



Blessing of the Animals, October 4, 2026
Trinity Episcopal Church
Houghton, Michigan

Welcome to worship with Trinity Episcopal! We are glad you are with us!

A few things regarding our service today:

- ✝ Everything you need for our service today is included in this bulletin.
- ✝ Anything written in bold, and in a different font, are things we say together as a group.
- ✝ You may notice people around you sitting, kneeling, or standing at different times throughout the service. The Episcopal Church is often known for its sitting and standing Olympics, but please know that you are welcome to sit, stand, or kneel as you feel comfortable.
- ✝ After the dismissal at the end of the service, the congregation often sits to listen to the postlude. You are welcome to join in closing the service in this way, as you are able.
- ✝ If you have any pastoral needs or are looking for conversation or guidance to do with any spiritual needs, please do not hesitate to reach out to Reverend Sarah.

Rev. Sarah's time: Please reach out for pastoral needs or time with me by email at sarahdienerschmitt@gmail.com. My available office times are currently 10-4 Tuesdays-Thursdays. I typically work from home on sermon preparation on Fridays but am available as needed by phone or email. I observe sabbath on Mondays, and don't typically answer emails on Saturdays and Mondays. If the situation is an emergency, please call or text me at 218-341-0900.

As we gather today, let us remember that we in the Diocese of Northern Michigan acknowledge the sacred land where we work, live, teach, learn, and build community. This land is the territory of the Anishinaabe people. We recognize the repeated violations of sovereignty, territory, and water perpetrated by European and other settlers that have impacted the original inhabitants of this land. We extend our respect to citizens of these First Nations People who live here and their ancestors who have lived here for over five hundred generations, and to all Indigenous people. We also know that this acknowledgement is insufficient. It does not undo the harm that has been done and continues to be perpetrated now against Indigenous people, their land, air and water.

Service of Holy Eucharist and Blessing of the Animals

Flute, throughout the service, Robin Øye, Drums, throughout the service, Charles White

Opening Hymn *All Things Bright and Beautiful*

Celebrant This is the day that the Creator has made.

People **Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

Celebrant The Creator is with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Presider 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 Lesson: 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.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's creation.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Prayer of St. Francis (*to be 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.

Sequence Hymn *Halle, Halle, Halle*



Music: Traditional Carribean, arr. by John L. Bell, © 1990, Iona Community, GIA Publications, Inc., agent; verses and acc. by Marty Haugen, © 1993, GIA Publications, Inc.

The Gospel: Luke 12:22-32

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Luke.

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

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.”

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Homily, Remembrance of our Pets, Blessing of the Animals

Profession of Faith *(South India)*

We believe in God, who creates all things,
who embraces all things, who celebrates all things,
who is present in every part of the fabric of creation.

We believe in God as the source of all life,
who baptizes this planet with living water.

We believe in Jesus Christ, the suffering one, the poor one,
the malnourished one, the climate refugee,
who loves and cares for this world
and who suffers with it.

And we believe in Jesus Christ, the seed of life,
who came to reconcile and renew this world
and everything in it.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the breath of God,
who moves with God and who moves among and with us today.

We believe in everlasting life in God.

And we believe in the hope that one day

God will put an end to death and all destructive forces.

Prayers of the People

Leader Let us give thanks to God our Creator for all the gifts so freely bestowed upon us
and for the beauty and wonder of your creation, in earth and sky and sea;

All **Now and forever, we thank you, Lord.**

Leader For the richness of the mountains, plains and rivers;

All **Now and forever, we thank you, Lord.**

Leader For all that is gracious in the lives of humankind.

