

BLESSING OF ANIMALS

Welcome all present and their Animals.

Reading from the Book of Genesis Chapter 1:1, 2, 20-24

**In the beginning, when God created the heavens and the earth,
the earth was a formless wasteland,
and darkness covered the abyss,
while a mighty wind swept over the waters.**

**Then God said,
“Let the water teem with an abundance of living creatures,
and on the earth let birds fly beneath the dome of the sky.”**

And so it happened:

**God created the great sea monsters and all kinds of
swimming creatures with which the water teems,
and all kinds of winged birds.**

God blessed them, saying,

**“Be fertile, multiply, and fill the water of the seas;
and let the birds multiply on the earth.”**

Evening came, and morning followed – the fifth day.

Then God said,

**“Let the earth bring forth all kinds of living creatures:
cattle, creeping things, and wild animals of all kinds.”**

And so it happened:

Noah Takes Animals into the Ark

In chapters 5, 6 and 7 of Genesis it tells us about the Great Flood and how God prepared Noah for it. In chapter 6:19-20 we read:

**Of all other living creatures you shall bring
two into the ark,
one male and one female,
that you may keep them alive with you.
Of all kinds of birds
of all kinds of beasts,
and of all kinds of creeping things,
two of each shall come into the ark with you,
to stay alive.**

Noah carried out all the commands that God gave him.

For All animals:

*Blessed are you, Lord God,
Maker of all living creatures.
On the fifth and sixth days of creation,
You called forth fish in the sea,
Birds in the air and animals on the land.
You inspired St. Francis to call all animals
His brothers and sisters.
We ask you to bless these animals,
Your special gifts to us
By the power of your love,
Enable them to live according to your plan.
May we always praise you
For all your beauty in creation.
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 your animals creatures
If it is your will, restore sickness to health and strength.
Blessed are you, Lord God,
And holy is your name for ever and ever. Amen*

For Mistreated Animals

*Hear our humble prayer, O God,
For our friends the animals,
Especially for animals who are suffering;
For all that are overworked and
Underfed and cruelly treated;
For all wistful creatures in captivity
That beat against their bars;
For all that are in pain or dying;
For all that must be put to death.
We entreat for them
All Thy mercy and pity.
Make us ourselves to be true friends to animals
And so to share the blessing of the merciful;
For the sake of Thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Albert Schweitzer

Sprinkle Animals with Holy Water