

Rogation Procession

The Rogation Days are traditionally observed on the Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday before Ascension Day. They may, however, be observed on other days, depending on local conditions and the convenience of the congregation.

Anciently, the observance consisted of an outdoor procession which culminated in a special celebration of the Eucharist. In more recent centuries, the procession has frequently taken place on a Sunday afternoon, apart from the Eucharist.

If the Rogation Procession is held on a Sunday or Principal Feast, it should take place apart from or following the Proper Eucharist of the Day. Under these conditions the procession concludes with a suitable prayer and a blessing.

The congregation gathers at a convenient place and may sing a hymn. During the movement from place to place, to preserve the solemnity of the procession, it is desirable for the people to refrain from conversation and to join in hymns, litanies said or sung, bells, instrumental music, or silence. At the stations the Presider may cense the place.

Presider Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

People Glory to God for ever and ever.

Presider

Bountiful God of heaven and earth: By your gracious providence give and preserve the harvests of the land and sea for the good of all creatures, that those who receive good things from your hand may always give you thanks and praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Deacon Let us go forth in peace.
People In the name of Christ. Amen.

*Hymns, psalms, canticles, and anthems are sung during the procession.
The following are appropriate:*

Canticle 1 or 12 (Benedicite)
Psalm 103 (Refrain: “Bless the Lord, O my soul”)
Psalm 104 (Refrain: “Hallelujah”).

At suitable places the procession may halt for appropriate Bible readings and prayers.

In addition to the readings listed on page 930 of the Prayer Book, any of the following passages are appropriate:

Genesis 8:13-23	Ezekiel 34:25-31
Leviticus 26:1-13(14-20)	James 4:7-11
Deuteronomy 8:1-10(11-20)	Matthew 6:25-34
Hosea 2:18-23	John 12:23-26

Suitable prayers include Prayers 1, 29, 34, 38, 40-44, and Thanksgivings 1, 8, 9 from the section “Prayers and Thanksgivings” in the Prayer Book., as well as the following:

Almighty and everlasting God, Creator of all things and giver of all life, let your blessing be upon this (seed, livestock, plough, forest, _____) and grant that *it* may serve to your glory and the welfare of your people; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The following stational readings and collects may be used or adapted as appropriate.

Station: At a place of work

Reading Ecclesiasticus 38:27–32a

Presider Let us pray.

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ in his earthly life shared our toil and hallowed our labor: Be present with your people where they work. Make those who carry on the industries and commerce of this land responsive to your will, and bring all workers satisfaction in what they do and a just return for their labor; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. *Amen.*

A hymn, psalm, canticle, or silence for the procession follows.

Station: At a garden or park

Reading Genesis 1:11–12

Presider Let us pray.

Gracious God, we give you thanks for the fruitfulness of the earth that nourishes our life and the life of all creatures. Bless those who work in fields and gardens. Send them seasonable and temperate weather, and grant that the fruits of the earth may be shared justly with all having need of them; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

A hymn, psalm, canticle, or silence for the procession follows.

Station: At agricultural land or a farmer's market

Reading Genesis 8:21b–9:1 *or* Leviticus 19:9–10

Presider Let us pray.

Holy God, we thank you for the land and its soil, and all those who bring forth food and necessities of life from it. Send an abundant harvest to the farmers and ranchers of the world, and make all your people just,

loving, and generous in their life together and mindful of the needs of all who are poor, after the example of Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

A hymn, psalm, canticle, or silence for the procession follows.

Station: For scientists and explorers

Reading Genesis 1:1–5 or Ecclesiasticus 17:1–11

Presider Let us pray.

God of Mystery, you made the universe with its marvelous order and chaos, its atoms, worlds, and galaxies, and the infinite complexity of living creatures. We give you thanks for all who study the mysteries of creation and ask that their work may increase our curiosity, wonder, and joy, that we may come to know you more truly and serve you more humbly; in the name of Jesus Christ, your Wisdom and your Word. *Amen.*

A hymn, psalm, canticle, or silence for the procession follows.

