BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS | Celebrating Creation on the Feasts of Francis & Claire of Assisi

BENDICIÓN DE LOS ANIMALES | Celebrando la Creación en las Fiestas de Francisco y Clara de Assisi

St. Mary's is very grateful to St. Mark's Episcopal Cathedral, Seattle, WA for the use of this service.
San Mary's está muy agradecida con St. Mark's Episcopal Cathedral, Seattle, WA para el uso de este servicio.

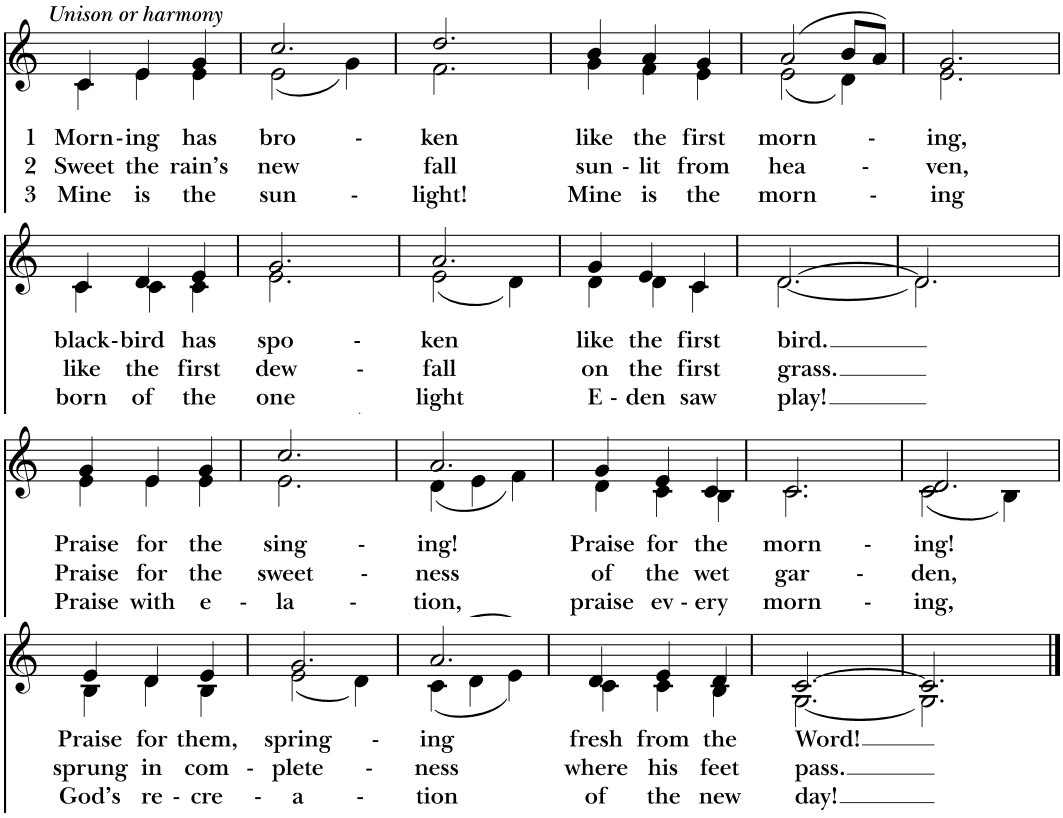
St. Mary Magdalene Church
Anglican | Episcopal | Lutherpalian

