

Emmanuel Lutheran Church
“to serve God and share the good news of Jesus Christ”
Blessing of the Animals – Worship 10:00 a.m.
October 10, 2021, 9:00 am

Prelude *“All Things Bright and Beautiful” English/Vandall* Gene Fougner

INTRODUCTION

God created the animals – birds of the air, fish of the sea, and the many beloved creatures who walk or crawl on the earth – and God declared them all to be good. The glory of a horse running, the beauty of an eagle in flight, the majesty of a dolphin leaping all display the wonder of sacred life. We are gathered here today to bless the animals that are in our midst, those who are our very close companions, and to ask for God’s blessing on these friends and on the many animals who share this Earth with us.

GATHERING

CALL TO WORSHIP: Psalm 84:1–4

L: How lovely is your dwelling place,
O LORD of hosts!

**C: ²My soul longs, indeed it faints
for the courts of the LORD;
my heart and my flesh sing for joy
to the living God.**

L: ³Even the sparrow finds a home,
and the swallow a nest for herself,
where she may lay her young,
at your altars, O LORD of hosts,
my King and my God.

**C: ⁴Happy are those who live in your house,
ever singing your praise.**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation. Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

C: We are here to repent, to recognize that, as a powerful animal ourselves, we do not always live kindly with all of God’s creatures. We pray that this time together, a time of recognition of the gifts and worthiness of every living being, will remind us that all life is precious to God.

P: By the mercy of God, we are united with Jesus Christ, in whom we are forgiven. We are now offered the peace of Christ and rise together to serve.

GATHERING HYMN *All Things Bright and Beautiful (vrs 1&4) WOV 767*

Refrain

All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful, the Lord God made them all.

1 Each little flower that opens, each little bird that sings,
 God made their glowing colors, God made their tiny wings. *Refrain*

4 God gave us eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell
 how great is God Almighty, who has made all things well. *Refrain*

Text: Cecil F. Alexander, 1818-1895, alt.

GREETING

P: The joy of our Lord Jesus Christ, the compassion of God, and the creative power of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

C: Source and sustainer of life, we cherish the myriad works of your hands. Water, earth, and sky are yours, as are all their inhabitants, wild and tame. We thank you for creatures that nourish and serve us, befriend, enrich, entertain, and protect us. May we, who are made in your image, care for them well. And may your groaning yet wondrous creation rally and thrive, revealing to all who come after us your wise, redemptive, transfiguring love; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WORD

FIRST READING:

Genesis 1:1, 20-28, 31a

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, ²⁰God 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."

³¹God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good.

L: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God!

GOSPEL:

Matthew 21:1–5

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ²saying to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. ³If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately." ⁴This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying,

⁵"Tell the daughter of Zion,
Look, your king is coming to you,
humble, and mounted on a donkey,
and on a colt, the foal of a donkey."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

MEDITATION *"All God's Critter's Got A Place In The Choir"* **Pr. Tricia Lowe**

- 1 This is my Father's world, and to my list'ning ears
all nature sings, and round me rings the music of the spheres.
This is my Father's world; I rest me in the thought
of rocks and trees, of skies and seas; his hand the wonders wrought.
- 2 This is my Father's world; the birds their carols raise;
the morning light, the lily white, declare their maker's praise.
This is my Father's world; he shines in all that's fair.
In the rustling grass I hear him pass; he speaks to me ev'rywhere.

Text: Maltbie D. Babcock, 1858-1901

Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi

**C: Lord, make me an instrument of your peace,
where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light; and
where there is sadness, joy.**

**O, God, grant that I 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.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

L: Let us pray. Gracious Lord of love, we affirm our vital connection with all living creatures. Empower us to seek their welfare, intervening where needed, defending and tending your world with grace, compassion, and dignity. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: Patient Lord of life, guide our choices so that we might safeguard habitats, ensuring, by your grace, that the mysteries and beauties of nature unfold for future generations. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: Saving Lord of lords, your word foretells a day when the wolf will lie down with the lamb. Renew our vision for the peaceable kingdom. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: Please take this time to offer any other intercessions, either aloud or in your heart.

L: Hear our prayers, gracious God, for the sake of Jesus, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

Offering

P: We give thanks for the offerings that we have received in the mail, online and in person this past week. These gifts make it possible for us to continue to be the church in the world. If you are worshiping with us today online and would like to make a donation, please go to our website homepage and click the online giving link.

