

Blessing of Animals for Saint Francis' Day



Introduction

Leader: Let us Praise our God,
through all creation

All: **And never forget God's
blessings**

"Canticle of the Creatures"

by St. Francis of Assisi

Most High, all powerful, good Lord,
Yours are the praises, the glory, the
honor, and all blessing. To You alone,
Most High, do they belong, and no man
is worthy to mention Your name.

Be praised, my Lord, through all your
creatures, especially through my lord
Brother Sun, who brings the day; and
you give light through him. And he is
beautiful and radiant in all his splendor!
Of you, Most High, he bears the likeness.

Praise be You, my Lord, through Sister
Moon and the stars, in heaven you
formed them clear and precious and
beautiful.

Praised be You, my Lord, through
Brother Wind, and through the air,
cloudy and serene, and every kind of
weather through which You give
sustenance to Your creatures.

Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister
Water, which is very useful and humble
and precious and chaste. Praised be
You, my Lord, through Brother Fire,
through whom you light the night and
he is beautiful and playful and robust
and strong.

Praised be You, my Lord, through our Sister Mother Earth, who sustains us and governs us and who produces varied fruits with colored flowers and herbs.

Praised be You, my Lord, through those who give pardon for Your love, and bear infirmity and tribulation. Blessed are those who endure in peace for by You, Most High, they shall be crowned.

Praised be You, my Lord, through our Sister Bodily Death, from whom no living man can escape. Woe to those who die in mortal sin. Blessed are those whom death will find in Your most holy will, for the second death shall do them no harm.

Praise and bless my Lord, and give Him thanks and serve Him with great humility. Amen

Reading

(Genesis, Chapter 1, verses 1-2, 20-25, 31)

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth didn't have any shape. And it was empty. Darkness was over the surface of the ocean. At that time, the ocean covered the earth. The Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

God said, "Let the waters be filled with living things. Let birds fly above the earth across the huge space of the sky." So God created the great creatures of the ocean. He created every living and moving thing that fills the waters. He created all kinds of them. He created every kind of bird that flies. And God saw that it was good. God blessed them. He said, "Have little ones and increase your numbers. Fill the water in the oceans. Let there be more and more birds

on the earth." There was evening, and there was morning. It was day five.

God said, "Let the land produce all kinds of living creatures. Let there be livestock, and creatures that move along the ground, and wild animals. Let there be all kinds of them." And that's exactly what happened. God made all kinds of wild animals. He made all kinds of livestock. He made all kinds of creatures that move along the ground. And God saw that it was good.

God saw everything he had made. And it was very good. There was evening, and there was morning. It was day six.

The Word of the Lord.

All: [Thanks be to God](#)

Reflection (optional)

Prayer

Blessed are you, Lord our God. You taught Saint Francis of Assisi to call all animals his brothers and sisters. And so, like Francis we bring to you our pets, these brothers and sisters of ours. By the power of your love, bless them, protect them and help them become all that you made them to be. May we always praise you for your goodness. Blessed are you, Lord our God in all your creatures. Amen.

For a sick animal:

"Heavenly Father, you created all things for your glory and made us stewards of this creature. If it is your will restore it to health and strength. Blessed are you, Lord God, and holy is your name for ever and ever. Amen."