Station: At a place where food is served

Reading Mark 6:35–44

Presider Let us pray.

Generous God, your hand is open wide to satisfy the needs of every creature: We give you thanks for all who prepare and serve the food we eat. Bless them in their labor and bless all who benefit from their service; through Jesus Christ, the Bread of Life. *Amen.*

A hymn, psalm, canticle, or silence for the procession follows.

Station: At a place of government

Reading 1 Timothy 2:1–4

Presider Let us pray.

Almighty God, we pray for all who serve and govern the people of this and every land. Send upon them the spirit of wisdom, charity, and justice, that they may foster the well-being of all creation; for the sake of Jesus Christ, the way, the truth, and the life. *Amen.*

A hymn, psalm, canticle, or silence for the procession follows.

Station: For a place of healing

Reading Matthew 8:14–16

Presider Let us pray.

Merciful God, whose Son Jesus healed many who were sick: We commend to your care all who suffer, and those who care for them. By your grace lend compassion and skill to health and veterinary workers here and everywhere, and bring healing and comfort to those in need, that all may know your power and goodness and rise up to serve you, in the strength of your Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

A hymn, psalm, canticle, or silence for the procession follows.

Station: For military workers

Reading Isaiah 2:2–4

Presider Let us pray.

God our strength and shield: Protect and defend all who offer their lives in military service for the sake of others. Beat our swords into plowshares and our spears into pruning hooks, that all may dwell in harmony with one another and with all creation; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. *Amen.*

A hymn, psalm, canticle, or silence for the procession follows.

Station: For the gift and care of water

Reading Isaiah 41:17–20

Presider Let us pray.

God, whose Spirit moved over the deep: We thank you for the gift of water—the waters on the earth, and under the earth, the water above us, and within us. Make us mindful of the care of all the planet’s water, that it may richly sustain life for us and for those who come after us; through Jesus Christ, source of living water. *Amen.*

A hymn, psalm, canticle, or silence for the procession follows.

Station: At a memorial garden or cemetery

Reading Matthew 27:57–61

Presider Let us pray.

God of the living and of the dead, renew the face of the ground by your life-giving Spirit; grant that all who rest here may be renewed in the joy of your eternal presence, through Jesus Christ, who is resurrection and life. *Amen.*

A hymn, psalm, canticle, or silence for the procession follows.

Station: For the air and all who work to keep it clean

Reading Ezekiel 37:9–10

Presider Let us pray.

Holy Spirit, breath of life: We give you thanks for the air and for all who work to keep it clean. Teach us to cherish the air we breathe; in your power we pray. *Amen.*

A hymn, psalm, canticle, or silence for the procession follows.

Station: For public safety workers

Reading Isaiah 21:6–8

Presider Let us pray.

God our rock and our refuge: Guard and bless all who work for the well-being and safety of our community. Grant courage, vigilance, and skill to those who rise up by night or by day at our urgent call, that they may always find your arm mighty to save; through Jesus Christ, who died that all may live. *Amen.*

A hymn, psalm, canticle, or silence for the procession follows.

Station: At a place where trash, compost, or recycling is handled

Reading Luke 13:6–9

Presider Let us pray.

Renewing God: Bless all whose labor here supports the well-being of our community. Strengthen and encourage them in their service, and make us mindful of their contribution to the stewardship of the earth, that all may be ministers of your new creation; in the name of Jesus our Redeemer. *Amen.*

A hymn, psalm, canticle, or silence for the procession follows.

Station: At the door of the church building

Reading Acts 2:41–47 or Isaiah 56:6b–7

Presider Let us pray.

Holy God, you give your people a desire to know and to worship you: bless all who gather here in your name, that they may find a welcome and lift their hearts and voices in praise of you, who makes us a new creation in Jesus Christ, through whom we pray. *Amen.*

A hymn, psalm, canticle, or silence for the procession follows.

