

# 20th Sunday after Pentecost "Blessing of the Animals"



## Word and Sacrament

*"Not Just Going to Church, but BEING the Church"*

**Saint Bartholomew Lutheran Church**

October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024 11:00AM



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.

## **Welcome to Worship**

This morning we celebrate the Blessing of the Animals. The lyrics to the hymns are in the red hymnals in front of you.

We extend special greetings to all our guests who are with us today. Your presence, along with our members and friends, is truly valued. Know that all of God's people are always welcome here at St. Bartholomew.

## **Holy Communion**

Saint Bart's celebrates the real presence of Jesus through the bread and wine. We invite all to come and share. At the time of communion, you will come up to the Altar and receive communion.

## **Praying People**

Everyone is invited to offer their prayer concerns during the Prayers of the Church.

## **Blessing of the Animals**

For many, pets are a beloved member of the family. Today, on the Sunday closest to October 4, churches around the country will hold Blessing of the Animals services as a way for Christians to give thanks to God for the joy and love that pets bring to the lives of their owners. One of the most famous animal lovers was St. Francis of Assisi who referred to the animals as his brothers and sisters. In addition to his love of animals and all of creation, Francis was known for his devotion to the poor. Though born into a wealthy family, he gave up his inheritance to serve the poor and founded the Franciscans, a monastic order. Francis believed that it was important for his faith to bear fruit in the world, so he took a vow of poverty, worked with lepers, acted as a peacemaker, and inspired others to adopt a way of life focused on serving God and others.

## **Announcements**

**Farmers Market** is on Fridays at 11AM

**ESL Classes** are Saturdays at noon

**Enid's Pantry** will be open October 12<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> at 10AM

**Bonhoeffer Study** is Sunday @ 9:45AM in Community Center

**A Reformation Concert** will be held at St. Paul on October 26

**Trunk or Treat** is October 31<sup>st</sup> at 4PM

**We welcome Rev. Aaron Richter today** and invite everyone to stay for lunch. Next week's guest preacher will be Rev. Sonja Pancoast, who served at St. Bart's as her first call in 2001.

**The Eternal candle is lit this month in memory of Bill Schendlinger by Barbara Schendlinger**

**We can use any food or monetary donations to help our community in need**

**Are there any other announcements?**

Bell/ Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

P Bless the Lord, all you his creatures.

**C Bless the Lord, in heaven and on earth.**

*Confession and Forgiveness*

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

**C Amen.**

P Let us confess our sin and come to God for healing.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P Gracious God,

**C Have mercy on us. We confess that we have honored you with our lips, but have harmed our neighbors with our tongues. The cravings at war within us cause conflicts and disputes. In our desire to be first we make distinctions among ourselves. We place the needs of the poor and the suffering last. In your great mercy, forgive us our sins. Draw near to us with grace in time of need, and turn us to follow in the way of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

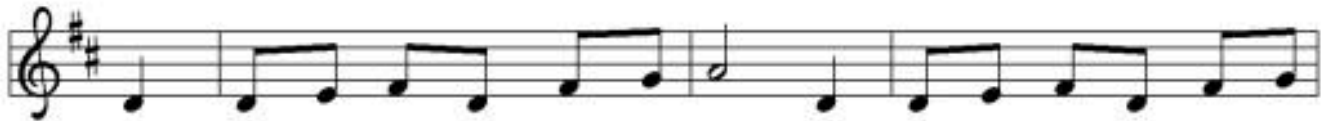
P God promises to forgive our iniquity and to remember our sin no more. By grace you have been saved.

In the name of † Jesus Christ, the source of eternal healing, your sins are forgiven.

**C Amen.**

Gathering Hymn: **ELW #835**

**All Creatures, Worship God Most High!**



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  
4 All who for love of God for-give, all who in pain or sor-row



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  
grieve: Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Christ bears your bur-dens and your



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:  
fears; still make your song a-mid the tears:



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

*APOSTOLIC GREETING*

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

**C** And also with you

## Kyrie



- 1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.  
2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.  
3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.  
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.  
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

## Canticle of Praise



1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.

## Prayer of the Day

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

**P** Let us pray. O God, you have made us and these pets and all living things. You are even more wonderful than the things you have made. We thank you for giving us these pets who give us joy. As you take care of us, so also we ask that you help us to take care of our pets who trust us to take care of them. By doing this, we know that we share in your own love for all creation. We ask this in Jesus' name.

**C** **Amen**

## WORD

- A I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth (Psalm 34:1). Lord, bless the reading of your word. Make it come alive in our midst.
- C **Amen.**

### **First Reading: Genesis 1:23-28, 31a**

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.” So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.” God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good.

- A The word of the Lord.
- C **Thanks be to God.**



## **Second Reading: Psalm 104:24, 27-31**

O LORD, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures. These all look to you to give them their food in due season; when you give to them, they gather it up; when you open your hand, they are filled with good things. When you hide your face, they are dismayed; when you take away their breath, they die and return to their dust. When you send forth your spirit, they are created; and you renew the face of the ground. May the glory of the LORD endure forever; may the LORD rejoice in his works.

