

Resurrection Lutheran Church

8160 Old State Road ✦ Cameron, SC ✦ 29030

The Commemoration of St. Francis of Assisi

Order for the Blessing of Animals

October 7, 2018 ✦ 4:00pm

✦ GATHERING ✦

Throughout the Church's history Christians have spoken God's word of blessing for themselves, their homes and places of worship, the land which sustains them, and the creatures which inhabit this earth. Blessings announce and claim for us God's promise to be with us, to dwell with us, and to keep the creation once pronounced good in divine

care until the fulfillment of God's work. We all rest in the heart of God, even the sparrow that falls.



INVOCATION

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

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 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 ✠

ISAIAH 11:6-10

A reading from Isaiah.

The prophet writes:

The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them.

The cow and the bear shall graze,
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain;
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea.

On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples;
the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

✧ HYMN ✧



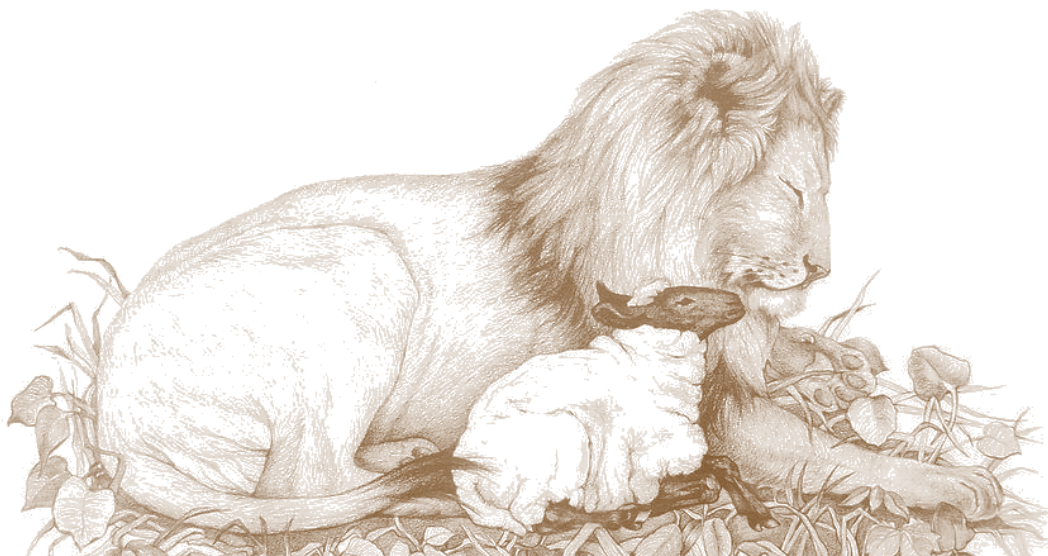
1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the beau - ty of the skies,
2 For the won - der of each hour of the day and of the night,
3 For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de - light,
4 For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,
5 For your - self, best gift di - vine to the world so free - ly giv'n;



for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies:
hill and vale and tree and flow'r, sun and moon and stars of light:
for the mys - tic har - mo - ny link - ing sense to sound and sight:
friends on earth and friends a - bove; for all gen - tle thoughts and mild:
a - gent of God's grand de - sign, peace on earth and joy in heav'n:



Christ, our Lord, to you we raise this our sac - ri - fice of praise.



✠ BLESSING ✠

*Those who wish to have their animals blessed individually
may come forward for the following blessing:*

P (*Name of pet*), may you be blessed in the Name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. May you and (*name of owner*) enjoy life together and find joy in the God who created you.

C **Amen**

*After all the animals have been blessed individually,
we conclude with the following prayer:*

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Gracious God, in your love you created us in your image and made us stewards of the animals that live in the skies, the earth, and the sea. Bless us in our care for our pets and animals. Help us recognize your power and wisdom in the variety of creatures that live in our world, and hear our prayer for all that suffer overwork, hunger, and ill-treatment. Protect your creatures, and guard them from all evil, now and forever.

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.