Customarily, the Great Litany is begun as the procession enters the church. The following petitions may be inserted following the third petition on page 151 of the Prayer Book:

That it may please thee to grant favorable weather, temperate rain, and fruitful seasons, that there may be food and drink for all thy creatures,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to bless the lands and waters, and all who work upon them to bring forth food and all things needful for thy people,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to look with favor upon all who care for the earth, the water, and the air, that the riches of thy creation may abound from age to age,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

At the conclusion of the Litany, after the Kyries, the Eucharist begins with the Salutation and one of the Proper Collects for Rogation Days.

If the procession cannot take place out of doors, the service may begin with the Great Litany, which may be sung in procession in the church.

If the Liturgy does not begin with the Great Litany, it is suggested that Form V be used for the Prayers of the People, and that the following petitions be added after the eighth petition on page 390:

For favorable weather, temperate rains, and fruitful seasons, that there may be food and drink for all your creatures, we pray to you, O Lord.

For your blessing upon the lands and waters, and all who work upon them to bring forth food and all things needful for your people, we pray to you, O Lord.

For all who care for the earth, the water, and the air, that the riches of your creation may abound from age to age, we pray to you, O Lord.

If the Eucharist is not to follow, the service may end with one of the following collects, a passing of the Peace, and a blessing and dismissal.

If a celebration of the Eucharist is to follow on a day other than Sunday, one of these collects may be used as a Collect of the Day, or as a Collect at the Prayers.

Collect of the Day

O God, from whom all good proceeds:
You established your covenant with all creation. Guide us and all your people, that we may walk upon the earth in righteousness and peace, and honor you in our kinship with all your creatures; through our Risen Lord, Jesus Christ, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, to the ages of ages. *Amen.*

or this

O heavenly Father, you have filled the world with beauty:
Open our eyes to recognize your gracious hand in all your works, that, rejoicing in your whole creation, we may learn to serve you with gladness; for the sake of the One through whom all things were made, Jesus Christ our Redeemer. *Amen.*

or this

Prayers for Rogation Days: A Rite for the Blessing of a Garden

Presider Blessed be the God of all creation:
People For in your goodness you make all things new.

Presider God be with you. *or* The Lord be with you.
People And also with you.
Presider Let us pray.

Gracious God, you open wide your hand and give of your goodness to all things living: Renew the face of the earth and increase the sustainable harvests of the world, that the land may bring forth enough for all, and your people may share justly and give honor to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Presider or other appointed leaders from the congregation may then lead the People in prayer, using one or more of the following collects, as appropriate.

Lover of all you have made: Protect and sustain the creatures of our local habitat. Increase their well- being, watch over them with love, and give us wisdom to honor our kinship with them; through Jesus Christ, the first- born of all creation. *Amen.*

Creator, we give you thanks for all you are
and all you bring to us for our visit within your creation.
In Jesus, you place the gospel in the center of this Sacred Circle
through which all of creation is related.
You show us the way to live a generous and compassionate life. Give us
your strength to live together with respect and commitment as we grow
in your Spirit, for you are God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

*source: A Gathering Prayer adapted from Native American/Alaska Native
and Native Hawaiian Liturgies, prepared for the 76th General Convention of
the Episcopal Church, Anaheim, California, July 2009*

or this

Collect 19: For Rogation Days, I, II, or III

At the Eucharist

The Book of Common Prayer, pages 258–259, 207–208

*The Readings for the Eucharist may be those of the day if on a Sunday, or a
selection from the Propers for Rogation Days in The Book of Common
Prayer, page 930.*

A Proper Preface for Rogation Days

Because in the mystery of Christ's incarnation you have gathered into
one things earthly and heavenly, calling your people to be ministers of
reconciliation and to proclaim the Good News to all creation.

The following postcommunion prayer may be used.

Faithful God

in the wonder of your wisdom and love
you fed your people in the wilderness with the bread of angels, and
you sent Jesus to be the bread of life.

We thank you for feeding us with this bread.

