

SATURDAY SERVICE
OCTOBER 5, 2024
THE FEAST OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI
ZION LUTHERAN, TAMAQUA, PA

Note: Pastor White will ask for prayer requests at the start of this evening's service. Worshipers are also invited to add their own prayers during Prayers of the People.

GATHERING

Video: "A Day in the Life of St. Francis"

Gathering song – "All Creatures Worship God Most High"

Text: Francis of Assisi, 1182-1226

Open Spirit Ensemble

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!
- 4 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!

Gathering words

This is the day the Lord has made.

Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Blessed be God, Creator of Heaven and Earth.

All creation sings your praises.

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

And also with you.

Gathering prayer

Let us pray together: **Creator God, we give thanks that all things belong to you. We praise you for giving us the animals, birds and fish which fill your world. We give thanks for our pets that bring us joy and who help teach us the value of unconditional love. Grant that we may good caretakers for our pets that they may also know the joy of unconditional love. May our shared lives together always bring joy to others as we live, serve, and love all of your creatures, both great and small; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Welcome – Pastor Cindy White

Sharing of Peace – Please remain seated

The peace of the Lord be with you.

And also with you.

THE WORD (Genesis 1:20-26, 30-31)

God, your holy word invites us to place our trust in you.

May the words we hear this evening, take root in our lives.

A reading from Genesis: 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. Then God said, “Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.” And it was so. God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good.

The Word of Our Lord

Thanks be to God.

Today's message - Pastor Cindy White

Animal blessings – Pastor Cindy White

Offering our gifts

“Doxology”

Let us pray: **Accept our offerings as an expression of our deep thanks for all the animals and other creatures that have enriched our lives. Amen.**

Moment of remembrance

Lord, we pause and give thanks for the memories of those pets we have lost. We pray for their owners who continue to mourn their loss. But most of all, we give thanks for their memory and for the ways in which they have enriched our lives. **Amen.**

Prayers of the People – Please remain seated

Jesus calls on us to follow him. Let us call on Jesus for the needs, concerns, and hopes of all peoples ...

Lord in your mercy ...

Hear our prayer

The Lord's Prayer – Spoken - Please remain seated

Sending

Announcements

Benediction

As we end tonight's service, let us pray together: **Almighty and everlasting God, Creator of all things and giver of all life, let your blessing be upon all our pets and animals. May our relationships with them mirror your love, and our care for them be an example of your bountiful mercy. Grant the animals health and peace. Strengthen us to love and care for them as we strive to imitate the love of Jesus Christ our Lord and God's servant Francis. Amen.**

And all the people said ... **Thanks be to God.**

Sending song: "Prayer of St. Francis" – St. Francis

Thank you for worshiping with us this evening.