

Pentecost 19
October 3, 2021

Collect

God of the universe, we thank you for all the creatures you have made, so perfect in their kind. Great animals like the elephant and the rhinoceros, humorous animals like the camel and the monkey, friendly ones like the dog and the cat, working ones like the horse and the ox, timid ones like the squirrel and the rabbit, majestic ones like the lion and the tiger, and for birds with their songs.

Teach us to admire their beauty and intelligence. Grant that our relationship with them may be both merciful and wise.

And grant that, following in the way of blessed Francis of Assisi, we may for love of you delight in your whole creation with perfectness of joy.

In Jesus' name we pray. **AMEN.**

First Lesson Job 1:1; 2:1-10

There was once a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job. That man was blameless and upright, one who feared God and turned away from evil. One day the heavenly beings came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them to present himself before the Lord. The Lord said to Satan, "Where have you come from?" Satan answered the Lord, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking up and down on it." The Lord said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man who fears God and turns away from evil. He still persists in his integrity, although you incited me against him, to destroy him for no reason." Then Satan answered the Lord, "Skin for skin! All that people have they will give to save their lives. But stretch out your hand now and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse you to your face." The Lord said to Satan, "Very well, he is in your

power; only spare his life.” So Satan went out from the presence of the Lord, and inflicted loathsome sores on Job from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head. Job took a potsherd with which to scrape himself, and sat among the ashes. Then his wife said to him, “Do you still persist in your integrity? Curse God, and die.” But he said to her, “You speak as any foolish woman would speak. Shall we receive the good at the hand of God, and not receive the bad?” In all this Job did not sin with his lips.

An African Canticle *Desmond Tutu*

All you big things, bless the Lord.
Mount Kilimanjaro and Lake Victoria,
The Rift Valley and the Serengeti Plain,
Fat baobabs and shady mango trees,
All eucalyptus and tamarind trees,
Bless the Lord.
Praise and extol God for ever and ever.
All you tiny things, bless the Lord.
Busy black ants and hopping fleas,
Wriggling tadpoles and mosquito larvae,
Flying locusts and water drops,
Pollen dust and tsetse flies,
Millett seeds and dried dagga.
Bless the Lord,
Praise and extol God for ever and ever.

Second Lesson A reading from *Saint Francis* by **Nikos Kazantzankis**

Turning to the birds, Francis leaned over them and began to preach, his arms spread wide. “Sister birds, God, the Father of birds and men loves you greatly, and you are aware of this. This is why when you drink water you lift your tiny heads to heaven after each sip and give thanks to him; why in the morning when the sun strikes your little breasts you fill yourselves with song

and fly from branch to branch glorifying his name, the name of the Lord who sends the sun, and green tress and song. And you fly high up into the sky so that you can come close to him and he can hear you. And when your nests are filled with eggs and you are mothers sitting on them to hatch them, God becomes a male bird, sits himself down on the branch opposite, and sings to ease your labors. “Sister Sparrows, Sister Doves, consider what gifts God has bestowed upon you; he gave you wings so that you might travel through the air, and down to keep you warm in the wintertime. He scattered many kinds of nourishment over the ground and in the trees so that you would not go hungry. He filled your throats and breasts with song. “Welcome to our sisters the swallows, who carry spring to us each year on slender wings...On the day of judgement you, my dear swallows, you before all other winged things, before even the angels with their trumpets, will fly to the cemeteries and begin to chirp above the tombstones, singing out the news of resurrection.”

The Gospel Mark 10:2-16

Some Pharisees came, and to test Jesus they asked, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?” He answered them, “What did Moses command you?” They said, “Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of dismissal and to divorce her.” But Jesus said to them, “Because of your hardness of heart he wrote this commandment for you. But from the beginning of creation, ‘God made them male and female.’ ‘For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.’ So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.” Then in the house the disciples asked him again about this matter. He said to them, “Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her; and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery.”

People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, “Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.” And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

For this week’s prayers.....

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we pray for The Church in Wales. **In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer**, we pray for St. Francis’, Coventry. **In our Parish**, we give thanks for the following birthdays: Dwight Giles, Barry Olsen, Benjamin Brown, Ella Marilyn Krause, Martha Sly; and the anniversaries of Michele & Mark Krupkowski and Doug & Mary Cobb.

