



The Abundant Life Garden Project®

Litany of Thanks for Animals

Ask children to sit in a circle. The leader should also sit in the circle with the children if at all possible. (If you have an older child who would like to help consider allowing them to lead.)



Introduction

Leader: Now, I will read several prayers about animals. Since all kinds of animals are important gifts in the cycle of life, please respond to each of these prayers with, “We thank you, Lord, for the gift of animals.” (The leader might ask children to practice “We thank you, Lord, for the gift of animals” before continuing.)

Leader: The Lord be with you!

Children and helpers: And also with you!

Leader: Let us pray.

Leader: Lord, creator of all things, we thank you for the gift of this time together, and for the abundant gift of animals to feed our hunger, quench our thirst and help our plants to grow. Bless us in this time together, and bless those in need of farm animals to feed themselves and others. **In Christ name, Amen.**

Litany begins

Leader: We thank you, Lord, for the gift of animals in our lives. We thank you for cows, pigs, sheep and goats. We thank you for fish, earthworms, ducks, chickens and bees.

Children and helpers: We thank you, Lord, for the gift of animals.

Leader: We thank you, Lord, for animals that provide wool and feathers to keep us warm and clothe our bodies. We thank you for animals that give us milk, cheese and eggs to help us grow and to keep us healthy.

Children and helpers: We thank you, Lord, for the gift of animals.

Leader: We thank you for horses, donkeys and oxen that work hard on farms around the world.

Children and helpers: We thank you, Lord, for the gift of animals.

Leader: We thank you, Lord, for all animals on earth and for their roles in the cycle of life on our planet.

Children and helpers: We thank you, Lord, for the gift of animals.



Leader: We thank you, Lord, for animals that eat plants and fertilize the soil, making it richer and more fertile for new growth and new life.

Children and helpers: We thank you, Lord, for the gift of animals.

Leader: We thank you, Lord, for the gift of insects, and especially bees, to pollinate fruit and vegetable plants for us to eat and flowers to give us joy.

Children and helpers: We thank you, Lord, for the gift of animals.

Leader: We thank you, Lord, for the gift of those who tend flocks and raise animals to provide food and drink. We thank you for the gift of those in the Bible who cared for animals. We thank you for Noah and his family, for Abraham and Sarah and their family, for Moses and for David. We thank you for the animals that gave life and sustenance to those who came before us.

Children and helpers: We thank you, Lord, for the gift of animals.

Leader: We thank you, Lord, for the donkey that carried Mary to Bethlehem and for the donkey that carried Jesus to Jerusalem. We thank you for the shepherds who were the first to hear the Good News of Jesus. We thank you for the animals in the barn surrounding Jesus as a newborn baby.

Children and helpers: We thank you, Lord, for the gift of animals.

Leader: We thank you, Lord, for being our Good Shepherd, for seeking us when we are lost, for showing us water to quench our thirst and for leading us to green pastures. Help us to likewise seek those who might be lost and to help lead them as well to clear waters and green pastures.

In Christ's name, Amen.