Iglesia de Sta. María Magdalena
Anglicana | Episcopal | Luterpaliano

Primo Tapia
Playas de Rosarito

Prelude / Preludio | *Amazing grace / Gracia asombrosa*

Hymn / Himno 8 | *Morning has broken / La mañana se ha roto*



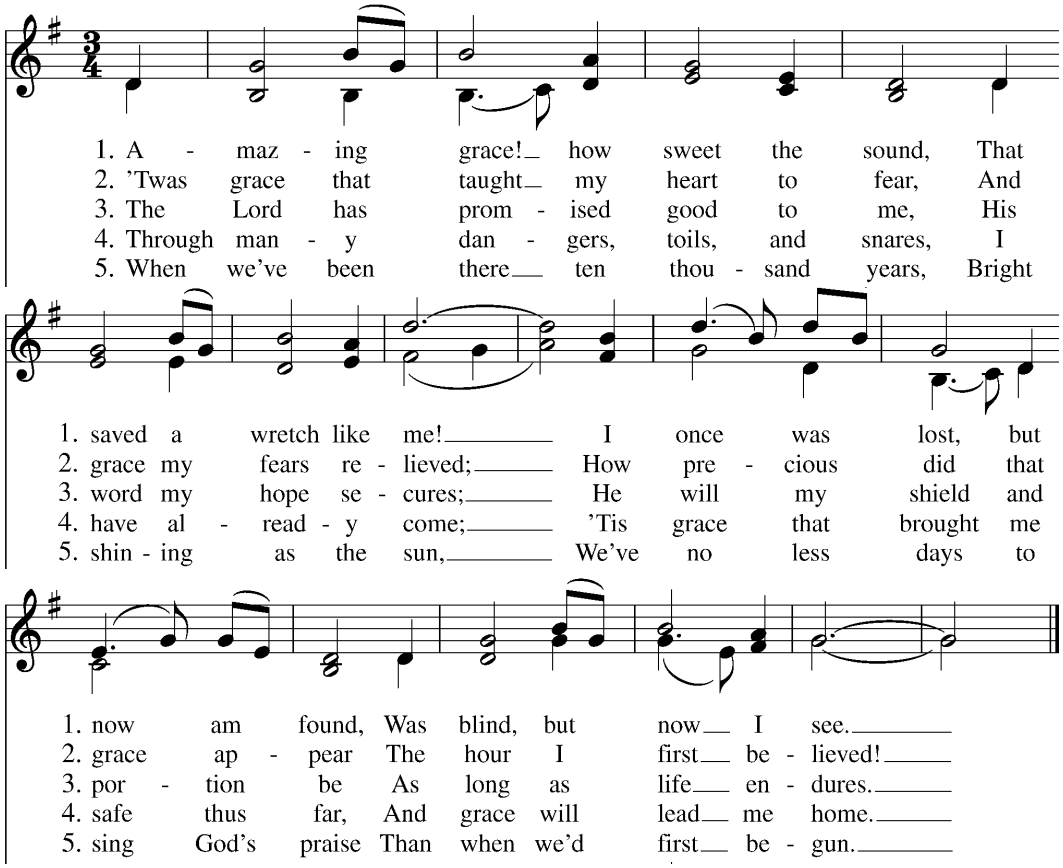


A Prayer Attributed to Saint Francis

Light and peace be with you all.
And also with you.

Gracious God
make us instruments of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let us sow love;
where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union;
where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy.
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.

Song of Praise / Canción de Alabanza LEVAS 181 | *Amazing grace / Gracia asombrosa*



Collect | Colecta

God be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

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; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen*.

Blessed Clare! God has given you the power of working miracles continually, and the favor of answering the prayers of those who invoke your assistance in misfortune, anxiety, and distress; we beseech you, obtain for us from Jesus, through Mary, His Mother, what we beg of you so fervently and hopefully, if it be for the greater honor and glory of God and for the good of our souls. *Amen*.

Reading | The Circle of Days; Adapted from St Francis's Canticle of the Creatures by Reeve Lindbergh

A reading from The Circle of Days.

Lord, we offer thanks and praise For the circle of our days. Praise for radiant brother sun, Who makes the hours around us run. For sister moon, and for the stars, Brilliant, precious, always ours. Praise for brothers wind and air, Serene or cloudy, foul or fair. For sister water, clear and chaste, Useful, humble, good to taste. For fire, our brother, strong and bright, Whose joy illuminates the night. Praise for our sister, mother earth, Who cares for each of us from birth. For all her children, fierce or mild, For sister, brother, parent, child. For creatures wild, and creatures tame, For hunter, hunted, both the same. For brother sleep, and sister death, Who tend the borders of our breath. For desert, orchard, rock, and tree, For forest, meadow, mountain, sea, For fruit and flower, plant and bush, For morning robin, evening thrush. For all your gifts, of every kind, We offer praise with quiet mind. Be with us, Lord, and guide our ways Around the circle of our days.

Psalm / Salmo 121

Let us read the Psalm responsively.

