



Francis of Assisi 1182-1226

Commemorating St. Francis We Are Blessed by the Creator to Be Blessings to the Creation

Francis of Assisi, renewer of the church, died 1226

Born into the family of a wealthy merchant, Francis gave up his inheritance to serve poor people. He formed the Order of Friars Minor (called Franciscans), who took on poverty and the task of preaching "using words if necessary." Francis had a spirit of gratitude for all of God's creation.

Artwork by Daniel Erlander

Welcome & Announcements

The assembly stands.

Gathering Song Morning has broken. (ELW 556)

Morning Has Broken

1 Morn - ing has bro - ken like the first morn - ing; black - bird has
 2 Sweet the rain's new fall, sun - lit from heav - en, like the first
 3 Mine is the sun - light! Mine is the morn - ing, born of the

spo - ken like the first bird. Praise for the sing - ing! Praise for the
 dew - fall on the first grass. Praise for the sweet - ness of the wet
 one light E - den saw play! Praise with e - la - tion, praise ev - 'ry

morn - ing! Praise for them, spring - ing fresh from the Word!
 gar - den, sprung in com - plete - ness where God's feet pass.
 morn - ing, God's re - cre - a - tion of the new day!

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881-1965
 Music: BUNESSAN, Gaelic tune; arr. hymnal version
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Greeting

Leader: Blessed be God, Creator of Heaven and Earth.

All: All creation sings your praises.

Prayer of the Day The Prayer of St. Francis

Let us pray.

Lord, make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love;

Where there is injury, pardon;

Where there is doubt, faith;

Where there is despair, hope;

Where there is darkness, light;

Where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, 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 assembly is seated. The children (and any animals they wish to bring) are invited forward.

First Reading Genesis 6:5-9:17 (Godly Play story “The Ark and the Flood”)

Psalm 148:7-14

The Psalm is read responsively.

⁷Praise the LORD from the earth,
you sea monsters and all deeps,

⁸**fire and hail, snow and frost,
stormy wind fulfilling his command!**

⁹Mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars!

¹⁰**Wild animals and all cattle,
creeping things and flying birds!**

¹¹Kings of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the earth!

¹²**Young men and women alike,
old and young together!**

¹³Let them praise the name of the LORD,

for his name alone is exalted;
his glory is above earth and heaven.

**¹⁴He has raised up a horn for his people,
praise for all his faithful,
for the people of Israel who are close to him.
Praise the LORD!**

The assembly stands.

Gospel Matthew 6:25-33

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁵"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? ²⁶Look 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? ²⁷And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? ²⁸And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, ²⁹yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. ³⁰But 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? ³¹Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear?' ³²For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. ³³But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated.

Sermon St. Francis preaches to the birds.

Song of the Day All Things Bright and Beautiful (WOV 767)

The assembly stands. (note: bulletin says seated)

All Things Bright and Beautiful

Refrain



All things bright and beau - ti - ful, all crea - tures great and small,



all things wise and won - der - ful, the Lord God made them all.



1 Each lit - tle flow'r that o - pens, each lit - tle bird that sings,
2 The pur - ple - head - ed moun - tains, the riv - er run - ning by,
3 The cold wind in the win - ter, the pleas - ant sum - mer sun,
4 God gave us eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell



Refrain

God made their glow - ing col - ors, God made their ti - ny wings.
the sun - set, and the morn - ing that bright - ens up the sky.
the ripe fruits in the gar - den, God made them ev - 'ry one.
how great is God Al - might - y, who has made all things well.

Text: Cecil F. Alexander, 1818–1895, alt.

Music: ROYAL OAK, English tune, 17th cent., adapt. Martin Shaw, 1875–1958

The assembly is seated.

[Other Rites]

[Other rites may be inserted here - baptisms, blessings, presentations, etc.]

Offering

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care and repair of creation. A musical offering may be given.