May it strengthen us

that by the power of the Holy Spirit

we may embody your desire

and be renewed for your service

through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

God, whose Spirit moved over the deep: We thank you for the gift of water. Bless the waters on the ground and under the ground, and the waters that fall from the sky, that this garden may flourish and bear good fruit; through Jesus Christ our Savior. *Amen.*

God, who alone provides seed for the sower and bread for the eater, you have taught us to ask of you our daily bread: Bless the sowing of the seed this year, grant fertility to the soil, and strengthen the hands of the gardeners who till it, that through their labor your people may be nourished; through Jesus Christ, the bread of life. *Amen.*

Holy God, you have blessed our plowing and preparing of the ground: Protect what we plant in your name, and grant that working late and early, we and others may enjoy a fruitful harvest; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Holy God, you have blessed our plowing and preparing of the ground: Protect what we plant and bring it to maturity, that we and others may enjoy a fruitful harvest; through Jesus Christ our Sustainer. *Amen.*

The Presider and People then say

Holy One:

Bless and protect this garden and all who keep it.
Strengthen and uphold them in their labor,
that these plants may bear good fruit
and our care for the earth may witness to your love and justice;
in the name of the Holy and Undivided Trinity. *Amen.*

The Deacon or Presider may dismiss the People with these words

Deacon Let us bless the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

St. Francis Day / Blessing of Animals

An entrance hymn may be sung.

Presider Blessed be the God of all creation.
People And blessed be God's holy Name forever.

or this

Presider Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
People Who brings all things into being and calls them good.

Presider Bless your Creator, all animals of the land.

People Praise and exalt our Creator forever.

Presider Bless your Creator, all birds of the air.

People Praise and exalt our Creator forever.

Presider Bless your Creator, all creatures of the sea.

People Praise and exalt our Creator forever.

Presider Bless your Creator, all children of God.

People With all of creation, we praise your name.

Presider God be with you. *or* The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

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

The Readings

First Reading Luke 12.22-32

Jesus said to his disciples, ‘Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear. For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? If then you are not able to do so small a thing as that, why do you worry about the rest? Consider the lilies, 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. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you— you of little faith! And do not keep striving for what you are to eat and what you are to drink, and do not keep worrying. For it is the nations of the world that strive after all these things, and your Father knows that you need them. Instead, strive for his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well. Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

Psalm 104:10-25

You, LORD God, send the springs into the valleys; *
they flow between the mountains.
All the beasts of the field drink their fill from them, *
and the wild asses quench their thirst.
Beside them the birds of the air make their nests *
and sing among the branches.
You water the mountains from your dwelling on high; *
the earth is fully satisfied by the fruit of your works.
You make grass grow for flocks and herds *
and plants to serve humankind;
That they may bring forth food from the earth, *
and wine to gladden our hearts,
Oil to make a cheerful countenance, *
and bread to strengthen the heart.

The trees of the LORD are full of sap, *
the cedars of Lebanon which God planted,
In which the birds build their nests, *
and in whose tops the stork makes a dwelling.
The high hills are a refuge for the mountain goats, *
and the stony cliffs for the rock badgers.
You appointed the moon to mark the seasons, *
and the sun knows the time of its setting.
You make darkness that it may be night, *
in which all the beasts of the forest prowl.
The lions roar after their prey *
and seek their food from God.
The sun rises, and they slip away *
and lay themselves down in their dens.
People go forth to their work *
and to their labor until the evening.
O LORD, how manifold are your works! *
in wisdom you have made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.

A second Reading may be added here.

Litany for All Creation

Presider Call out the names of those animals for whom we care.
Call out the names of those animals who are no longer with us.

Silence

The Prayers may be led by a Deacon or other Leader.

<i>Deacon</i>	Holy God, Creator of heaven and earth,
<i>People</i>	Have mercy upon us.
<i>Deacon</i>	Holy and Mighty, Redeemer of the world,
<i>People</i>	Have mercy upon us.
<i>Deacon</i>	Holy Immortal One, Sanctifier of the faithful,
<i>People</i>	Have mercy upon us.