I lift up my eyes to the hills; *****
from where is my help to come?
My help comes from the Lord, *****
the maker of heaven and earth.
He will not let your foot be moved *****
and he who watches over you will not fall asleep.
Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel *****
shall neither slumber nor sleep;
The Lord himself watches over you; *****
the Lord is your shade at your right hand,
So that the sun shall not strike you by day, *****
nor the moon by night.
The Lord shall preserve you from all evil; *****
it is he who shall keep you safe.
The Lord shall watch over your going out and your coming in, *****
from this time forth for evermore.

Galatians / Gálatas 6:14-18

A Reading from Paul's letter to the church in Galatia.

May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which[a] the world has been crucified to me and I to the world. For neither circumcision nor uncircumcision is anything, but a new creation is everything! As for those who will follow this rule—peace be upon them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God. From now on, let no one make trouble for me, for I carry the marks of Jesus branded on my body. May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers and sisters. Amen.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Churches.
Thanks be to God.
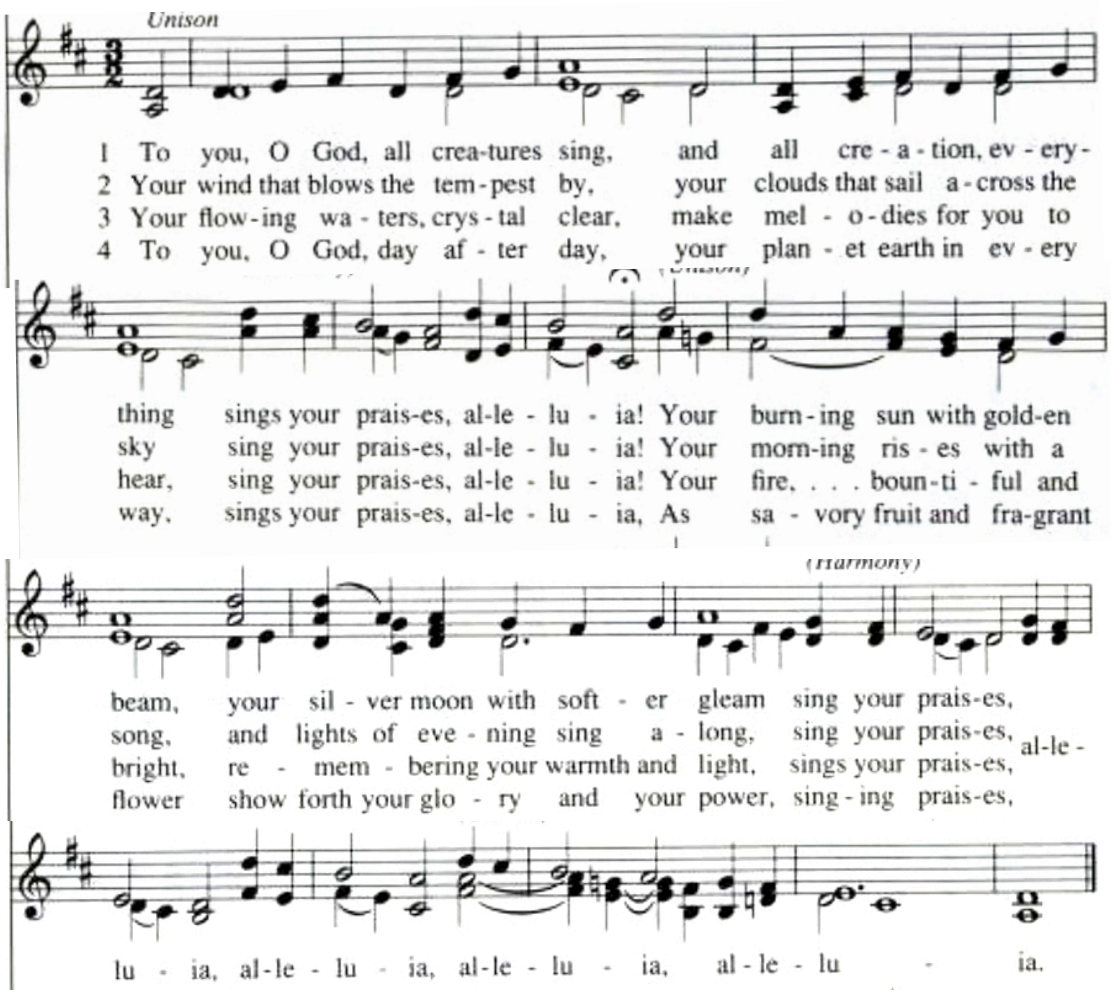
About this Gathering

With our voices, and because your animal companions are most welcome, with barks and meows, we'll thank God for all creation in a spirited prayer service as we celebrate the Feasts of Francis and Clare of Assisi and offer prayers and blessings for our animal companions, both current and past, and for the earth, our island home. In the Scriptures, the act of blessing means "the imparting of power or life." So to bless is more than an expression of goodwill and caring. To bless is to impart God's power in the flesh of life! The blessing of each animal, by name, means that health, healing, and life are being mediated from God for the benefit of the animal in its relationship with its human partners. For those interested, at the conclusion of the service you may bring your critter companion up for a special blessing from one of the pastors.