The Great Thanksgiving

The assembly stands.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
to give thanks and praise to you, our Creator,
through Christ, the Word who was with you at Creation,
and is with us in the bread and wine today.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread, made from the fruits of the land, and the work of earthworms, sun, and human hands, and he broke it and gave it to them, saying, “This is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

And again after supper, he took the wine, made from the fruits of the land, and the work of bees, rain, and human hands, and he gave it to them to drink, saying, this cup is the new covenant in my blood, poured out for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sins. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Lord’s Prayer

Jesus, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray.

Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come,

your will be done,

on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those

who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial

and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,

and the glory are yours,

now and forever. Amen.

Communion

All are welcome at God's table.

The bread is gluten free. The wine is purple, the grape juice clear. You can dip your piece of bread in either cup, or take a sip from either cup. All are welcome to communion here at New Life. Come all who wish to come to this meal: you can't do it wrong.

Litany *from Cantic of the Sun, by St. Francis of Assisi, 1224 AD, English Translation*

note: the worship booklet has the Peace here- explain: Please stand for the litany: we will share the peace after the litany on p. 6 of your worship booklet.

Assembly stands.

Most high, all powerful, all good Lord!

All praise is yours, all glory, all honor, and all blessing.

To you, alone, Most High, do they belong.

No mortal lips are worthy to pronounce your name.

Be praised, my Lord, through all your creatures,
**especially through my lord Brother Sun,
who brings the day; and you give light through him.**

And he is beautiful and radiant in all his splendor!

Of you, Most High, he bears the likeness.

Be praised, my Lord, through Sister Moon and the stars;
in the heavens you have made them bright, precious and beautiful.

Be praised, my Lord, through Brothers Wind and Air,
**and clouds and storms, and all the weather,
through which you give your creatures sustenance.**

Be praised, My Lord, through Sister Water;
she is very useful, and humble, and precious, and pure.

Be praised, my Lord, through Brother Fire,
**through whom you brighten the night.
He is beautiful and cheerful, and powerful and strong.**

Be praised, my Lord, through our sister Mother Earth,
**who feeds us and rules us,
and produces various fruits with colored flowers and herbs.**

Be praised, my Lord, through those who forgive for love of you;
through those who endure sickness and trial.

Happy those who endure in peace,
for by you, Most High, they will be crowned.

Be praised, my Lord, through our Sister Bodily Death,
from whose embrace no living person can escape.

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

Blessing and Being Blessed by God's Creatures

Let us pray,

Creator God, you made all there is and gave life to all that lives. Thank you for this beautiful and life-giving earth. Thank you for all the people, and all of our brother and sister creatures who live on this planet with us. We stand here in your beautiful creation and are blessed by it, and by all that live on this land. We in turn bless this place, and all that live here, the birds, mammals, reptiles, and insects; the trees, grasses, plants, fungi and molds. We also bless the animals that we have brought with us to worship today. Thank you for our animal companions. Help us be a blessing to them, as they are to us.

Amen.

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Let us share with each other a sign of God's peace. And all who wish to bring an animal or photo forward for a blessing, please do so at this time.

You may bring your pet or pet's photo forward for a blessing.

May you be blessed in the name of the Creator who made you, Jesus who redeemed all creation, and the Spirit which blows life through us all.

Blessing *from St. Clare*

Live without fear: your Creator has made you holy, has always protected you, and loves you as a mother. Go in peace to follow the good road and may God's blessing be with you always.

Amen

Sending Song *He's got the whole world in his hands.*

He's got the whole world in His hands,
He's got the whole world in His hands,
He's got the whole world in His hands,
He's got the whole world in His hands.

He's got my brothers and my sisters in His hands,
He's got my brothers and my sisters in His hands,
He's got my brothers and my sisters in His hands,
He's got the whole world in His hands.

He's got the sun and the rain in His hands,
He's got the moon and the stars in His hands,
He's got the wind and the clouds in His hands,
He's got the whole world in His hands.

He's got the rivers and the mountains in His hands,
He's got the oceans and the seas in His hands,
He's got you and he's got me in His hands,
He's got the whole world in His hands.

He's got every creature here in His hands,
He's got every creature there in His hands,
He's got everybody everywhere in His hands,
He's got the whole world in His hands.

Dismissal

Leader: Go in peace to love and serve all God's creation.

Thanks be to God.

