



**St. Michael's**  
Episcopal Church  
COLORADO SPRINGS

**Blessing of the Animals**  
**October 8, 2023**  
**2:00 PM**

*Celebrant* Bless the Lord,  
*People* **And praise God's name for ever and ever. Amen.**

We gather to honor the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, and to honor the animals who share our lives. St. Francis is the patron saint of animals and of ecology. Brother Francis gloried in the beauty of the world God created, and we recall many tales of his affection for animals and their trust in him. Today we thank God for the gifts of companionship and beauty which animals and pets bring to our lives and homes, and ask God's blessing on them. **Amen.**

**The Reading from the Book of Genesis (1:20-25)**

And God said, "Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky." So 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. God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." And there was evening and morning, the fifth day. And 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. God 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.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.  
*People* **Thanks be to God.**

**The Prayers**

*Celebrant* Let us give thanks to God our Father for all his gifts so freely bestowed upon us, for the beauty and wonder of your creation, in earth and sky and sea;

*People* **We thank you, Lord.**

For the richness of the mountains, plains and rivers;  
**We thank you, Lord.**

For all that is gracious in the lives of men and women;  
**We thank you, Lord.**

For all creatures that breathe, and move, and have life;  
**We thank you, Lord.**

For the songs of birds and the loveliness of flowers and trees;  
**We thank you, Lord.**

For the trust you have shown in giving into our care these, our pets;  
**We thank you, Lord.**

That each pet here may be treasured with care;  
**We pray to you, Lord.**

That we may love and honor all your works, O God;  
**We pray to you, Lord.**

That we may continue to grow in our grateful enjoyment of your abundant creation;  
**To the honor and glory of your name, now and forever, we pray to you, Lord.**

### St. Francis Prayer

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;**  
where there is sadness, joy.

**O divine Master, 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.**

### The Blessing of Each Pet *(Individually)*

#### Closing Prayer

*Celebrant* Let us pray,  
Gracious God, we give praise, glory, and honor. To you alone do all things belong.  
Praise to you for giving us the animals, birds and fish which fill your world. May we  
think of you and thank you when we play with and care for our pets. Praise to you  
for making us so happy to have our pets and to have them to play with. We ask you,  
Lord, that we may be good to our pets always, so that they may be happy also.

*People* **Help us always to take care of our pets so that they will be healthy. O God,  
thank you for the reminder that your creation is wonderful. May we walk in  
the footsteps of St. Francis, to be good stewards and caregivers of your  
manifold blessings. May we experience and share your love with the  
creatures you have entrusted to our care. All this we pray in the name of the  
living God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

*Celebrant* Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

*People* **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!**