



Sunday, October 6, 2024

Blessing of the Animals

[4th October: feast day of St Francis; World Animal Day]



**WELCOME TO
ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**

St. Mark's is a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. We welcome you to our worship today & hope you will worship with us again soon!

Our worship service is also available online each Sunday at 10 AM as well.

To find us online, please visit our website, YouTube, Facebook:

<https://www.stmarkslutheran.us>

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCCSZGBTjTxsR3QcZ9YX0xNw>

<https://www.facebook.com/StMarksLutheranWaukegan/>

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**Mission of the Month
Social Justice / Prison Ministry**

“I was in prison and you came to visit me.” - Matthew 25:36



Chicagoland Prison Outreach exists to bring the love of Christ to currently or previously incarcerated men and women and their families throughout the Chicagoland region.

To provide support and guidance to these hurting people, we provide a range of Christian worship services, discipleship classes, individual counseling, vocational training and job preparation services.

Please refer to the September-December issue of the Messenger for further information regarding the mission of the month.



Pastor Cranmer - Welcome

Call to Worship

'But ask the animals, and they will teach you; the birds of the air, and they will tell you; ...and the fish of the sea will declare to you. In his hand is the life of every living thing...' (Job 12: 7, 8b, 10a)

Gathering Song - All Creatures, Worship God Most High!

1. All creatures, worship God most high!
 Sound ev'ry voice in earth and sky: Alleluia! Alleluia!
 Sing, brother sun, in splendor bright;
 sing, sister moon and stars of night:
 Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

2. Sing, brother wind; with clouds and rain
 you grow the gifts of fruit and grain: Alleluia! Alleluia!
 Dear sister water, useful, clear,
 make music for your Lord to hear:
 Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

3. Sing, brother fire, so mirthful, strong,
 drive far the shadows, join the throng: Alleluia! Alleluia!
 Dear mother earth, so rich in care,
 praise God in colors bright and rare:
 Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

6. O sisters, brothers, take your part,
 and worship God with humble heart: Alleluia! Alleluia!
 All creatures, bless the Father, Son,
 and Holy Spirit, Three in One:
 Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!



Greeting

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.**

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

Let us Pray the prayer attributed to St. Francis -

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;
 and where there is sadness, joy.

O, God, 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.

A Reading from Genesis 1:

‘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. And God blessed them.

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. And God saw that it was good.

Then God said, “Let us make humankind”. And God blessed them.

God saw everything that God had made, and indeed, it was very good.’

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

A Reading From Psalm 104:10-25

You make springs gush forth in the valleys; they flow between the hills, giving drink to every wild animal; the wild ones quench their thirst. By the streams the birds of the air have their habitation; they sing among the branches. From your lofty abode you water the mountains; the earth is satisfied with the fruit of your work. You cause the grass to grow for the cattle, and plants for people to use, to bring forth food from the earth, The trees of the LORD are watered abundantly, the cedars of Lebanon that he planted. In them the birds build their nests; the stork has its home in the fir trees. The high mountains are for the wild goats; the rocks are a refuge for the rabbits. You have made the moon to mark the seasons; the sun knows its time for setting. O LORD, how wonderful are your works! In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures, living things both Great and small.

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

Gospel Acclamation

Halle Halle Hallelujah
 Halle Halle Hallelujah
 Halle Halle Hallelujah
 Hallelujah, Hallelujah

A Reading From The Gospel According To St. Matthew 6:25-33

"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? Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear?'

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ**

Sermon

Hymn of the Day - Birds by Anna Golden

Birds in the air, they don't worry

The sun's never scared that it won't rise
If all of creation depends on Your goodness
Why oh why can't I?

Anxiety is such a human thing
But what do the creatures know about You?

They all know You're faithful and You're true
You'll do everything You said You would do
They all know You're lovely and You're just
I know these things but I must
Admit that I'm so human sometimes
Everything You've done for all of creation
You've done it in my life

Anxiety is such a human thing
What do the creatures know about You?

They all know You're faithful and You're true
You'll do everything You said You would do
They all know You're lovely and You're just
I know these things but I must
Admit that I'm so human sometimes
I know I'm so human sometimes
God, I'm just so human sometimes
Everything You've done for all of creation
You've done it in my life



Blessing of Animals

God of all creation,
at the beginning of time you gave us all the creatures of the earth to be our helpers. And in your wisdom, these animals, like all good things from you, became more than that. They became our friends. After our long hours away from home, in their barks and wagging tails, we see the joy that you, our Creator, must have when one of your own returns to you.

In our times of sadness and loneliness, when human relationships become strained and broken, in their gentle caress and quiet purring, we see the faithfulness that you, our Companion, offer to all your people. And when we have become numbed by stress, worry, or boredom, in their natural wonder and untamed majesty, we see the awesome creativity that you, our Maker, inspire in us that we may revel in the mystery of life.

We ask you then to bless these, our animal friends, that they may have a long and joyful life. Keep them safe when we cannot be with them, protect them from sickness and harm, and heal their wounds.

When the end of their life comes, grant them a peaceful death free of pain and suffering. And bless us too, their human-companions, with your Holy Spirit that we may care for them well and be wise and gentle stewards of all your creatures.

We ask this in the name of your Son, Jesus, who is Lord of all, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

(A moment of silence.)

Creator God,
You have made a beautiful world filled with wonder and surprises!

We give you thanks

Creator God who has gifted us with the blessing of animals, those in the wild, those on farms, those in our own homes.

