

Blessing of the Animals

October 6, 2024 | 10:30 a.m.

Saron Lutheran Church

Jeanne Larsen, Interim Pastor

1656 Main St | Mail: PO Box 964 | Strasburg CO 80136

303-622-4303 | saronstrasburg@outlook.com | saronstrasburg.org



Welcome to Saron worship—in person or on [Facebook Live!](#)

Large-print copies of the bulletin are available.

Welcome/Announcements

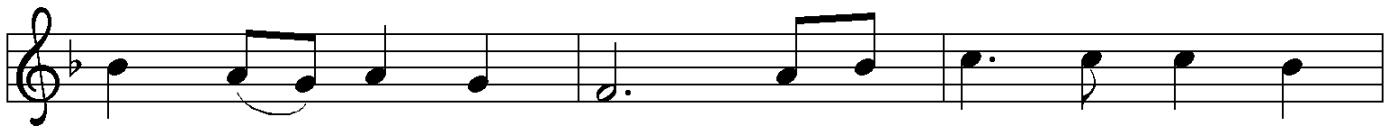
Hymn | ELW 641: All Are Welcome



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.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: TWO OAKS, Marty Haugen

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On the Life and Teachings of St. Francis

Words of Repentance and Longing

In the beginning, the Spirit moved over the deep;
 new life daily unfolding at God's call.

Darkness and light: It is good.

Skies, lands, and seas: It is good.

The earth and all that fills it—plants and rocks,
 the finned, the feathered, the furry: It is good.

At the last, humankind in God's image: It is very good.

Yet we have failed to draw from that goodness
 in care for God's creation.

**Forgive us, God, for the ways we have
 exploited earth and its creatures.**

We have misunderstood our calling
 to be protectors of God's creation.

**Forgive us, God, for the ways we
 have exploited earth and its creatures.**

We long for new relationships with God's creation that has been entrusted to us.

Help us, God, to make a new community with all that lives alongside us.

May the merciful God who calls us to tend earth and all its creatures, deepen our knowledge of creation's interweaving, so that our lives are shaped in wholeness and peace with all living things; in Jesus' name.

Amen.

Greeting

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.**

Hymn | ACS 1064: The Earth is Full of Wit and Wisdom



1 Earth is full of wit and wis - dom, sound - ing God's de - light - ed laugh,
2 Earth is full of wit and wis - dom, wo - ven in - to har - mo - ny.
3 Earth is full of wit and wis - dom: pen - guin, pla - ty - pus, and snail,



from the ti - ny ro - ly - po - ly to the tree - top - tall gi - raffe.
Ev - 'ry crea - ture has a pur - pose, ev - 'ry flow'r and bum - ble - bee.
cac - tus, sea slug, oak, and al - gae, from the mi - crobe to the whale.



All cre - a - tion sings in won - der; e - ven rocks and trees re - jice
Spi - der, hu - man, red - wood, geck - o, mon - key, chick - en, mouse, and snake
In this great and strange cre - a - tion, with a breath God gives us birth:



as they join the ring-ing cho-rus: ech-oes of our Mak-er's voice.
live with-in a sin-gle fab-ric: cloth that on-ly God could make.
born of soil to live as stew-ards, called to love and serve the earth.

Text: Adam M. L. Tice, b. 1979

Music: HOLY MANNA, W. Moore, *Columbian Harmony*, 1825; arr. hymnal version

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Prayer of the Day

Holy God, we lift to you the animal inhabitants of the earth. For those seen and unseen creatures and living things that attest to your creative power, we ask your blessing. We pray with thanksgiving for each of our precious animals. Comfort those who mourn the loss of pets. May we ever be mindful of the joys and beauty of all your creation. We ask these things in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Reading | Genesis 1:1, 20–28

¹In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, ²⁰And God said, “Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.” ²¹So 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. ²²God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.” ²³And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

²⁴And 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. ²⁵God 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.

²⁶Then 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.”

²⁷So God created humankind in his image,
in the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.

²⁸God 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.”

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm | Psalm 8

Read responsively.

¹O LORD our Lord,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!—

²**you whose glory is chanted above the heavens
out of the mouths of infants and children;**

**you have set up a fortress against your enemies, to silence the foe and
avenger.**

³When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars you have set in their courses,

⁴**what are mere mortals that you should be mindful of them,
human beings that you should care for them?**

⁵Yet you have made them little less than divine;
with glory and honor you crown them.

⁶**You have made them rule over the works of your hands;
you have put all things under their feet:**

⁷all flocks and cattle,
even the wild beasts of the field,

⁸**the birds of the air, the fish of the sea,
and whatever passes along the paths of the sea.**

⁹O LORD our Lord,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Gospel | Luke 15:3–7

The holy gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

³So [Jesus] told them this parable: ⁴“Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? ⁵When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders

and rejoices. ⁶And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.’