Acerca de esta reunión

Con nuestras voces, y porque sus compañeros animales son muy bienvenidos, con ladridos y maullidos, agradeceremos a Dios por toda la creación en un animado servicio de oración mientras celebramos las fiestas de Francisco y Clara de Asís y ofrecemos oraciones y bendiciones para nuestros compañeros animales, tanto actuales como pasados, y por la tierra, nuestro hogar de la isla. En las Escrituras, el acto de bendición significa "la impartición de poder o vida". Así que bendecir es más que una expresión de buena voluntad y cuidado. ¡Bendecir es impartir el poder de Dios en la carne de la vida! La bendición de cada animal, por su nombre, significa que la salud, la curación y la vida están siendo mediadas por Dios para el beneficio del animal en su relación con sus socios humanos. Para aquellos interesados, al final del servicio pueden traer a su compañero de criatura para una bendición especial de uno de los pastores.

Hymn / Himno NCH 17 | To you, O God, All Creatures Sing / Shaker Song / Sing vs. 1-4 / Para ti, Oh Dios, Todas las Criaturas Cantan / Canción Shaker / Canta vs. 1-4



Matthew / Mateo 11:25-30

The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Glory to you, Lord Christ

At that time Jesus said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

The Gospel of our Savior.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Homily / Homilía

Let us pray together. *(Invocation of the Holy Spirit by John Henry Newman)*

Come, O Holy Spirit. Come as Holy Fire and burn in us, Come as Holy Wind and cleanse us, Come as Holy Light and lead us, Come as Holy Life and dwell within us. Convict us, convert us, consecrate us, Until we are set free from the service of ourselves, To be your servants to the world. AMEN.

A New Creed / Un Nuevo Credo | United Church of Canada / Iglesia Unida de Canadá

We are not alone, we live in God's world.

We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit.

We trust in God. We are called to be the Church: to celebrate God's presence, to live with respect in Creation, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God. Amen.

A Litany of Thanksgiving / Una Litanía de Acción de Gracias | Adapted from A Liturgy for Earth Day, Saint Mark's Cathedral, 2006 / Adaptado de Una liturgia para el Día de la Tierra, Catedral de San Marcos, 2006

Give thanks to our God who is good; whose love endures for ever. You sun and moon, you stars of the western sky:

Give to God your thanks and praise.

All mountains and valleys, cedar swamps and prairies, estuaries and alpine meadows:

Give to God your thanks and praise.

You rivers and straits, glaciers, snow melt, mists, snows, and rains:

Give to God your thanks and praise.

You maples and firs, dogwoods and heathers, mosses and ferns:

Give to God your thanks and praise.

You salmon and orcas, seals and crabs, loons and kingfishers,

Give to God your thanks and praise

You marmots and voles, salamanders and bears, swallowtails and bees, owls and hawks:

Give to God your thanks and praise.

All peoples who call sun -bathed Baja home:

Give to God your thanks and praise.

All you saints and martyrs of the North, South, East and West:

Give to God your thanks and praise.

Creator God, we pray to you from the midst of your creation. Teach us to love the Earth as you love it and to always be grateful for its riches that sustain us. We give you thanks and praise for all the creatures you have made. You keep them in your care and not one is lost from your sight. May we respect them and cherish them for they are your gifts, to us. Bless these animals here present, and every creature far and wide, that through them we may better know your will for all Creation. We ask this all in your holy Name. *Amen*.

