

thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.

### Announcements

#### Sending Song

*Let All Things Now Living*

ELW 881

Let all things now living  
a song of thanksgiving  
to God the creator triumphantly raise,  
who fashioned and made us,  
protected and stayed us,  
who still guides us on to the end of our days.  
God's banners are o'er us,  
God's light goes before us,  
a pillar of fire shining forth in the night,  
till shadows have vanished  
and darkness is banished,  
as forward we travel from light into light.

God rules all the forces:  
the stars in their courses  
and sun in its orbit obediently shine;  
the hills and the mountains,  
the rivers and fountains,  
the deeps of the ocean proclaim God divine.  
We too should be voicing  
our love and rejoicing;  
with glad adoration a song let us raise  
till all things now living  
unite in thanksgiving:  
"To God in the highest, hosanna and praise!"

#### Blessing

Compassion, creativity, and joy are ours through Jesus Christ.  
May the Holy Spirit move us to preserve and enhance life on Earth,  
giving clear witness to the life-giving purpose of our Creator.

**Amen.**

#### Dismissal

Go in grace, grow in faith, serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**



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# Sunday Worship

April 16, 2023

## Blessing of the Animals



## Welcome to Worship

Children are welcome in worship at FLW!

*The congregational speaking parts are printed in bold.*

### Prelude

### Welcome and Announcements

#### Call to Worship

All you lands, trees, mountains and streams:

#### **Praise the Lord!**

From flying birds to swimming ocean creatures:

**From the lion in the Savannah to the penguin in the Antarctic:**

Beloved pets—cats and dogs, rabbits and hamsters, and everything in between:

#### **Praise the Lord!**

All of God's Creation both big and small:

#### **Praise the Lord!**

**Gathering Song** *All Creatures, Worship God Most High* ELW 835 v. 1-3, 6

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!

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!

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!

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!

#### Confession and Forgiveness

Creator God,

In the beginning, your Spirit moved over the deep;

### Offering Response



Let prais-es ring, give thanks and bring to - Christ our Lord ad - o -  
ra - tion. You pure in heart, all bear your part, sing - Je - sus Christ our sal -  
va - tion. To set us free for ev - er, he is ris'n and sends to  
all earth's ends good news to save ev - 'ry na - tion.

#### Offertory Prayer:

God, our Creator, **through your love you have given us these gifts to share. Accept our offerings as an expression of our thanksgiving and as a sign of our concern for those in need, including all our fellow creatures on planet earth. Amen.**

#### Blessing of Animals

Almighty and everlasting God, Creator of all things and giver of all life, let your blessing be upon all these 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. **Amen.**

*People are invited to come forward with their animal or a picture of their animal.*

God is the source and loving sustainer of all that lives—of species endangered as well as those newly discovered and named. Called as we are to wisely care for this diverse web of life, let us again offer ourselves as advocates, donors, and active stewards, being reverent and mindful toward all creation. **Water, earth, and sky are home to us all. We accept God's call, in the name of the Good Shepherd. Amen.**

#### Special Music

*All Things Bright and Beautiful*

Wasson

#### The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,**

that he lived and breathed and spoke among us,  
suffered and died on a cross  
for all human beings and for all creation.  
We believe that the risen Jesus Christ  
fills the whole creation,  
reconciling all things to God,  
renewing all things.

We believe the Spirit renews life in creation,  
groans in empathy with every suffering creature,  
and waits with us for the rebirth of the whole creation.  
We believe that with Christ we will rise  
and with Christ we will celebrate a new creation,  
reconciled, restored, and renewed.  
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### Prayers of the People

...Risen Lord, **receive our prayer.**

Rejoicing in the victory of Christ's resurrection....through Jesus Christ,  
our risen Lord. **Amen.**

### Offering

#### Anthem

*Worthy Is the Lamb*

Clatterbuck



Unfolding new life daily.

Darkness and light: you called them good.

Skies, lands, and seas: you called them good.

The earth and all that fills it-plants and rocks,

The finned, the feathered, the furry: you called them good.

Yet we have failed to draw from that goodness in care for God's creation.

**Forgive us, God, for the ways we have exploited earth and its creatures.**

We long for new relationships with God's creation that has been entrusted to us.