Deacon Grant that all your creatures may serve you with thanksgiving;

People Pour out your blessing on earth, O God.

or We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.

Deacon Grant favorable weather, temperate rain, and fruitful seasons,
providing food and drink for all your creatures;

People Pour out your blessing on earth, O God.

or We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.

Deacon Open our eyes to the wonder of creation, that we
may see you in all your works;

People Pour out your blessing on earth, O God.

or We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.

Deacon Stir in us the desire to care for your creation;

People Pour out your blessing on earth, O God.

or We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.

Deacon Make us wise and faithful stewards of creation,
caring for the earth, the waters, the air, and all that live therein;

People Pour out your blessing on earth, O God.

or We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.

Deacon Forgive us who waste and pollute your creation and
strengthen us to restore what we have disregarded;

People Pour out your blessing on earth, O God.

or We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.

Deacon Look with compassion on those that are abused and mistreated,
show us their dignity in your creation;

People Pour out your blessing on earth, O God.

or We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.

Deacon Remember those creatures that have died yet remain dear to us
that, that they may rejoice in your new creation;

People Pour out your blessing on earth, O God.

or We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.

Presider

Holy Immortal One: No sparrow falls without your knowing it; nothing dies but is remembered by you; nothing comes into being that you do not see. Give us courage and resolve to build up the common good, holding fast to the hope of a new creation in which all shall dwell eternally, through Jesus Christ, our Risen Savior. *Amen.*

Confession of Sin

The Confession may be omitted on occasion.

The Deacon or Presider says

Let us confess to God our sins against creation.

Silence may be kept.

Minister and People

God of compassion, we confess that we have squandered your creation, and mistreated those you give into our care. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. Fill us with your Spirit, that we may care for all that you have made, according to your will and in the fullness of your love; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. *Amen.*

The Priest alone says

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. *Amen.*

If no Priest is present, the Presider says the following

Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. *Amen.*

The Blessing of the Animals

Presider

God's animals inhabit the skies, the land, and the sea; we share the earth with them, and like them rely on God's blessing to sustain and preserve us. We gather today in communion and friendship with Francis of Assisi who preached to animals and moved throughout the known world sharing God's unconditional love for all beings. Remembering Francis' love for all God's creatures, bring forward the animals entrusted to your care that we may bless them.

Those who bring animals for blessing hold or place their hands on their animals in blessing. They are blessed by name by the Presider, using these or other words. If animals are not present, the Presider joins in prayer with those who come remembering them.

Presider

N., May God who created and preserves you bless, defend, heal, and keep you, this day and always. *Amen.*

When all have been blessed the Presider prays:

Presider Let us pray.

God of all creation: we give you thanks and praise. Open our eyes to see your hand at work in all creation. May your bountiful blessing be upon us all, God our Redeemer, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Or the animals may be blessed collectively, using this prayer

Presider

Almighty and everlasting God, Creator of all things and Giver of all life: Let your blessing be upon these and all animals. May our love and care for them reflect your compassion and safekeeping of all creation. Grant these animals health, peace, and safety. Strengthen us to love and care for them following the good example of Francis of Assisi, through Jesus Christ our Savior. *Amen.*

The Lord's Prayer

Presider God be with you. *or* The Lord be with you.
People And also with you.
Presider Let us pray.

Presider and People

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,
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,
for ever and ever. Amen.

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
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 for ever. Amen.

Or this

Holy One, our only Home,
hallowed be your name.
May your day dawn,
your will be done,
here as in heaven.
Feed us today,
and forgive us as we forgive each other.
Do not forsake us at the test,
but deliver us from evil.
For the glory, the power,
and the mercy are yours,
now and forever. Amen.

source: Martha Blacklock, Mother Thunder Mission

A hymn may be sung.