Prayer for Animal Companions who have Died / Oración por los compañeros animales que han morido

Let us pray together. / *Please name those beloved animals who have died, either silently or aloud.*

God, our hearts are filled with the memories of those beloved animal companions who have died. They enriched our lives, and we delighted in their company. We will always remember and miss them. May the deaths of these creatures remind us that death is the natural end to earthly life. May these pets who have died carry on with you forever, until we join them in eternal life. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer / La Oración del Señor | *Please pray boldly in your chosen language and voice. / Por favor, reza con valentía en el idioma y la voz que elijas.*

Gathering all our hopes, needs, and praises, we lift them to God in the prayer our Lord Jesus taught, trusting His words to guide our hearts.

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 the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Peace / Paz
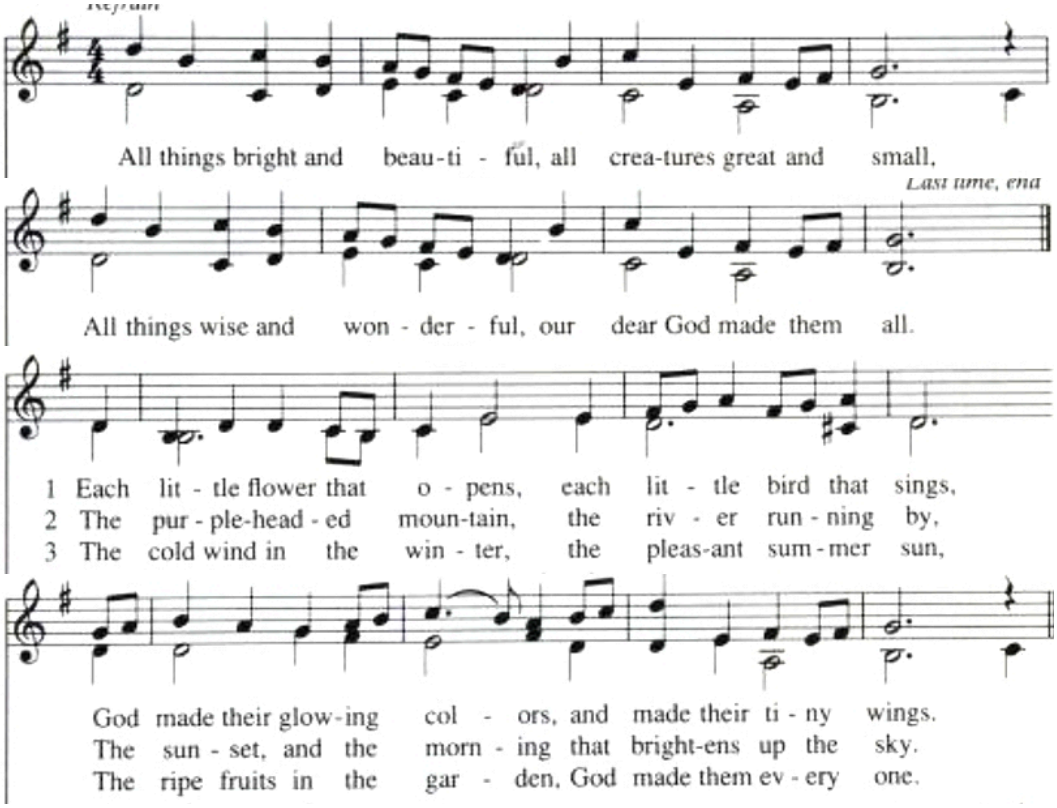
The peace of Christ be always with you.

And also with you.

The Blessing of St. Claire / La Bendición de St. Clara

Go forth in peace, for you have followed the good road. Go forth without fear, for God who created you has sanctified you, has always protected you, and loves you as a mother. And may God's blessing be upon you: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. *Amen*

Hymn / Himno NCH 31 | *All things bright and beautiful / Todas las cosas brillantes y hermosas*



Dismissal / Despido

Let us go forth into the world rejoicing in the power of the Spirit of all Creation.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude / Postludio | *All things bright and beautiful / Todas las cosas brillantes y hermosas*

Pastor's will be at the Baptism Fount to provide individual pet blessings to those interested. All are welcome.

Blessings of Pets

Blessed are you, Lord God, maker of all living creatures. You called forth fish in the sea, birds in the air, and animals on the land. You inspired St. Francis to call all of them his brothers and sisters. We ask you to bless this pet. By the power of your love, enable it 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*.

[Name], may you be blessed in the name of the God who created you. May you and your human companion know joy, love, and peace. May your life be long, your days happy, and your care gentle. *Amen*.