All **Now and forever, we thank you, Lord.**

Leader For all creatures that breathe, and move, and have life;

All **Now and forever, we thank you, Lord.**

Leader For the songs of birds and the loveliness of flowers and trees;

All **Now and forever, we thank you, Lord.**

Leader For the trust you have shown in giving into our care these, our pets;

All **Now and forever, we thank you, Lord.**

Leader That each pet here may be treasured with care;

All **Now and forever, we thank you, Lord.**

Leader That we may love and honor all your works, O God;

All **Now and forever, we thank you, Lord.**

Leader That we may continue to grow in our grateful enjoyment of your abundant creation;

All **Now and forever, we thank you, Lord.**

Celebrant Almighty God, by your Holy Spirit you have made us one with your saints in heaven and on earth: Grant that in our earthly pilgrimage we may always be supported by this fellowship of love and prayer and know ourselves to be surrounded by their witness to your power and mercy. We ask this for the sake of Jesus Christ, in whom all our intercessions are acceptable through the Spirit, and who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

A Prayer for our Animal Companions Who Have Died

Presider Let us pray.

Gracious God, our hearts are filled with the memories of those beloved animal companions who have died, especially those we name aloud or in our hearts. They enriched our lives, and we de- lighted in their company. We will always remember the loyalty and mischief of these animal friends, and we will always miss them. May the deaths of these creatures remind us that death comes to all of us, and it 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.**

Confession of Sin

Celebrant Let us confess our sins against God and God's creation.

All God of compassion, have mercy upon us. Heal our relationship with all creation. Forgive us for our mistreatment and neglect of the creatures who share the earth with us. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent for what we have done to harm them, and for what we have not done to help them. Fill us with your Spirit, that we may care for one another and for all creatures, according to your will and in the fullness of your love; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.

Celebrant 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.**

The Peace

Presider Peace with yourself. Peace with Creation. Peace with one another.
The peace of Christ be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Announcements

Offertory Sentence

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and a gift to God.

Offertory Hymn

He's Got the Whole World in His Hand

The Great Thanksgiving

Presider The Creator is with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Creator.**

Presider Let us give thanks to our loving God.

People **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is right in all times and in all places to thank and praise you Creator of all. We praise you here where ancient rock, standing forest, and the vast waters of Superior, K'chi Gaami, all bear witness to the Creator's handiwork. We praise you at a time when the body of earth is broken again and again. We give thanks for our place in the story of salvation. Our ancestors journeyed with you in creation and migration. They depended on the land, were displaced from the land and displaced others from their lands. They knew you in tents and cities, on mountains and by wells, in families and in dreams, and through wilderness prophets who spoke of cedars and listened to ravens. Together with angels and ancestors, thimbleberry and moose, sugar maple and whitefish, fern and monarch, we join our voices with all creation in this ancient song:



Music: *Mass of Remembrance*, Marty Haugen, © 1987, GIA Publications, Inc.

We give thanks to you for Jesus, whose first bed was a feed trough. He was baptized in the Jordan, tested in the wilderness, he traveled in fishing boats and told parables of famers and seeds, labor and wages, yeast and bread.

On the night before he died, Jesus took bread, food of the poor, the work of field and hearth, he gave thanks, broke it and gave it to his friends saying: Take and eat, this is my body, given for you, do this to remember me. Again, after supper he took the cup of wine, fruit of the land, gave thanks and gave it to his friends saying: This is my blood, which is shed for you. When you do this, do it in memory of me.

Remembering Jesus' life, death and resurrection and awaiting his coming kingdom, we offer you this bread and this cup. Creator, send your Spirit on these gifts so that we know Jesus in them and are gathered together with everyone who shares this sacred meal of justice and community. Fill us with the courage and love of Jesus, that we may strive for justice and peace, respect the dignity of every human being, and safeguard the integrity of creation. Bring us with our Anishinaabe ancestors who first knew these shores, the miners who labored beneath these hills, Big Annie who bore witness to injustice, and all your saints, to your commonwealth of sparrow and lily, child and beggar, which is both now and yet to come. All honor and glory are yours, Creator, Christ, and Spirit, now and forever. **AMEN.**

And now, as the Wisdom before Creation teaches us, we pray.

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.

The Breaking of the Bread *The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.*

Presider Creator God, you fed us from the beginning.

