

Trumpeter Swan by John James Audubon

DOVE OF PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sunday, October 4, 2020

Francis of Assisi, Renewer of the Church

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WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

Pastor Stephen Springer

PROLOGUE

Kevin Seal, pipe organ

Le cygne (the Swan), from *Carnival of the Animals*
Camille Saint-Saëns (arr. Alexandre Guilmant)

Today we celebrate the feast of Saint Francis of Assisi. In addition to being one of the most important Christian theologians of the past 1000 years and founding the Franciscan order, St. Francis is often associated with patronage of animals and the natural world. Many churches hold ceremonies blessing animals on or near his feast day, and it is quite a sight to see various dogs, cats, birds, and farm animals in the pews of a church at these celebrations! In honor of Francis' love for animals, our prologue this morning is a movement from Saint-Saëns Carnival of the Animals, a humorous fourteen movement musical suite celebrating the various animals. In this arrangement of the thirteenth movement, the flowing 16 notes represent the hidden movement of the swan's feet underwater, while the beautiful melody (originally composed for cello) represents the elegant movement of the animal above the water.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father,
and of the † Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Hear the word of God spoken to the prophet Jeremiah: “I brought you into a plentiful land to eat its fruits and its good things. But when you entered you defiled my land, and made my heritage an abomination.” *[Jeremiah 2:7]*

Let us call to mind our selfish misuse of God’s creation, and seek God’s mercy.
Silence for reflection.

Most merciful God,
**enlarge within us the sense of fellowship with all living things,
our sisters and brothers, the creatures to whom you gave the earth
as their home in common with us.**

**We confess with shame that we have exercised
the dominion of humankind with ruthless cruelty
so that the voice of the earth, which should rise to you in song,
has become a groan of travail.**

**May we realize that your creatures live not for us alone
but for themselves and for you,
and that they love the sweetness of life.**

Amen.

[adapted from a prayer attributed to Basil of Caesarea]

God does not desire that any should perish, but that we should turn to him and live.

In Christ Jesus, God’s mercy is given to you † by his grace.

Be reconciled to one another, and live in harmony with all of God’s creation.

Amen.



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al-might-y God and Fa-ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us;



you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-ceive our prayer.



For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,



you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,



in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A-men.

GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Sovereign of the universe, your first covenant of mercy was with every living creature. When your beloved Son came among us, the waters of the river welcomed him, the heavens opened to greet his arrival, the animals of the wilderness drew near as his companions. With all the world's people, may we who are washed into new life through baptism seek the way of your new creation, the way of justice and care, mercy and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

[ELW #319]

Amen.

FIRST READING: Genesis 6:17-22

A reading from Genesis.

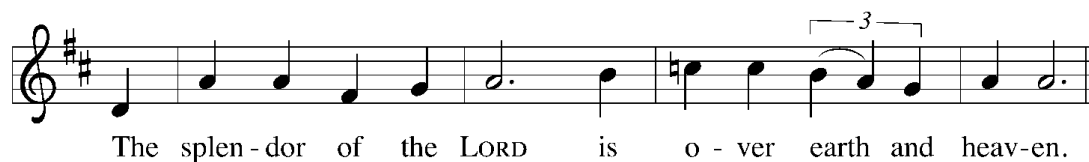
[God said to Noah,] ¹⁷For my part, I am going to bring a flood of waters on the earth, to destroy from under heaven all flesh in which is the breath of life; everything that is on the earth shall die. ¹⁸But I will establish my covenant with you; and you shall come into the ark, you, your sons, your wife, and your sons' wives with you. ¹⁹And of every living thing, of all flesh, you shall bring two of every kind into the ark, to keep them alive with you; they shall be male and female. ²⁰Of the birds according to their kinds, and of the animals according to their kinds, of every creeping thing of the ground according to its kind, two of every kind shall come in to you, to keep them alive. ²¹Also take with you every kind of food that is eaten, and store it up; and it shall serve as food for you and for them.' ²²Noah did this; he did all that God commanded him.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALMODY (ELW): Psalm 148

The refrain is first introduced by the leader, then repeated by the assembly.



Psalm 148:13

Psalm refrain reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year A* © 2007 Augsburg Fortress.
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- ¹Hallelujah! Praise the Lord | from the heavens;
praise God | in the heights.
- ²**Praise the Lord, | all you angels;
sing praise, all you | hosts of heaven.**
- ³Praise the Lord, | sun and moon;
sing praise, all you | shining stars.
- ⁴**Praise the Lord, heav- | en of heavens,
and you waters a- | bove the heavens.**
- ⁵Let them praise the name | of the Lord,
who commanded, and they | were created,
- ⁶**who made them stand fast forev- | er and ever,
giving them a law that shall not | pass away. REFRAIN**
- ⁷Praise the Lord | from the earth,
you sea monsters | and all deeps;
- ⁸**fire and hail, | snow and fog,
tempestuous wind, do- | ing God's will;**
- ⁹mountains | and all hills,
fruit trees | and all cedars;
- ¹⁰**wild beasts | and all cattle,
creeping things and | flying birds;**
- ¹¹sovereigns of the earth | and all peoples,
princes and all rulers | of the world;
- ¹²**young | men and maidens,
old and | young together. REFRAIN**
- ¹³Let them praise the name | of the Lord,
whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over | earth and heaven.
- ¹⁴**The Lord has raised up strength for the people and praise for all | faithful
servants,
the children of Israel, a people who are near the Lord. | Hallelujah! REFRAIN**

SECOND READING: Galatians 6:14-18

A reading from Galatians.

