



SAINT JOHN'S  
CATHEDRAL  
EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF FLORIDA

Blessing of the Animals  
St. Francis of Assisi Sunday  
October 1, 2023 | 9 a.m.



## OPENING HYMN "FOR THE BEAUTY OF THE EARTH"

For the beauty of the earth,  
For the glory of the skies,  
For the love which from our birth  
Over and around us lies;

*Refrain*

*Lord of all, to Thee we raise  
This our hymn of grateful praise.*

For the wonder of each hour  
Of the day and of the night,  
Hill and vale and tree and flower,  
Sun and moon and stars of light:

*Refrain*

For the joy of human love,  
Brother, sister, parent, child;  
Friends on earth and friends above;  
For all gentle thoughts and mild:

*Refrain*

## ✻ THE LITURGY OF THE WORD ✻

Hymn 400 (*8 a.m., Stanzas 1-4*)

“All creatures of our God and King”

*Lasst uns erfreuen*

Celebrant Blessed be God.

People **Forever and ever. Amen.**

**Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### The Collect for St. Francis

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant 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. O God, you have made us and all living things. You are even more wonderful than what you have made. We thank you for giving us these pets who bring us joy. As you take care of us, so also we ask your help that we might take care of those who trust us to look after them. By doing this, we share in your own love for all creation. We ask this in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

*All sit.*

### The Lesson

Job 39:1-18

Reader A reading from the book of Job

“Do you know when the mountain goats give birth? Do you observe the calving of the deer? Can you number the months that they fulfil, and do you know the time when they give birth, when they crouch to give birth to their offspring, and are delivered of their young? Their young ones become strong, they grow up in the open; they go forth, and do not return to them. Who has let the wild ass go free? Who has loosed the bonds of the swift ass, to which I have given the steppe for its home, the salt land

for its dwelling-place? It scorns the tumult of the city; it does not hear the shouts of the driver. It ranges the mountains as its pasture, and it searches after every green thing. Is the wild ox willing to serve you? Will it spend the night at your crib? Can you tie it in the furrow with ropes, or will it harrow the valleys after you? Will you depend on it because its strength is great, and will you hand over your labour to it? Do you have faith in it that it will return, and bring your grain to your threshing-floor? The ostrich's wings flap wildly, though its pinions lack plumage. For it leaves its eggs to the earth, and lets them be warmed on the ground, forgetting that a foot may crush them, and that a wild animal may trample them. It deals cruelly with its young, as if they were not its own; though its labour should be in vain, yet it has no fear; because God has made it forget wisdom, and given it no share in understanding. When it spreads its plumes aloft, it laughs at the horse and its rider."

The Word of the Lord.

**People**      **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm *(said together)*

Psalm 121

**All**      **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.**

*All stand.*

# The Holy Gospel

Matthew 11:25-30

Deacon      The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

**People**      **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

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 the Lord.

**People**      **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

*All sit.*

# The Sermon

The Very Rev. Kate Moorehead Carroll

*All stand.*

# Prayer of St. Francis *(said together)*

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.

# The Peace

Celebrant      The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

**People**      **And also with you.**

*Greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

# Welcome and Announcements



As the altar is prepared for Communion, please place your offering in the collection plate as it is passed. You may also give by texting jaxcathedral \$(amount) to 73256. Or use the QR code to give online. Thank you for your generosity!

## ∞ THE HOLY COMMUNION ∞

### The Great Thanksgiving

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

**People And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

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

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

Celebrant Father, you made the world and love your creation. You gave your Son Jesus Christ to be our Saviour. His dying and rising have set us free from sin and death. And so we gladly thank you, with saints and angels praising you, and singing:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

Celebrant We praise and bless you, loving Father, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; and as we obey his command, send your Holy Spirit, that broken bread and wine outpoured may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends and, taking bread, he praised you. He broke the bread, gave it to them and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine. Again he praised you, gave it to them and said: "Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is

shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did, in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross. Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation, we proclaim his death and resurrection until he comes in glory. Great is the mystery of faith:

**All Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Celebrant Lord of all life, help us to work together for that day when your kingdom comes and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth. Look with favor on your people, gather us in your loving arms and bring us with all the saints to feast at your table in heaven. Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory are yours, O loving Father, for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

**All** And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,  
**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, for ever and ever. Amen.**

Celebrant The gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

## Communion and Blessing of the Animals

*Please walk down the center of our labyrinth to receive Communion, then bring your pets around the perimeter of the labyrinth to be blessed.*

## Music at Communion

### “Amazing Grace”

Amazing grace! how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost but now am found, was blind but now I see.

’Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;  
how precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!

The Lord has promised good to me, his word my hope secures;  
he will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.

Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come;  
'tis grace that brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.

When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,  
we've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first begun.

### "I am the Bread of Life"

I am the bread of life; they who come to me shall not hunger; they who believe in me shall not thirst. No one can come to me unless the Father draw them.

#### *Refrain*

*And I will raise them up, and I will raise them up on the last day.*

The Bread that I will give is my Flesh for the life of the world, and they who eat of this bread, they shall live for ever, they shall live for ever. *Refrain*

Unless you eat of the Flesh of the Son of Man and drink of his Blood, you shall not have life within you, you shall not have life within you. *Refrain*

I am the resurrection, I am the life. They who believe in me, even if they die, they shall live for ever. *Refrain*

Yes, Lord, we believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God who has come into the world. *Refrain*

## THE CLOSING PRAYER *(said together)*

Almighty God, our great 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 and to have them to play with. We ask you, Lord, that we may be good to our pets always, so that they may be happy also. Help us always to take care of 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 forever. This we ask to your eternal praise, and to our blessing. Amen.

## The Blessing

May the Lord bless you and keep you; may the Lord show his face to you and have compassion on you! May God turn his face to you and give you peace! And the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be with you now and always.  
Amen.

## The Dismissal

Deacon      Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia!  
People      **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!**



JOIN US NEXT SUNDAY  
October 8, 2023

Worship at 8 & 10 a.m.

Blood Drive  
8 a.m. to Noon  
Oneblood Bus will be on Market Street

First Coast Flute Choir  
5 p.m.  
Free concert with reception following