As for those who in the present age are rich, command them not to be haughty, or to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but rather on God who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life.

**L** The word of the Lord

**C** Thanks be to God

## Gospel Acclamation



P The Holy Gospel according to Mark the 16th chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

## Gospel: Mark 16:15

And Jesus said to them, “Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to all creation.”

P The Gospel of the Lord

C **Praise to you O Christ.**

SERMON.....Rev. Aaron Richter

## Hymn of the Day: ELW # 641

### All Are Welcome



1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safe - ly  
 2 Let us build a house where proph-ets speak, and words are strong and  
 3 Let us build a house where love is found in wa - ter, wine and  
 4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the wood and  
 5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and vi - sions



live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell how  
 true, where all God's chil - dren dare to seek to  
 wheat: a ban - quet hall on ho - ly ground where  
 stone to heal and strength - en, serve and teach, and  
 heard and loved and trea - sured, taught and claimed as



hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and  
 dream God's reign a - new. Here the cross shall stand as  
 peace and jus - tice meet. Here the love of God, through  
 live the Word they've known. Here the out - cast and the  
 words with - in the Word. Built of tears and cries and



vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the love of  
 wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's grace; here as one we  
 Je - sus, is re - vealed in time and space; as we share in  
 strang-er bear the im - age of God's face; let us bring an  
 laugh-ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace, let this house pro -



Christ shall end di - vi - sions;  
 claim the faith of Je - sus;  
 Christ the feast that frees us: All are wel - come,  
 end to fear and dan - ger:  
 claim from floor to raf - ter:



all are wel - come, all are wel - come in this place.

## PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C And also with you.**

## THE BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

P: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

P: Let us pray. *(Collect for St. Francis)*

Most high, omnipotent good Lord, grant your people grace to renounce gladly the vanities of this world; that, following the way of blessed Francis, we may for love of you delight in your whole creation with perfectness of joy. O God, you have made us and all living things. You are even more wonderful than what you have made. We thank you for giving us these pets who bring us joy. As you take care of us, so also we ask your help that we might take care of those who trust us to look after them. By doing this, we share in your own love for all creation. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

*Prayer of St. Francis (said in unison)*

**Lord, make me an instrument of your peace, where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; and where there is sadness, joy. O, God, grant that I 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 EACH PET (INDIVIDUALLY)

P    “May you be blessed in the Name of God who created you, and may you and (*owner’s name*) enjoy life together with our God.”

#### THE BLESSING PRAYER

P    Most high, almighty Lord, our Creator, yours are the praise, the glory, the honor and all blessings! To you alone do all things belong. Be praised for giving us the animals, birds, and fish which fill your world. May we think of you and thank you when we play with and care for our pets. Be praised for making us so happy to have our pets and to have them to play with. We ask you, Lord, that we may be good to our pets always, so that they may be happy also. Help us always to take care of them so that they will be healthy. O God, your world is wonderful.

May we all come into your even greater world of the kingdom of heaven where we shall see even more wonderful things, meet our pets waiting for us at the Rainbow Bridge, and where we shall live and love for ever. This we ask to your eternal praise, and to our blessing. Amen.

### Apostle's Creed

**C I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## PRAYERS

Each petition ends:

A God of grace,                      C **hear our prayer**

Challenged by God's Word in Christ, let us pray for the church, the world, and the whole creation.

*A brief silence.*

God of our ancestors, we give thanks for the church in all times. May we listen for the prophets of this age who bear messages that stir the church toward renewal and justice. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Creator of every creature on earth, direct our lives toward the renewal and sustaining of cattle, birds of the air, animals of the field, and those who share our homes. Reveal the ways we can work alongside creation for the health and well-being of all. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Sovereign God, we give thanks that you are mindful and benevolent to even us, mere mortals. Accompany us when hardness of heart gets in the way of justice between people and nations, *especially in Palestine, Ukraine, and Sudan*. Endow leaders with minds for justice and hearts for compassion. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Restoring Lord, grant healing and wholeness to those who are sick and suffering *especially Joe, Lisa, Kylie, Crystal, Laura, Nick, Bob Farr, Ellie, Justin, Billy, Rich, Margarita, Mary Beth,*

*and George Rasch.* Work through medical professionals to diagnose, ease pain, and give life to all who seek their wisdom and experience. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Unifying God, humans were created for relationship with the earth, its creatures, and one another. Forgive us when division threatens companionship, mutual support, and unity among us. May your love inspire us to build supportive communities of faith where all are cherished. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for our partner churches: Abiding Presence and Prince of Peace; We pray for our Bishop Tracie Bartholomew; We also pray for the concerns of this congregation: those who travel, those absent from worship, those celebrating birthdays *especially for Katrina Dillon*; and for those celebrating anniversaries; also for the people of God in this place and for other needs in our community. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

At this time, you may offer up prayers for loved ones, thanksgivings to God, or any other intercessions silently or aloud... **(Pause)** God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God of resurrection, you prepare a place in the kingdom through Christ's death and resurrection. We give thanks for the saints who have taken their place at your heavenly banquet, *especially Enid Rivera.* God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

(PASTOR) Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in the saving grace you freely give, both now and forever.

