



SAINT MARK'S
EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL

A BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

CELEBRATING CREATION
ON THE FEAST OF
FRANCIS & CLARE OF ASSISI (TR.)



Saturday, October 2, 2021
4:30 PM



SAINT MARK'S
EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL

Saint Mark's Cathedral acknowledges that we gather on the traditional land of the first people of Seattle, the Duwamish People, who are still here, and we honor with gratitude the land itself and the life of the Duwamish Tribe.

Welcome to Saint Mark's Cathedral. Today we celebrate the Feasts of Francis and Clare of Assisi. Our liturgy is centered around the blessing of animals. We will offer prayers for our animal companions, both current and past, and for the earth, our island home.

Your animal companions are most welcome. We will offer socially-distanced individual blessings to animals at the conclusion of the service for those interested.

For your safety and the safety of others, please remain masked throughout the service.

At the invitation of the Officiant, all stand, as able.

Officiant Light and peace be with you all.
Assembly **And also with you.**

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Officiant Let us pray.

BLESSED are you, living, loving God. All creation praises you, yet you have given the earth into our hands. You made the animals as our companions, that in caring for them we might learn to live and care for all your creatures, and find in them a sign of your grace. As we fulfill this calling may we draw close to you, the giver of life, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

Please be seated for the Readings.

READING

Genesis 1:20–25

(from the Jewish Scriptures)

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 there was 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 Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.
Assembly **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM*A place in the choir*

WORDS & MUSIC: Bill Staines (b. 1947)

*The congregation is invited to sing the refrain, led by the Junior Choristers.
A cantor will sing the verses*

Refrain:

All God's creatures got a place in the choir.
Some sing low, some sing higher,
some sing out loud on a telephone wire,
and some just clap their hands, or paws,
or anything they got now!

READING*Eagle Poem**by Joy Harjo*

TO PRAY you open your whole self
To sky, to earth, to sun, to moon
To one whole voice that is you.
And know there is more
That you can't see, can't hear;
Can't know except in moments
Steadily growing, and in languages
That aren't always sound but other
Circles of motion.
Like eagle that Sunday morning
Over Salt River. Circled in blue sky
In wind, swept our hearts clean
With sacred wings.

We see you, see ourselves and know
That we must take the utmost care
And kindness in all things.
Breathe in, knowing we are made of
All this, and breathe, knowing
We are truly blessed because we
Were born, and die soon within a
True circle of motion,
Like eagle rounding out the morning
Inside us.
We pray that it will be done
In beauty.
In beauty.

from In Mad Love and War, Wesleyan University Press, 1990.

REFLECTION

Canon Steedman Sanborn

Please stand, as able.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

adapted from *The Canticle of the Sun*
by Francis of Assisi

Intercessor Be praised, O God, through our Brother Sun, who brings the day;
May we share your radiance.

All Be praised, O God.

Intercessor Through Sister Moon and the stars; in the heavens you have made them.
May we see what is precious in your sight.

All Be praised, O God.

Intercessor Through Brothers Wind and Air, and all the weather,
by which you give your creatures nourishment.
May we comfort those whom the wind and the rain have distressed.

All Be praised, O God.

Intercessor Through Sister Water; useful, and humble, and precious, and pure.
May we all be refreshed, our hearts filled with every need.

All Be praised, O God.

Intercessor Through Brother Fire, through whom you brighten the night.
Set us aflame with your love for the whole world.

All Be praised, O God.

Intercessor Through our sister Mother Earth, who feeds us and rules us,
and produces fruits, flowers and herbs.

All Be praised, O God.

Intercessor Through brothers and sisters who forgive for love of you,
for those who endure sickness and trial,
and for those who serve the sick, and the needy.

All Be praised, O God.

Intercessor For our brothers and sisters through time who have died,
that we may all dwell with you in eternal life.

All Be praised, O God.

Intercessor Praise and bless my Lord, and give thanks,
and serve him with great humility.

All Amen.

A PRAYER FOR OUR ANIMAL COMPANIONS WHO HAVE DIED

Invitation is made for those present to name those beloved animals who have died, either silently or aloud.

Officiant Let us pray.

GRACIOUS God, our hearts are filled with the memories of those beloved animal companions who have died, especially those we name aloud or in our hearts. They enriched our lives, and we delighted in their company. We will always remember the loyalty and mischief of these animal friends, and we will always miss them. May the deaths of these creatures remind us that death comes to all of us, and it is the natural end to earthly life. May these pets who have died carry on with you forever, until we join them in eternal life.

All Amen.

A BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Invitation is made to name those beloved animals who are our companions in life at this time, either silently or aloud.