People **Happy are all, called to the Supper of Creation.**

Presider This we know, the earth does not belong to us:

People **We belong to the earth.**

Presider This we know, all things are connected:

People **like the blood which unites one family.**

Presider For we did not weave the web of life:

People **we are merely a strand of it.**

Presider Whatever we do to the web,

People **we do to ourselves.**

Administration of Communion

Presider The gifts of God for the People of God. All are invited to God's table.

During communion, you are invited to come up to where you may receive the bread and wine. If you are unsure of participating, please know you are welcome to come up for a blessing instead of the bread and wine. You are also welcome to participate by remaining in your seat and observing, praying, or listening to the communion music. Each response to the Eucharist is welcome and appropriate.

Post Communion Prayer

Presider Let us pray.

Create in us a new heart and a new vision, O God, that the gifts of your Spirit may work in us and renew the face of the earth. May we be one with you, so that our work is yours and your work is ours. Lead us to transform our lives to reflect your glory in Creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior who is alive with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and for ever. Amen.

The Blessing

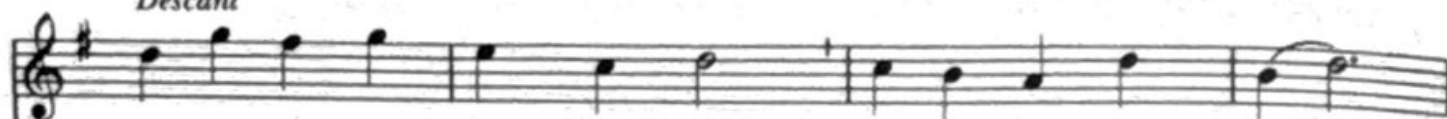
Presider God of all creation: We give you thanks and praise. Open our eyes to see your hand at work in all creation. May your bountiful blessing be upon us all, God our Redeemer, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn *We are Marching (Siyahamba)*

The Dismissal

Presider Tend the earth, care for God's good Creation; as you have received freely, so give freely. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

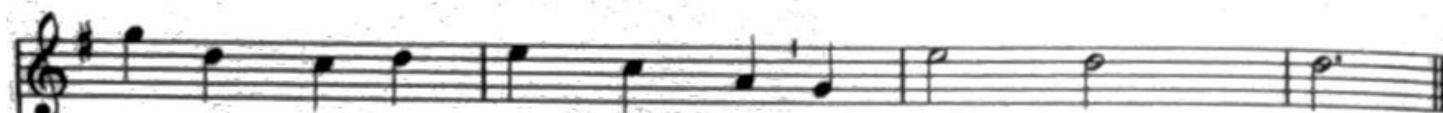
People Thanks be to God.

Descant

All things bright and beau - ti - ful, crea-tures great and small,

Refrain

All things bright and beau - ti - ful, all crea-tures great and small,



all things wise and won - der - ful, God made them all.



all things wise and won - der - ful, the Lord God made them all.



- 1 Each lit - tle flower that o - pens, each lit - tle bird that sings,
- 2 The pur - ple - head - ed moun - tain, the riv - er run - ning by,
- 3 The cold wind in the win - ter, the pleas - ant sum - mer sun,
- 4 He gave us eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell

*Repeat Refrain*

he made their glow - ing col - ors, he made their ti - ny wings.
 the sun - set, and the morn - ing that bright - ens up the sky.
 the ripe fruits in the gar - den, he made them ev - ery one.
 how great is God Al - might - y, who has made all things well.

He's Got the Whole World in His Hand

1. He's got the whole _ world _ in His hand, _ He's got the

whole world _ in His hand, _ He's got the whole world _

in His hand, _ He's got the whole world in His hand. _

2. He's got you and me sister, etc.

3. He's got you and me brother, etc.

4. He's got the pretty little baby, etc.

5. He's got everybody here, etc.

512 We Are Marching

We are march - ing* in the light of God, we are

1. march - ing in the light of God, 2. march - ing in the light of the

march - ing in the light of God. march - ing in the light of the

we are march - ing, light of God, we are march - ing, march - ing, we are

Oo we are march - ing, march - ing, we are march - ing in the light of God.

* Alternate text: dancing, singing, praying