**Amen.**



## THE OFFERING

### Offering Prayer

A Blessed are you, O God, source of every gift of your creation. By these gifts and with our lives, help us to serve one another and all in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C **Amen.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

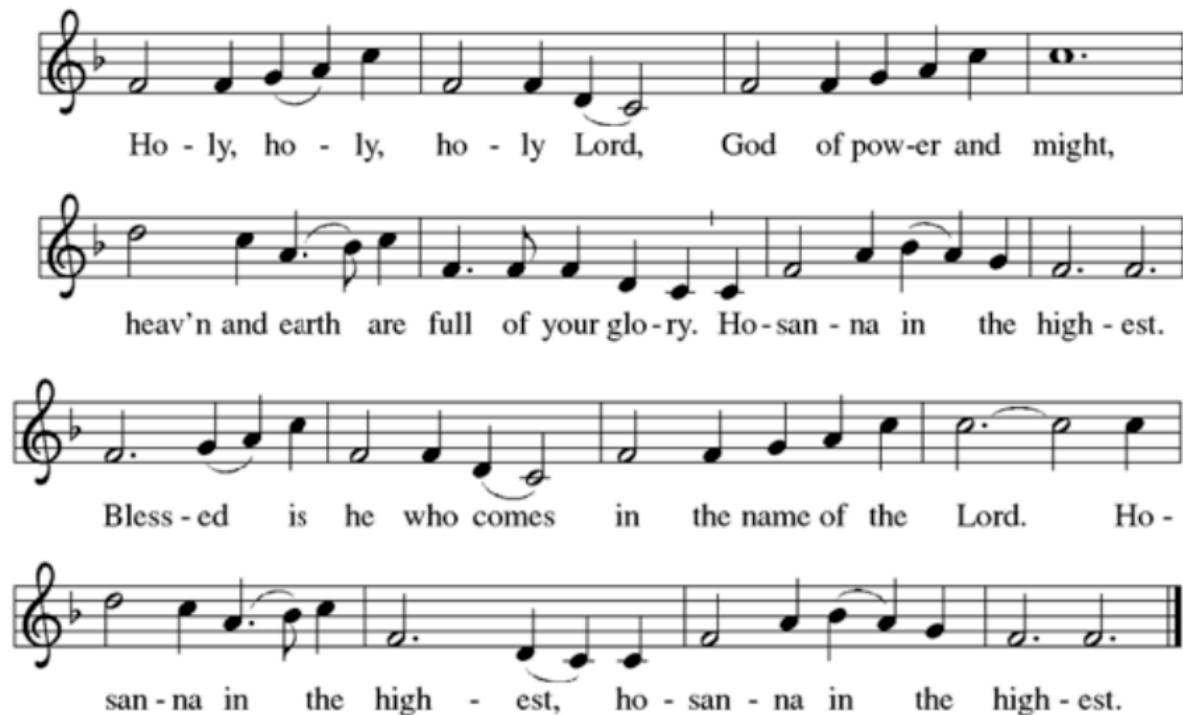
C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

C **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

## *PREFACE*

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,  
through our Savior Jesus Christ;  
who on this day overcame death and the grave,  
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of  
everlasting life.  
And so, with all the choirs of angels,  
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

P Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,  
we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,  
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,  
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;  
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,  
be all honor and glory, now and forever.

**C    Amen**

## Lord's Prayer

P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**C Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; 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 kingdom, the power, and the glory, now and forever. Amen.**

### Invitation

P Jesus welcomes you to this table.  
Come, here is your God.

**C Amen.**

### Distribution

#### Blessing

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace

**C Amen.**

Post Communion Blessing (STAND)

P Holy God,  
you have welcomed us to this meal  
and fed us with dignity at your table.  
Send us now to welcome others  
and to be at peace with one another,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

.

C Amen

**Benediction**

**+Sending+**

P God all mighty,  
God most merciful  
✠ bless you, keep you,  
and give you peace.

C Amen

## Sending Hymn ELW #839

elody

### Now Thank We All Our God



1 Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voic - es,  
2 Oh, may this boun-teous God through all our life be near us,  
3 All praise and thanks to God the Fa - ther now be giv - en,



who won-drous things has done, in whom this world re - joic - es;  
with ev - er joy - ful hearts and bless - ed peace to cheer us,  
the Son, and Spir - it blest, who reign in high - est heav - en,



who, from our moth - ers' arms, has blest us on our way  
and keep us all in grace, and guide us when per - plexed,  
the one e - ter - nal God, whom earth and heav'n a - dore;



with count-less gifts of love, and still is ours to - day.  
and free us from all harm in this world and the next.  
for thus it was, is now, and shall be ev - er - more.

### Dismissal

**A** Go in peace. Follow Jesus.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

### Postlude