



A Service for the Blessing of Pets

Church of St. John the Baptist, Clontarf

The Lord be with you
And also with you

We worship this Sunday with all the creatures we love. We join the Psalmists and rejoice with all living things. We sing with the all the birds and animals that make our lives richer because of their presence.

Opening Hymn: 25 All Things Bright and Beautiful

*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,
He made their glowing colours,
He made their tiny wings.

2. The purple-headed mountain,
The river running by,
The sunset and the morning
That brightens up the sky.

3. The cold wind in the winter,
The pleasant summer sun,
The ripe fruits in the garden,
He made them every one.

4. He gave us eyes to see them,
And lips that we might tell
How great is God Almighty,
Who has made all things well.

Litany of Thanksgiving

Let us give thanks to God for the gifts so freely bestowed upon us.

For the beauty and wonder of your creation, in earth and sky and sea;

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 your children;

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 our pets into our care;

We thank you, Lord.

That each pet here may be treasured with care;

We pray to you, Lord.

That we may love and honour all your works, O God;

We pray to you, Lord.

May we continue to grow in our grateful enjoyment and good stewardship of your abundant creation. **Amen.**

First Reading

A Reading from the Book Genesis:

Genesis 1:24-31

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. Then 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." So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God 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." God said, "See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food."

And it was so. God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 104:11-26

You send the springs into the brooks, which run among the hills.

They give drink to every beast of the field, and the wild asses quench their thirst.

Beside them the birds of the air make their nests and sing among the branches.

You water the hills from your dwelling on high; the earth is filled with the fruit of your works.

You make grass to grow for the cattle and plants to meet our needs,

Bringing forth food from the earth and wine to gladden our hearts,

Oil to give us a cheerful countenance and bread to strengthen our hearts.

The trees of the Lord are full of sap, the cedars of Lebanon which he planted,

In which the birds build their nests, while the fir trees are a dwelling for the stork.

The mountains are a refuge for the wild goats and the stony cliffs for the conies.

You appointed the moon to mark the seasons, and the sun knows the time for its setting.

You make darkness that it may be night, in which all the beasts of the forest creep forth.

The lions roar for their prey and seek their food from God.

The sun rises and they are gone to lay themselves down in their dens.

People go forth to their work and to their labour until the evening.

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

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen

Hymn: 24 All Creatures of our God and King

1. All creatures of our God and King

Lift up your voice and with us sing,

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thou burning sun with golden beam,

Thou silver moon with softer gleam!

*O praise Him! O praise Him!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

2. Thou rushing wind that art so strong
Ye clouds that sail in Heaven along,
O praise Him! Alleluia!
Thou rising moon, in praise rejoice,
Ye lights of evening, find a voice!

3. Thou flowing water, pure and clear,
Make music for thy Lord to hear,
O praise Him! Alleluia!
Thou fire so masterful and bright,
That givest us both warmth and light:

4. Dear mother earth, who day by day
Unfoldest blessings on our way,
O praise Him! Alleluia!
The flowers and fruits that in thee grow,
Let them his glory also show.

7. Let all things their Creator bless,
And worship Him in humbleness,
O praise Him! Alleluia!
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,
And praise the Spirit, Three in One

Second Reading

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, According to Matthew:

Matthew 6:25-30

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ

‘Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith?’

This is the Gospel of our Lord
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Thought For The Day

Prayer of Saint Francis for Animals

God our Heavenly Father, you created the world to serve humanity's needs and to lead them to you. By our own fault we have lost the beautiful relationship which we once had with all your creation. Help us to see that by restoring our relationship with you we will also restore it with all your creation. Give us the grace to see all animals as gifts from you and to treat them with respect for they are your creation. We pray for all animals who are suffering as a result of our neglect. May the order you originally established be once again restored to the whole world through the merits and mediation of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you now and forever. **Amen.**

Moment of Remembrance

O Lord, we pause and give thanks for the memories of those pets we have lost. We remember with thanksgiving the ways in which they enriched our lives. We ask you to heal any painful memories of their suffering or death, and pray for all who are mourning the loss of much loved animals at this time. **Amen.**

Hymn: 28 I sing the Almighty Power of God

1. I sing the almighty power of God
that made the mountains rise,
that spread the flowing seas abroad
and built the lofty skies.
2. I sing the wisdom that ordained
the sun to rule the day;
the moon shines full at his command,
and all the stars obey.
3. I sing the goodness of the Lord
that filled the earth with food;
he formed the creatures with his word
and then pronounced them good.

4. Lord, how thy wonders are displayed,
where'er I turn my eye,
if I survey the ground I tread
or gaze upon the sky.

5. There's not a plant or flower below
but makes thy glories known,
and clouds arise and tempests blow
by order from thy throne.

6. All creatures, numerous as they be,
are subject to thy care,
there's not a place where we can flee,
but God is present there.

7. His hand is my perpetual guard;
He keeps me with his eye:
Why should I then forget the Lord,
Who is for ever nigh?

The Blessing Prayer

Creator God, we give thanks that all creatures great and small belong to you. We praise you for giving us the animals, birds and fish which fill your world. We give thanks for the pets that bring us joy and that help teach us the value of unconditional love. Grant that we may good caretakers of all our pets, that they too may know the joy of unconditional love. May our shared lives together be lived to the glory of your name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Blessing of Each Pet (Individually)

(Name) may God continue to shine his light of love and faithfulness through you.
Amen

Other Prayer Concerns & The Lord's Prayer

Closing Hymn: 32 How Great Thou Art

1.O Lord, my God! When I, in awesome wonder
Consider all the works thy hand hath made,
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,
Thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed:

*Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to thee
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to thee
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!*

2. When through the woods and forest glades I wander,
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur,
And hear the brook, and feel the gentle breeze:

3. And when I think that God, His Son not sparing
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in
That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing
He bled and died to take away my sin:

4. When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart
Then I shall bow in humble adoration
And there proclaim, my God, how great Thou art

The Closing Blessing

The peace of God which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and the love of God and of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord: and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be with you and remain with you always. **Amen**