



THE FESTIVAL OF ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS

SEPTEMBER 29, 2024 ✠ 8:00 AM

A SPECIAL WELCOME TO OUR GUESTS!

We're thrilled that you are here and we want you to feel at home.

- * Restrooms are near the door that you came in today.
- * The service is printed in this worship folder. Join in as you're comfortable. Ask anyone if you're lost - they'll be glad to help!
- * We're glad you brought your kids! We know and Jesus knows that little kids have a hard time sitting quietly sometimes. They are still welcome here. Jesus said: Let the little children come to me!

Please introduce yourself to Pastor Boettcher or Pastor Peil. They would love to meet you and serve you however they can!



TODAY'S WORSHIP: PRAISING GOD FOR THE HOLY ANGELS AMONG US

The Festival of St. Michael and All Angels has been a minor festival of the Lutheran Church since the time of the Lutheran Reformation and has been observed in the Christian Church since the 1300's. The actual date is September 29th.

This festival leads us to give thanks to God for the victory of heaven's armies against the forces of Satan and for the protection His holy angels provide us: "He will command His angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways." (Ps 91)

As with all minor festivals within the Lutheran Church, the focus of the celebration and worship is not on the saint, but is an opportunity again to give glory and thanksgiving to God for the saints and what the Lord has done through them.

THE DIVINE SERVICE

 *The congregation speaks and sings the words in **BOLD type**.* 

Invocation

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

Amen.

Confession and Absolution

Our help is in the name of the LORD,
the Maker of heaven and earth.

Psalm 124:8

Let us confess our sins to God and ask for his forgiveness.

Almighty God, merciful Father,

I confess to you that I have not loved you with all my heart.

In what I have done and left undone

I have pursued my ways instead of your ways.

I have not loved others as you command.

For this I deserve your punishment now and forever.

I am sorry for my sins. I repent of them. I beg for your mercy.

silence for personal reflection

Forgive us for the sake of Jesus Christ, who suffered and died for us.

Cleanse me from my sins. Release me from my guilt. Grant me your Holy Spirit to amend my sinful life.

Jesus says to his people, "If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven." (*John 20:23*) Do you believe this?

Yes, I believe.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved.

Ephesians 2:4,5

In the name of + Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins.

Amen.

Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.

2 Timothy 4:22

And also with you.

Let us pray. Everlasting God, You have ordained and constituted in a wonderful order the ministries of angels and mortals. Mercifully grant that, as Your holy angels always serve and worship You in heaven, so by Your direction they may help and defend us here on earth; through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

First Reading

2 Kings 6:8-17

Now the king of Aram was at war with Israel. After conferring with his officers, he said, "I will set up my camp in such and such a place."

The man of God sent word to the king of Israel: "Beware of passing that place, because

the Arameans are going down there." So the king of Israel checked on the place indicated by the man of God. Time and again Elisha warned the king, so that he was on his guard in such places.

This enraged the king of Aram. He summoned his officers and demanded of them, "Tell me! Which of us is on the side of the king of Israel?"

"None of us, my lord the king," said one of his officers, "but Elisha, the prophet who is in Israel, tells the king of Israel the very words you speak in your bedroom."

"Go, find out where he is," the king ordered, "so I can send men and capture him." The report came back: "He is in Dothan." Then he sent horses and chariots and a strong force there. They went by night and surrounded the city.

When the servant of the man of God got up and went out early the next morning, an army with horses and chariots had surrounded the city. "Oh no, my lord! What shall we do?" the servant asked.

"Don't be afraid," the prophet answered. "Those who are with us are more than those who are with them."

And Elisha prayed, "Open his eyes, Lord, so that he may see." Then the Lord opened the servant's eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Hymn 502 | Children of the Heavenly Father

Second Reading

Then war broke out in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven. The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.

Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: "Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Messiah.

For the accuser of our brothers and sisters, who accuses them before our God day and

Revelation 12:7-12

night, has been hurled down. They triumphed over him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death. Therefore rejoice, you heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has gone down to you! He is filled with fury, because he knows that his time is short."

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

Dialogue of Praise

Praise the LORD from the heavens
Praise him in the heights above.

Praise him all his angels,
Praise him all his heavenly hosts.

Let them praise the name of the LORD,
For he commanded and they were created.

He set them in place forever and ever;
He gave a decree that will never pass away. *(verses of Psalm 148)*

If you make the most high your dwelling – even the LORD, who is my refuge –
then no harm will befall you, no disaster will come near your tent.

For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways;
they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone. *(Psalm 91:9-12)*

Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders. In a loud voice they sang:

“Worthy is the lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!”

(Rev 5:11-12)

Please stand

The Holy Gospel

The seventy-two returned with joy and said, “Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name.”

He replied, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy;

Luke 10:17-20

nothing will harm you. However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to You, O Christ!

Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,

born of the Virgin Mary,

suffered under Pontius Pilate,

was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy Christian Church,

the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body,

and the life everlasting. Amen.

Be seated.

Hymn 561 | Before the Throne of God Above

Sermon Luke 10:17-20

Prayer of the Church

We come to you, Holy Father, with praise and thanksgiving, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Through him we beg you to accept and bless the prayers and gifts we bring. Do not consider what we truly deserve, but

grant us Your forgiveness. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Remember, Lord, your holy Church. May Your holy angels watch over her and guard

her. Grant her peace and unity throughout the world. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Remember, Lord, our president, our public servants and all in our armed forces. Guide, bless, protect and uphold them in honor. Bring all nations into the ways of peace and justice. In your kindness and love, grant us seasonable weather and an abundance of the fruits of the earth. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Remember, Lord, all who suffer for your name, all who are in prison, the hungry and homeless, the poor and the lonely, those who travel and all who cry out to you in their time of need, especially all who have asked for our prayers. Grant that your holy

angel may be with them always. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Remember, Lord, all who are gathered here before you, our living and true God. Guard us by your holy angels. Give us joy and strength in the good news that we are your children and our names are recorded in your book of life. Hear us as we pray the prayer our Savior taught us:

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.

