams of your chambers on the waters;
you make the clouds your chariot;
you ride on the wings of the wind;

**C: ⁴ you make the winds your messengers,
fire and flame your ministers.**

A: ¹⁰ You make springs gush forth in the valleys;
they flow between the hills,

**C: ¹¹ giving drink to every wild animal;
the wild asses quench their thirst.**

A: ¹² By the streams the birds of the air have their habitation;
they sing among the branches.

**C: ¹³ From your lofty abode you water the mountains;
the earth is satisfied with the fruit of your work.**

A: ¹⁴ You cause the grass to grow for the cattle
and plants for people to cultivate,
to bring forth food from the earth

**C: ¹⁵ and wine to gladden the human heart,
oil to make the face shine
and bread to strengthen the human heart.**

A: ¹⁶ The trees of the field are watered abundantly,
the cedars of Lebanon that he planted.

**C: ¹⁷ In them the birds build their nests;
the stork has its home in the fir trees.**

A: ¹⁸ The high mountains are for the wild goats;
the rocks are a refuge for the rock badger.

**C: ¹⁹ You have made the moon to mark the seasons;
the sun knows its time for setting.**

A: ²⁰ You make darkness, and it is night,
when all the animals of the forest come creeping out.

**C: ²¹ The young lions roar for their prey,
seeking their food from God.**

A: ²² When the sun rises, they withdraw and lie down in their dens.

C: ²³ People go out to their work and to their labor until the evening.

A: ²⁴ O Lord, how manifold are your works!
In wisdom you have made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL

Matthew 11:25-30

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eleventh chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁵ At that time 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; ²⁶ yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²⁷ 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.

²⁸ "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.

²⁹ 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. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

MESSAGE

THE PRAYERS

*You will be invited to share your own prayer petitions. Please end them with, "Lord, in your mercy," and our response will be, "**hear our prayer.**"*

THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The Peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

P: In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup,
gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people
for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

C: Amen.

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

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.

COMMUNION

This is God's table so all are welcome to join the feast.

Grape juice and gluten free wafers are available.

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

***You may bring your pets up to receive a blessing
during the distribution of Holy Communion.***

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

P: The God of love
draw you into full accord and one mind,
in the body of Christ Jesus.

C: Amen.

P: The God of hope
grant you strength and joy in all circumstances
through the interceding of the Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: The God of grace
✠ bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

DISMISSAL

P: Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

C: Thanks be to God.

St. Matthew's Staff

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