⁷“Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.”

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

The assembly is seated.

Pastor’s Thoughts | Pastor Jeanne Larsen

Prayer of St. Francis

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.

Saron Chorale | “Canticle of Peace”

Holy Communion | *All are welcome.*

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.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

**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.**

You are invited to come forward during communion and receive the edible gifts of God's grace. Gluten-free wafers and white grape juice are available.

Blessing after Communion

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

Introduction to Blessing of the Animals

The animals of God's creation inhabit the skies, the earth, and the sea. They share in the ways of human beings. They have a part in our lives. Francis of Assisi in the 1200's in Italy recognized this when he called the animals, wild and tame, his brothers and sisters. Remembering Francis for these brothers and sisters of ours, we ask God's blessing on these animals, and we thank God for letting us share the earth with all God's creatures.

(Blessing of each animal or pictures of animals who couldn't be present—pastor and helper will go around the circle—with water and words of blessing.)

With blessing each pet: Blessed are you, Lord God, maker of all living creatures. We ask you to bless this pet. _____ (name). Help us to be good caretakers of the pet you entrust to us.

Dear God, we mourn the loss of this beloved pet _____ one who brought so much joy and love. Each pet's life is special to you and we give you thanks for the time we had together. Amen

The Blessing Prayer

Let us pray together:

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. We ask you, Lord, that we may tend to our pets always, so that they may be happy also. Help us always to care for 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 and where we shall live and love for ever. This we ask to your praise, and to our blessing. Amen.

Blessing

As we go forth into the world, let us rejoice in the power and the joy of our loving God. Almighty God, Father ✕ Son and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

Hymn | WOV 767: All Things Bright and Beautiful



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



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



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



God made their glow - ing col - ors, God 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, God made them ev - 'ry one.
how great is God Al - might - y, who has made all things well.

Text: Cecil F. Alexander, 1818–1895, alt.

Music: ROYAL OAK, English tune, 17th cent., adapt. Martin Shaw, 1875–1958

Dismissal

Let us go forth in peace. **Thanks be to God.**

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Musician: Kurt Elliott | **Reader:** Karen Fagan | **Sound:** Patrick Tangeman

Quotes from *Blessing the Animals*, edited by Lynn L. Caruso

P. 57—The snail does the Holy Will of God slowly. G.K. Chesterton

P. 46—All spiritual life meets us within natural life. Reverence for life, therefore, is applied to natural life and spiritual life alike. In the parable of Jesus, the shepherd saves not merely the soul of the lost sheep but the whole animal. The stronger the reverence for natural life, the stronger grows that for spiritual life.

—Albert Schweitzer

P. 56—Should we pray aloud unto God? Pray unto him any way you like, for he can hear even the footfall of the ant.

—Sri Ramakrishma

P. 70—Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your Heavenly Father feeds them.

—Matthew 6:26

P. 37—God took a handful of southerly wind, blew his breathe over it and created the horse.

—Bedouin legend

P. 118—Hope is the thing with feathers that perches in the soul, And sings tune without the words, And. Never stops at all.

—Emily Dickinson

Adopt-a-Highway Clean-up

Next Sunday, October 13

Saron will celebrate “God’s work. Our hands.” Sunday. Plan to wear your gold “God’s work. Our hands.” t-shirt and outdoor work attire to worship and then head out to clean Saron’s adopted section of highway 36 just west of Strasburg. And since we’ll work up an appetite, we’ll have lunch together afterwards at Subway!

**World Food Day:
Celebrating 50 Years of ELCA World Hunger**

Tuesday, October 15, 6 p.m. | Zoom webinar

Join ELCA World Hunger for a celebration of World Food Day and the 50th anniversary of ELCA World Hunger!



This special online event will be hosted by the **Rev. Amy Current**, bishop of the Southeastern Iowa Synod, and **Imran Siddiqui**, vice president of the ELCA. Hear firsthand stories from partners at ELCA World Hunger, and you'll see the impact of 50 years of ELCA World Hunger work and get excited and equipped to be part of the next 50 years!

Scan the code to register. You can also bring your supper and join Jackie at Saron to participate.

You are cordially invited

to attend

the Rite of Installation of

The Rev. Dr. Megan Johnston Aelabouni

as Bishop of the Rocky Mountain Synod, ELCA

Saturday, October 5, 4 p.m.

at Augustana Lutheran Church

5000 E. Alameda Ave. | Denver, 80246

Clergy are invited to vest and process. The color of the day is red.

A reception will follow.

Saron Lutheran Church – celebrating 110 years!

Mission Statement:

Saron Lutheran welcomes all in the name of Christ:
to know Christ's love | to grow in Christ's love | to go in Christ's love