



Service of Worship

Feast of St. Francis of Assisi
October 3, 2010
11:00am



Francis and the Wolf, John August Swanson, 2002

We warmly welcome all who have come to worship with us today.

For parents with young children: a nursery is available during all services in the lower level for children under age 5. If you are visiting, please complete the Communication Card located on the chair backs. Hymnals and Bibles are located under each chair.

◆ **Prelude**

◆ **Gathering Song** *This Is My Father's World* 824

◆ **Welcome and Announcements**

◆ **Sharing of the Peace**

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

C: **And also with you.**

◆ **Call to Worship**

P: O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

C: **When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and stars that you have established;**

P: What are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them?

C: **You have given them dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under their feet,**

P: All sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field.

C: **The birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas.**

P: O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth! **(Psalm 8)**

◆ **Opening Song** *All Creatures, Worship God Most High!* 835
(v. 1-4)

◆ **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.**

◆ *The Prayer of the Day*

P: Let us pray:

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 wonderous creation rally and thrive, revealing to all who come after us your wise, redemptive, transfiguring love; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

◆ *First Reading*

Job 12:7-10

⁷ "But ask the animals, and they will teach you; the birds of the air, and they will tell you; ⁸ ask the plants of the earth, and they will teach you; and the fish of the sea will declare to you. ⁹ Who among all these does not know that the hand of the LORD has done this? ¹⁰ In his hand is the life of every living thing and the breath of every human being.

◆ *Special Music*

Sun of My Soul

Peace Choir

Sun of my soul, Thou Savior dear, It is not night if Thou be near; Oh, may no earthborn cloud arise To hide Thee from Thy servant's eyes.

When the soft dews of kindly sleep My wearied eyelids gently steep, Be my last thought, how sweet to rest Forever on my Savior's breast.

Abide with me from morn till eve, For without Thee I cannot live; Abide with me when night is nigh, For without Thee I dare not die.

Come near and bless us when we wake, Ere through the world our way we take, Till in the ocean of Thy love We lose ourselves in Heav'n above.

◆ *Gospel Reading*

Matthew 21:1-5

¹ When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ² saying to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and

fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might offer the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

◆ ***Prayers of the Church***

*We remember in our prayers: **Peace Members:** Vi Turner, Wendell Olson, Barbara Lockwood, Chirapaporn Ekegren, Lou Vietti/Pat Lahti family, Roger Rowlette, Bob Meyer*

***Friends of Peace:** Ken Kjeldahl, Jerry Yeager, Barbara Howell, Roy Jacobson, Lee Jacobson, Deb Simensen, Karen Fredricks, Evin Roley, Tom Bro, Dale Winegar, Scott Hyde*

***Those Who Grieve:** Judy Brandriet and family on the death of Joe Smith, the Jon Hansen family on the death of Jon's mother Marjorie Hansen, the Young family on the death of Jon and David's mother Phyllis **Military:** Joshua Lee, Matt Janssen*

◆ ***Prayer Attributed to St. Francis***

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.

◆ ***Lord's Prayer***

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.

◆ ***Blessing of the Animals***

All those with animals are invited to bring them forward to one of the stations to be blessed. Following the blessing of the animals, the following shall be sung:

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him,
all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heav'nly
host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

◆ ***Prayer***

◆ ***Benediction***

◆ ***Song*** *Let All Things Now Living* **881**

*The altar flowers this morning are given in celebration of the
37th wedding anniversary of Nancy and Dave Dynneson.*

Worship Assistants

Ushers: Jason and Holly Rich

Greeters: Jeremy and Robin Churchill

Hosts: Bayard Family

Music: Jon and Anita Young

St. Francis of Assisi and the Blessing of the Animals

Today we commemorate, St. Francis of Assisi (1181-1226). Francis, the son of a wealthy cloth merchant, renounced his wealth and future inheritance and devoted himself to serving the poor. Francis described this act as being “wedded to Lady Poverty.” Under his leadership the Order of Friars Minor (Franciscans) was formed, and they took literally Jesus’ words to his disciples that they should take nothing on their journey and receive no payment for their work.

Why do we bless pets on this day? Francis called animals his “brothers and sisters” and tradition has it that when Francis spoke, everyone listened, including the animals. He told the animals that Jesus loved them too. There is a story of a wolf who lived in the town of Gubbio. The wolf came into the town each evening, frightening the inhabitants or eating them. Francis went to speak to “Brother Wolf” and found out that the wolf was hungry. Francis explained that that was not reason enough to eat people and their pets or to terrorize them. The wolf became very gentle, the people fed him and he gave the children in the town rides on his back.

Tradition also has it that Francis brought us the Christmas creche. In the town of Gubbio, he built a small outdoor stable and put people in the stable to portray Mary, Joseph, the shepherds, the angels. Then he added the animals - cow, donkey, sheep, etc. When asked, Francis said, “Surely the animals praised the new Messiah just as the shepherds and angels did.”

And so in honor of this saint of the church we gather today with our animals—our pets and all God’s creatures—and give thanks for what they do for us and for what they mean to us.

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