The Deacon, or the Presider, dismisses the People with these words

Deacon Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Additional Readings and Resources for St. Francis Day

Additional Readings

Genesis 1:20–22a, 24–26a, 28, 31a

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. ...

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.” ...God blessed them. ...

God saw everything that God had made, and indeed, it was very good.

Wisdom 11:24–12:1

For you love all things that exist,
and detest none of the things that you have made,
for you would not have made anything if you had hated it.
How would anything have endured if you had not willed it?
Or how would anything not called forth by you have been preserved?
You spare all things, for they are yours, O Lord,
you who love the living.
For your immortal spirit is in all things.

Job 12:7–10a

But ask the animals, and they will teach you;
the birds of the air, and they will tell you;
ask the plants of the earth, and they will teach you;
and the fish of the sea will declare to you.
Who among all these does not know
that the hand of the LORD has done this? In
his hand is the life of every living thing.

Matthew 6:25–26

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? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them.

Matthew 11:25–30

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.”

Psalms 104:24–25, 27–28, 30–31

O LORD, how manifold are your works! In
wisdom you have made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.
Yonder is the sea, great and wide, creeping
things innumerable are there, living things
both small and great.
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 send forth your spirit, they are created;
you renew the face of the ground.
May the glory of the LORD endure forever.

Canticle 12 A Song of Creation

Benedicite, omnia opera Domini

II. The Earth and Its

Creatures Let the earth glorify the Lord, *
sing praise and give honor for ever.
Glorify the Lord, O mountains and hills, and all that grows upon the earth,*
sing praise and give honor for ever.
Glorify the Lord, O springs of water, seas, and streams, *
O whales and all that move in the waters.
All birds of the air, glorify the Lord, *
sing praise and give honor for ever.
Glorify the Lord, O beasts of the wild, *
and all you flocks and herds.
O men and women everywhere, glorify the Lord, *
sing praise and give honor for ever.

Additional Materials

A Prayer Attributed to St. Francis

Lord, 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.

A Prayer by Walter Rauschenbusch (“For this World” [1910], adapted)

Enlarge within us the sense of fellowship
with all living things,
our brothers and sisters the animals to whom you gave this earth
as their home in common with us.

We remember with shame that in the past
we have exercised the high dominion of humans
with ruthless cruelty,
so that the voice of the Earth,
which should have gone up to you in song,
has been a groan of travail.

May we realize that they live, not for us alone, but
for themselves and for you,
and that they love the sweetness of life even as we,
and serve you in their place better than we in ours.
We pray through our Savior Jesus Christ,
who lifts up and redeems us all. *Amen.*

A Reading attributed to Meister Eckhart

Apprehend God in all things,
for God is in all things.
Every single creature is full of God,
and is a book about God.
Every creature is a word of God.
If I spent enough time with the tiniest creature— even
a caterpillar—
I would never have to prepare a sermon,
so full of God
is every creature.

A Reading adapted from St. Isaac the Syrian

This is a charitable heart: It is a heart burning with love for the whole creation, for humans, for the birds, for the beasts, for the demons—for all creatures. One who has such a heart cannot see or call to mind a creature without having eyes being filled with tears by reason of the immense compassion which seizes the heart; a heart which is softened and can no longer bear to see or learn from others of any suffering, even the smallest pain, being inflicted on a creature. That is why such a person never

ceases to pray also for the animals, that they may be preserved and purified. This person will even pray for the reptiles, moved by the infinite pity which reigns in the hearts of those who are becoming united with God.

A Reading from *The Brothers Karamazov* by Fyodor Dostoevsky

Love all God's creation, the whole and every grain of sand in it. Love every leaf, every ray of God's light. Love the animals, love the plants, love everything. If you love everything, you will perceive the divine mystery in things. Once you perceive it, you will begin to comprehend it better every day. And you will come at last to love the whole world with an all-embracing love. Love the animals: God has given them the rudiments of thought and joy untroubled. Do not trouble it, don't harass them, don't deprive them of their happiness, don't work against God's intent.