Offering



Moved by God's love in Christ, we return to God our first and best gifts, purely out of thanks to Him.

There is an offering plate in the entry way for those who wish to give in that way.

*To donate online, either scan the QR code on the left or text **princeofpeace** (no spaces) to **(833) 693-7056**. You'll receive a link in response. Follow the link to the Prince of Peace secure giving page.*

THE SACRAMENT

Stand

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is good and right so to do.

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who promised that wherever two or three come together in his name, there he is with them to shepherd his flock until he comes again in glory.

The Words of Our Lord Jesus

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night He was betrayed, took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my + body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then He took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my + blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do

this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us and grant us peace. Amen.

Be seated

Distribution of the Lord's Supper

A NOTE TO OUR GUESTS

Children and those who are not communicant members of our church may come forward for a blessing. Those who do are asked to cross their arms on their chest to indicate this.

Prince of Peace practices closed communion, because the Bible teaches it and because we love you. That means we ask that only members of Prince of Peace or other congregations in our fellowship take the Lord's Supper this morning. This is not a judgment of anyone's faith, it is simply our desire to uphold what God says in 1 Corinthians 10 and 11 about who should receive Holy Communion and how. Because we believe from these words that Jesus' body and blood is really present in and with the bread and wine, we want to be sure that it is received in the manner He has commanded us.

*Please speak to Pastor Boettcher or Pastor Peil about communing with us in the future if you're not part of our congregation. **Thank you for your understanding!***

Hymn 584 | Jesus Loves Me

After the distribution, the minister speaks this blessing:

The true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you to life everlasting. Go in peace. Your † sins are forgiven.

Amen.

Stand

Prayer and Blessing

In the name of the Father and of the (+) Son and of the Holy Spirit.

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger. Keep me this day also from sin and all evil, that all my doings and life may please You. Into Your hands I commend my body and soul and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, so that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and † give you peace.

Numbers 6:24-26

Amen.

Hymn 870 | O Church, Arise

We thank Amy Sehloff for adorning our worship this morning with music to our Savior's glory.

In order to understand St. Michael's significance more fully, it is helpful to consider those angels who fell away from the Lord's grace. The Bible does not tell us precisely when the Lord God created the holy angels. It is crucial for us to recognize that angels are created beings who did not exist before the creation of all things. They are not divine.

The Bible tells us that there are myriads of myriads of angels (Rev. 5:11). For all intents and purposes, *myriad* (10,000) was the largest number most people conceived of in Greek thought. In other words, from the perspective of the New Testament person, the number of angels is uncountable.

Among the angels who were created to serve the Lord God day and night, a portion of them rebelled against the Lord and were cast out of heaven. Revelation 12:9 and Isaiah 14:12–15 describe the "ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan" and his angels as cast down from heaven. These fallen angels work against every work of the Lord, seeking to destroy His special creation: human beings.

The devil, the leader of the fallen angels, is called Satan, which means "the accuser." Satan accuses, slanders and maligns the Lord's holy people throughout the Bible (e.g., Adam and Eve, Job). In Genesis 3, he accuses and slanders the Word of God by saying to Eve, "Did God really say?" Satan not only accuses and builds a case against the Lord's people, but he tempts and entraps them into guilt and sin. It is almost like the leader of a criminal ring turning "state's evidence" to accuse all his accomplices in evil. Considering the weakness of our sinful flesh and our inability to avoid sin, Satan serving as chief tempter and accuser is more than we can bear or resist.

What was St. Michael's role?

St. Michael and All Angels commemorates the great battle in heaven between Satan and his evil angels and St. Michael and the angels of the Lord. The readings (Rev. 12:7–12; Luke 10:17–20)

describe how the Lord used Michael and the angels to deliver His people from the accusations of Satan. Because Jesus took all of Satan's accusations against us on Himself when He went to the cross, Satan has nothing more to say to the Lord about us or about our sins. Every evil deed, every sin, every impure thought or intention was placed upon Jesus. Now Satan is not only silenced but is cast down from heaven, never more to stand before the Lord to deliver slander or accusation against His people.

So how did St. Michael and the Lord's angels battle Satan and his demonic forces? With supernatural fireballs and weapons of mass destruction? No. Michael and the angels used the very same weapon the Lord has given to us: the Lord's Word and the name of God that was given to us in our Baptisms. In Jude 9, as Michael battled Satan, he said, "The Lord rebuke you." When Satan was cast down out of heaven, Rev. 12:11 says, "They have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony." Satan and his evil angels are defeated not with the sword or battle tactics as we understand war strategy, but they are defeated by the blood of Jesus and His Word.

How is Satan defeated today?

Satan is still defeated by the Word of God. Every time the Lord's Word is preached in truth and purity, Satan is defeated. The Lord's Word silences his mouth and casts him from heaven so he can no longer accuse you before the Lord's throne. In Luke 10:18, Jesus said, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven." Jesus said this in response to the preaching of the 72 disciples. These disciples were sent out by Jesus to proclaim the arrival of the kingdom of God in His name. Demons were cast out and Satan's kingdom was literally torn apart by the preaching of Christ. So it continues today. The gates of hell will not prevail against the Lord and His Church.

Rev. Dr. Albert B. Collver III - The Lutheran Witness