¹⁴May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. ¹⁵For neither circumcision nor uncircumcision is anything; but a new creation is everything! ¹⁶As for those who will follow this rule—peace be upon them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God.

¹⁷From now on, let no one make trouble for me; for I carry the marks of Jesus branded on my body.

¹⁸May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers and sisters. Amen.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



Cantor: *Blessed are the | poor in spirit,*
for theirs is the king- | dom of heaven. [Matthew 5:3]*

GOSPEL: Matthew 19:16-22

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.
Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁶Then someone came to him and said, ‘Teacher, what good deed must I do to have eternal life?’ ¹⁷And he said to him, ‘Why do you ask me about what is good? There is only one who is good. If you wish to enter into life, keep the commandments.’ ¹⁸He said to him, ‘Which ones?’ And Jesus said, ‘You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; ¹⁹Honour your father and mother; also, You shall love your neighbour as yourself.’ ²⁰The young man said to him, ‘I have kept all these; what do I still lack?’ ²¹Jesus said to him, ‘If you wish to be perfect, go, sell your possessions, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.’ ²²When the young man heard this word, he went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Steve Springer



- 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,
 thron: 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!

- 5 And you, most gentle sister death,
 waiting to hush our final breath:
 Alleluia! Alleluia!
 Since Christ our light has pierced your gloom,
 fair is the night that leads us home.
 Alleluia.

- 6 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.

Text: Francis of Assisi, 1182–1226; tr. composite
 Music: LASST UNS ERFREUEN, *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1623
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PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

After each petition: "Lord in your mercy," the assembly responds "Hear our prayer."

Let the prayers for this day reflect the life and learning of Francis of Assisi, renewer of the church. With the whole people of Gd , we pray.

O Gd,

this day, we acknowledge creation, life as a gift, a thing of wonder and beauty, filled with refreshing winds and cleansing water, filled with times and seasons, work and rest, opportunity for learning and responsibility, companionship with all things living. We pray that we see your large and generous spirit and welcome our shared place among all things living with the sense of a sacred trust.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Gd,

this world, this planet and its countless forms of life is your world and our earthly home, the soil of which we are a part. It could be, as it once was a garden, to find and walk with you. But avarice, self- absorption, a greed for prominence and domination, have proven to be a sly, seductive and overwhelming temptation that has put humanity into a wilderness of conflict, busy taking-in and holding onto possessions. Forgive us, show us the other way. Restrain the evil and restore the good renew us O Gd. Let us see and follow the example of people and saints who have come to know and follow a better way, seeing a sister and a brother in all that is.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Gd,

if it be that in this world we bear the marks of Xp, wounds that come from self-giving love, we pray may your grace be with our spirit that we do so with a patient stance and humble heart, full of hope in the mercy of a new creation.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Gd,

in the midst of times of full sounding worship and praise, the presence of people with crucial needs continues to cry for attention. We name those we know and those we hear about, we trust you to see it all. May we learn to work together for the relief of people who are hurting and with a cooperative wisdom and humanity find ways to stem the unrestrained spread of disease and disregard for life. Teach us O lord to be instruments of your goodness, of your peace.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Finally, O Gd,

may we, in communion with life, sharing the flow of seasons and the passing of generations, the gift of life in all things, raise a thanksgiving and effectively and truly join with all creation to show and sound fitting praise, for the rightness of all that you have made.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

**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.**

MEDITATION

Members of the Dove of Peace Chancel Choir

Prayer of St. Francis

René Clausen (b.1953)

American composer René Clausen retired this spring after leading the Concordia Choir in Minnesota as only its second conductor for 34 years. Clausen is a prolific composer of choral works, and his setting of the words attributed to St. Francis of Assisi is one of his most popular.

CHARGE AND BLESSING

Go forth into the world in peace. Be of good courage.
Hold fast that which is good. Render to no one evil for evil.
Strengthen the fainthearted. Support the weak.
Help the afflicted. Show love to everyone.
Love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

The blessing of almighty God,
the Father, the † Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

1 This is my Fa-ther's world, and to my lis-t'ning ears all
 2 This is my Fa-ther's world; the birds their car-ols raise; the
 3 This is my Fa-ther's world; oh, let me not for-get that,

na-ture sings, and round me rings the mu-sic of the spheres.
 morn-ing light, the lil-y white, de-clare their mak-er's praise.
 though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the rul-er yet.

This is my Fa-ther's world; I rest me in the thought of
 This is my Fa-ther's world; he shines in all that's fair. In the
 This is my Fa-ther's world; why should my heart be sad? The

rocks and trees, of skies and seas; his hand the won-ders wrought.
 rus-tling grass I hear him pass; he speaks to me ev-ry-where.
 Lord is king, let heav-en ring; God reigns, let earth be glad!

Text: Maltbie D. Babcock, 1858–1901
 Music: TERRA PATRIS, Franklin L. Sheppard, 1852–1930, adapt.

Improvisation on Lasst uns erfreuen

Our hymn of the Day today is based on a very popular German tune, most often sung to the text "All creatures of our God and King." While the tune was originally written by Friedrich Spee, a 17th-century Jesuit priest, it gained its current renown after being published in an early 20th-century English hymnal. Following in the centuries long tradition of improvised organ voluntaries, our organist will extemporaneously create a musical composition for our epilogue this morning.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

Thanks be to God.

Assisting Minister: John Hoelter
Lectors: Dianne Huston
Cantor: Eric Holtan