Officiant **B**LESSED are you, Lord God of the universe, for all the creatures you have made. You keep them in your care and not one is lost from your sight. They glorify you, and each in its own way speaks to us of your beauty, your challenge and your love. May we respect them and cherish them for they are your gift to us; Bless these animals here present, and every creature far and wide, that through them we may better know your will for all Creation. We ask this all in your holy Name.

All Amen.

A PRAYER ATTRIBUTED TO SAINT FRANCIS

(13th century Christian monk)

Officiant Gracious God,

All make us instruments of your peace.

Where there is hatred, let us sow love;

where there is injury, pardon;

where there is discord, union;

where there is doubt, faith;

where there is despair, hope;

where there is darkness, light;

where there is sadness, joy.

Grant that we 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 SAINT CLARE

Officiant Go forth in peace,

for you have followed the good road.

Go forth without fear,

for God who created you has sanctified you,

has always protected you,

and loves you as a mother.

And may God's blessing be upon you:

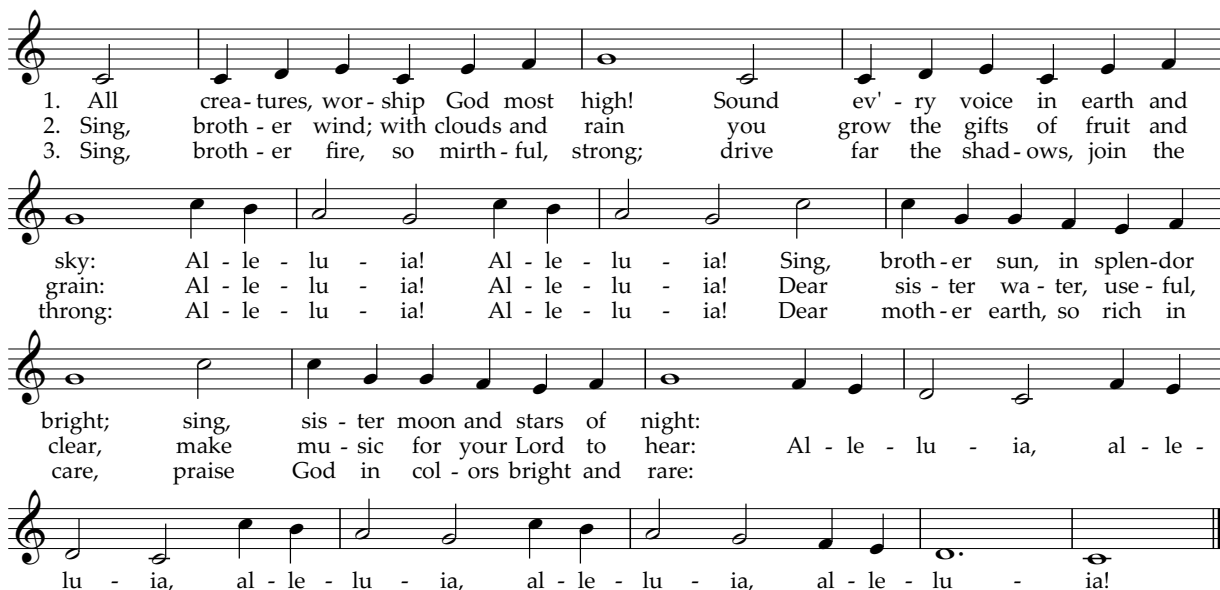
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

All **Amen.**

HYMN

All creatures of our God and King ♦ sung by all

TUNE: *Lasst uns erfreuen*



1. All crea- tures, wor- ship God most high! Sound ev' - ry voice in earth and
 2. Sing, broth - er wind; with clouds and rain you grow the gifts of fruit and
 3. Sing, broth - er fire, so mirth - ful, strong; drive far the shad - ows, join the

sky: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Sing, broth - er sun, in splen- dor
 grain: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Dear sis - ter wa - ter, use - ful,
 throng: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Dear moth - er earth, so rich in

bright; sing, sis - ter moon and stars of night:
 clear, make mu - sic for your Lord to hear: Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
 care, praise God in col - ors bright and rare:

lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

*Evangelical Lutheran Worship #835 (stanzas 1-3); WORDS: Francis of Assisi (1182-1226); tr. composite, ©1997 Augsburg Fortress;
 MUSIC: Geistliche Kirchengesänge, Cologne, 1623.*

DISMISSAL

Officiant Let us go forth into the world rejoicing in the power of the Spirit of
 all Creation.

All Thanks be to God.

The priests will be present after the service to provide individual pet blessings to those interested. Please maintain social distancing while waiting for a blessing and during the blessing of your animal companion. All are welcome.

MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY

OFFICIANT

The Very Reverend Steven L. Thomason

REFLECTION

The Reverend Canon Doctor Marda Steedman Sanborn

ASSISTING PRIEST

The Reverend Mark Miller

READERS

Lola Wall

Doug Thorpe

INTERCESSORS

Karrie & Erika Sutkus

USHERS

Rachel Baker, Erin Beary Andersen, Jaime Rubio, Don Sutkus

MUSICIANS

Jacob Moody, *guitar*

James Falzone, *woodwinds*

The Junior Choristers



Cover illustration: “The Peaceable Kingdom” by Fritz Eichenberg. Illustration above: by Barry Moser.
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ABOUT FRANCIS & CLARE OF ASSISI

Francis of Assisi was born in 1182, the son of a prosperous merchant. His early youth was spent in harmless revelry and fruitless attempts to win military glory. Various encounters with beggars and lepers pricked the young man's conscience, and he decided to embrace a life devoted to Lady Poverty. Despite his father's intense opposition, Francis totally renounced all material values, and devoted himself to serve the poor. In 1210, Pope Innocent III confirmed the simple Rule for the Order of Friars Minor, a name Francis chose to emphasize his desire to be numbered among the "least" of God's servants. His last years were spent in much suffering of body and spirit, but his unconquerable joy never failed.

Of all the saints, Francis is the most popular and admired, but probably the least imitated; few have attained to his total identification with the poverty and suffering of Christ.

Around the time that Francis renounced his wealth and established the order of Franciscans, a young woman named Clare, also of Assisi, heard him preach a sermon that was to make a radical change in her life. The daughter of a wealthy family, and noted beauty, Clare was inspired by Francis's words with the desire to serve God and to give her life to the following of Christ's teaching. She sought out Francis, and begged that she might become a member of his order. Francis could not refuse her pleas. He placed her temporarily in a nearby Benedictine convent.

When her family learned of her actions, they tried to take her from the convent. She was adamant. She would be the bride of Christ alone. Soon after, Francis took her to a poor dwelling beside the Church of St. Damian at Assisi. Several other women joined her, and she became Mother Superior of the order, which was called the "Poor Ladies of St. Damian." Clare governed the convent for forty years. Clare herself was servant, not only to the poor, but to her nuns.

As she lay dying, seeing many weeping by her bedside, she exhorted them to love "holy poverty" and to share their possessions. She was heard to say: "Go forth in peace, for you have followed the good road. Go forth without fear, for he that created you has sanctified you, has always protected you, and loves you as a mother. Blessed be God, for having created me." ♦

SAINT MARK'S CATHEDRAL

WEEKLY LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

SUNDAYS

**services with asterisk are livestreamed*

- 8:00 AM** Holy Eucharist in Thomsen Chapel
9:00 AM Holy Eucharist in the cathedral nave
11:00 AM *Holy Eucharist in the cathedral nave
4:30 PM *Choral Evensong
[First Sunday of the month, October–May]
7:00 PM Contemplative Eucharist
candlelight & silence in Thomsen Chapel
9:30 PM *Compline ancient nighttime prayers
broadcast live on KING FM 98.1

WEEKDAYS

Services of the **Daily Office** occur every weekday,
either online via Zoom or in person.

Visit saintmarks.org/prayer for details.

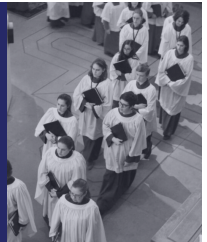
On the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month,
Holy Eucharist is offered in Thomsen Chapel at 7 a.m.

Cathedral Yoga is offered every Monday at 6:30 p.m.
a gentle practice open to all: saintmarks.org/yoga

CHORAL EVENSONG

TOMORROW ♦ SUNDAY, OCTOBER 3
4:30 P.M. ♦ IN PERSON OR LIVESTREAMED

Offered by Saint Mark's Evensong Choir
of children, youth & adults in a
traditional Anglican cathedral style
on the first Sunday of the month.



CREATION CARE MINISTRY



Saint Mark's has made a commitment
that its campus and community will have
net-zero carbon emissions by 2030.
The Creation Care Ministry strives to
meaningfully address the ongoing global
climate crisis through education & action.

Learn more at saintmarks.org/creation

CATHEDRAL CONVERSATIONS ABOUT RACE



A podcast highlighting voices from the community of Saint
Mark's cathedral. Listen wherever you get your podcasts,
or at saintmarks.org/podcast

THE WISDOM SCHOOL

AT SAINT MARK'S CATHEDRAL



THE WISDOM SCHOOL invites seekers on diverse spiritual paths to gather at the cathedral
to listen and learn from one another. Visit saintmarks.org/wisdom for more information.

Opening presentation of the 2021–22 program year:

A SPIRITUALITY OF DESIRE

led by Dean Steve Thomason

OCTOBER 6, 2021, 6:45–8:15 P.M.

Attend in person in Bloedel hall or online via Zoom.
Program is free, but registration is required.



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1245 Tenth Avenue East
Seattle, WA 98102

206-323-0300

www.saintmarks.org