We give you thanks

Creator God, you brought into being that which we could not imagine for ourselves, life we cannot see without the aid of microscopes, animals we can only see in pictures from remote regions of this planet earth,

We give you thanks

We thank you for abundant life; for the birds we hear in the morning, for the drone of the bees when we are outside, for the vast tapestry of life which is interwoven,

We give you thanks.

We thank you for the gift of our own animal companions;

For the joy they bring us,

For the unconditional love and forgiveness which teaches us about you;

For the confidant, the listener, the stress-releaser,

For the benefits they are to our health-and to our Spirit.

We give you thanks.

We pray for farmers-that the animals in their care are treated with dignity and respect. We pray for the strays on our streets; that they are brought to a place of safety, where they can be fed, given medical treatment, and the chance to find a loving home. Help us to be generous: with money, time, and the offer of hospitality within our Homes.

Lord, hear our prayer.

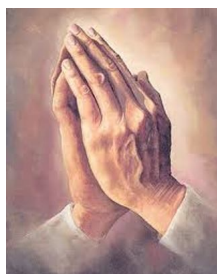
Comfort grieving owners; allow the many warm memories to break the frost of grief. We pray for the companions that we've loved that walked before us into the arms of their Creator. Keep them for us until we can be reunited in perfect love.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For in caring for them, we honor You, and in their joy, we find our own.

Lead us all, every creature great and small, into the promise of your eternal kingdom, where love reigns and joy knows no end. In your name we pray

Amen



Sending Song - Indescribable

From the highest of heights
To the depths of the seas
Creation's revealing Your majesty

From the colors of fall
To the fragrance of spring
All the creatures unique
In the song that they sing
All exclaiming

Indescribable uncontainable
You placed the stars in the sky
And You know them by name
You are amazing God

All powerful untameable
Awestruck we fall to our knees
As we humbly proclaim
You are amazing God

You are amazing God

Who has told every lightning bolt
Where it should go
Or seen heavenly storehouses
Laden with snow

Who imagined the sun
And gave source to its light
Yet conceals it to bring us
The coolness of night
None can fathom

Indescribable uncontainable
You placed the stars in the sky
And You know them by name
You are amazing God

All powerful untameable
Awestruck we fall to our knees
As we humbly proclaim
You are amazing God

You are amazing God

Indescribable uncontainable
You see the depths of my heart
And You love me the same
You are amazing God

Indescribable uncontainable
You placed the stars in the sky
And You know them by name
You are amazing God

You are amazing God

Blessing

God, our Creator, may we be blessed to love all creatures as kin, all animals as partners on Earth, all birds as messengers of praise, all minute beings as expressions of your mysterious design, and all animals as voices of hope. **Amen**

Dismissal

Go out into the world, love one another. Cherish your animal family, protest against abuse and neglect of our animals; And exercise stewardship of ALL creation, so that ALL can experience God's Shalom. In the name of the God the Creator, Jesus our Friend and Wisdom, our Advocate. **Amen**

Altar Flowers Presented By Paul & Genie Durand
In honor of Chris & Lynn Schroetter's Anniversary



Announcements & Events

Sunday, October 13th

Lutheran 101 - Basics of Lutheranism. Great series, invite a friend!!
New Member Class, Part 2 after worship

Wednesday, October 16th

Youth & Family Trip to Kroll's Fall Harvest Farm @ 5:30 PM

Saturday, October 19th

Learn to make Pulla Bread with the Women of St. Mark's
7 AM - late afternoon.
Helpers time can be varied.

Sunday, October 20th

Lutheran 101 - Basics of Lutheranism. Great series, invite a friend!!
Trunk or Treat & Pulla Bake Sale after worship
Sign up sheets are available in the narthex

Sunday, October 27th

Reformation Sunday (wear red to worship)
Lutheran 101 - Basics of Lutheranism. Great series, invite a friend!!
Welcome New Members!

Sunday, November 3rd

All Saints Sunday

Thursday, November 7th

15th Annual Chili Supper
Benefit Fundraiser for COOL Food Pantry
Stay tuned for additional details...

Please feel free to join the following small groups:

Women of St. Mark's - 1st Monday of the month @ 7 PM.

Yarns of Compassion - 3rd Monday of the month @ 7 PM.

Reflections in the Spirit - 1st Tuesday of the month @ 7 PM.

Zoom Weekly Bible Study - Wednesday Night @ 7 PM

Gather Bible Study - 2nd Friday of the month @ 5:30 PM.

Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting - Fri. Night @ 7 PM in the fellowship hall.

Come as You Are, Whoever You Are

Everyone is welcome at St. Mark's, no matter what you have done, what has been done to you, what darkness or struggles you have faced, and regardless of whether you have been marginalized by society or denied involvement by other churches.

All are worthy of God's love and grace. We celebrate diversity, and seek to be inclusive of every race, ethnicity, faith background, age, economic status, political affiliation, sexual orientation, gender identity, mental ability, or anything else that divides us.

Christ's church is not ours to control, nor is it our job to sort, divide, categorize or exclude. But it is our place to love all our neighbors, aid the less fortunate, and to be a voice on their behalf.

Welcome!

“Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.” Romans 15:7

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If you'd like more information about St. Mark's, please scan the St. Mark's Website QRC code below.

If you'd like to receive emails from St. Mark's or your contact information needs to be updated, please scan the Contact Form QRC below. Or, fill out this form and drop it in the offering plate.

St. Mark's Member/Visitor Information Card **Please provide the following information:**

First Name: _____

Last Name: _____

Email Address: _____

Physical Address: _____

Home Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____



St. Mark's Website



Contact Form