

THE BLESSING OF FARM ANIMALS

An Occasional Liturgical Resource

From the Lutheran Alliance for Faith, Science and
Technology



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

Amen.

In the Book of Sirach we read, "The compassion of human beings is for their neighbors, but the compassion of the Lord is for every living thing". Remembering that that is the God whose blessings we ask, let us pray:

Gracious God, we ask that you would give us will and wisdom to be good stewards as we tend these your creatures before us whom you have given into our care. Make us always aware of their needs as well as our own, so that your whole creation may proclaim your praise. We ask this in the name of your son Jesus Christ our Good Shepherd. Amen.

In the story of creation, 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.

And in the fiftieth Psalm God says:

I will take no bull-calf from your stalls;
nor he-goats out of your pens;

For all the beasts of the forest are mine;
the herds in their thousands upon the hills.

I know every bird in the sky;
and the creatures of the fields are in my sight.

Let us pray:

Almighty God, we ask your blessing upon these [name animals], that they may have good health, adequate feed, plentiful pastures, and companionship of the flock/herd. Give them good stewards who will be faithful in their care, feeding them, and protecting them from danger. Bless their relationships with humankind and other living things so that, together in the web of life which you have brought into being, all creatures may fulfill your purpose. Amen.

And now may the God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant: Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well pleasing in his sight; through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever.

Amen.

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