Offering Prayer

P: God of abundance, you cause streams to break forth in the desert and manna to rain from the heavens. Accept the gifts you have first given us. Unite them with the offering of our lives to nourish the world you love so dearly; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

MEAL

The 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 our thanks and praise.

P: Blessed are you, O God, creator of heaven and earth. You rescued your covenant people, led them on all their journeys, and taught them by the prophets. You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

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. As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

C: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

P: Gathered together as one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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.

Invitation to Communion

P: All who hunger and thirst, come. The table is ready. Come, for this is the body of Christ given for you. The blood of Christ shed for you.

C: Amen.

Communion Blessing

Prayer after Communion

P: Lord of life, in the gift of your body and blood you turn the crumbs of our faith into a feast of salvation. Send us forth into the world with shouts of joy, bearing witness to the abundance of your love in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

Special Music *"Prayer of St. Francis" Pulkingham/Temple* Gene Fougner

BLESSING OF ANIMALS

P: Almighty and everlasting God, Creator of all things and giver of all life, let your blessing be upon all these animals. May our relationships with them mirror your love, and our care for them be an example of your bountiful mercy. Grant the animals health and peace.

Strengthen us to love and care for them as we strive to imitate the love of Jesus Christ our Lord and God's servant Francis.

C: Amen.

Dear one, you were created by God, and you are loved by God. May you and your human family experience joy and companionship together, and continue to be a blessing to each other. Amen

P: God is the source and loving sustainer of all that lives—of species endangered as well as those newly discovered and named. Called as we are to wisely care for this diverse and imperiled web of life, let us again offer ourselves as advocates, donors, and active stewards, being reverent and mindful toward all creation.

C: Water, earth, and sky are home to us all. We accept God's call, in the name of the Good Shepherd. Amen.

SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

P: Compassion, creativity, and joy are ours through Jesus Christ. May the Holy Spirit move us to preserve and enhance life on Earth, giving clear witness to the life-giving purpose of our Creator.

C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN: *Earth Is Full of Wit and Wisdom* (vrs 1&3) ACS 1064

1. Earth is full of wit and wisdom, sounding God's delighted laugh,
from the time roly poly to the tree top tall giraffe.
All creation sings in wonder; even rocks and trees rejoice
as they join the ringing chorus: echoes of our Maker's voice.
2. Earth is full of wit and wisdom, penguin, platypus and snail,
cactus, sea slug, oak, and algae, from the microbe to the whale.
In this great and strange creation, with a breath God gives us birth:
born of soil to live as stewards, called to love and serve the earth.

SENDING

P: Go out into God's world. Live in peace with one another and with all God's creatures.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude *"All Things Bright and Beautiful"* English/Vandall Gene Fougner

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Our prayers and sympathies to Keith & Cathy Namock and family on the passing of their daughter Julie on October 6.

Our prayers and sympathies to former member Claudia Fontaine, and her family, on the passing of her husband Marshall.

Someone is in the church office Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. except Wednesdays. Wednesdays will be from 9:00 a.m.– 1:00 p.m. Please check in at the office when you arrive so we know who is in the building. Please call 772-4135 about the building availability, if you want to use a room for bible study, meeting, etc.

MISSION OUTREACH for the month of **October** is Liberty Traditional School.

Our next Interfaith Meal is October 22 at 11:00 am. We are now serving 130 – 150 takeout meals. If you are able to help, please let Mary know.

Devotionals for the next quarter are available on the table in the narthex.

Wednesday Lectionary 10am Bible Study in the Fellowship Hall has resumed. Facilitators are Larry Gordon and Hal Vogelaar.

Food Bank - We continue to collect items for the Prescott Valley Food Bank at 8781 Spouse for pickup on the first Sunday of the month. Items most needed are cereal, canned soup (especially hearty soups), canned chili and canned vegetables (other than green beans and corn). Cash donations are always appreciated.

Thrivent Member Action Cards – Each member is allocated two \$250.00 cards per year. If you haven't used yours, please consider applying for a card to support the Interfaith Meal.

Due to the sharp increase of Covid-19 cases in our area, (15.8% positivity rate) the church council at the recommendation of the Church in a Changing World Task Force has stepped our pandemic reopening back to Stage 4 which includes masking and other safety precautions.

Shares of Faith, financial gifts, are a wonderful means of honoring, celebrating and memorializing your loved ones. They are given for life events as well as deaths. Your Shares of Faith will be acknowledged in our weekly service folder.