**Help us, God, to make a new community with all that lives alongside us.**

May the merciful God who calls us to tend earth and all its creatures, Deepen our knowledge of creation's interweaving, so that our lives are shaped in wholeness and peace with all living things; in Jesus' name.

**Amen.**

### Greeting

The joy of our Lord Jesus Christ, the compassion of God, and the creative power of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

### Hymn of Praise

*Blessing, Honor and Glory*

ELW 433

Blessing, honor, glory to the Lamb.

Holy, righteous, worthy is the Lamb.

Death could not hold Him down

For He is risen!

Seated upon the throne

He is the Lamb of God! *(sing 2x)*

Blessing, honor, glory to the Lamb.

Holy, righteous, worthy is the Lamb of God.

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### Prayer of the Day

Creator God, **we give you thanks for your whole creation, especially the animals who live with us and around us. May we be good stewards of them and all living things. Amen.**

### First Lesson Genesis 1:11-12, 20-26 (NIRV)

The first lesson is from Genesis, the 1st chapter.

Then God said, "Let the land produce plants. Let them produce their own seeds. And let there be trees on the land that grow fruit with seeds in it. Let each kind of plant or tree have its own kind of seeds." And that's exactly what happened. So the land produced plants. Each kind of plant had its own kind of seeds. And the land produced trees that grew fruit with seeds in it. Each kind of tree had its own kind of seeds. God saw that it was good.

God said, "Let the seas be filled with living things. Let birds fly above the earth across the huge space of the sky." So God created the great sea creatures. He created every kind of living thing that fills the seas and moves about in them. He created every kind of bird that flies. And God saw that it was good. God blessed them. He said, "Have little ones so that there will be many of you. Fill the water in the seas. Let there be more and more birds on the earth." There was evening, and there was morning. It was day five.

God said, "Let the land produce every kind of living creature. Let there be livestock, and creatures that move along the ground, and wild animals." And that's exactly what happened. God made every kind of wild animal. He made every kind of livestock. He made every kind of creature that moves along the ground. And God saw that it was good.

Then God said, "Let us make human beings so that they are like us. Let them rule over the fish in the seas and the birds in the sky. Let them rule over the livestock and all the wild animals. And let them rule over all the creatures that move along the ground."

Word of God, word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Second Lesson** Revelation 5:11-14 (NRSV)

The second lesson is from Revelation, the 5th chapter.

Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels surrounding the throne and the living creatures and the elders; they numbered myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, singing with full voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slaughtered to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honour and glory and blessing!

Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, singing, 'To the one seated on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honour and glory and might for ever and ever!' And the four living creatures said, 'Amen!' And the elders fell down and worshipped.

Word of God, word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation**

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

**Gospel** Matthew 6:26-29 (NRSV)

The gospel according to Matthew, the 6th chapter.

**Glory to you O Lord.**

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.

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Homily**

Pastor Pamela Stalheim Lane

**Hymn of the Day**

**Earth Is Full of Wit and Wisdom**

1 Earth is full of wit and wis - dom, sound - ing God's de - light - ed laugh,  
2 Earth is full of wit and wis - dom, wo - ven in - to har - mo - ny,  
3 Earth is full of wit and wis - dom: pen - guin, pla - ty - pus, and snail,

from the ti - ny ro - ly - po - ly to the tree - top - tall gi - raffe.  
Ev - 'ry crea - ture has a pur - pose, ev - 'ry flow'r and bum - ble - bee.  
cac - tus, sea slug, oak, and al - gae, from the mi - crobe to the whale.

All cre - a - tion sings in won - der; e - ven rocks and trees re - joice  
Spi - der, hu - man, red - wood, geck - o, mon - key, chick - en, mouse, and snake  
In this great and strange cre - a - tion, with a breath God gives us birth:

as they join the ring - ing cho - rus: ech - oes of our Mak - er's voice.  
live with - in a sin - gle fab - ric: cloth that on - ly God could make.  
born of soil to live as stew - ards, called to love and serve the earth.

**Creation Creed**

**We believe that God creates all things, renews all things, and celebrates all things.**

**We believe Earth is a sanctuary, a sacred planet filled with God's presence, a home for us to share with all creatures.**

**We believe every creature joins us in praising God.**

**We see many suffer because of human sin against creation.**

**We believe that God became incarnate as a part of Earth, Jesus Christ,**