

ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

THE SOLEMNITY OF ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS – 1 OCTOBER 2023

READINGS: GENESIS 28:10-17; PSALM 103:19-22; REVELATION 12:7-12; JOHN 1:47-51

Hymn 367, Round the Lord in Glory Seated Cherubim and Seraphim Filled His Temple

THE WORD OF GOD

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

Alleluia. Praise the Lord, all Angels and Archangels. **Praise God in the firmament of heaven. Alleluia.**

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.

1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and
peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly
King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we
give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus
Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you
take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy
on us; 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -
ceive our prayer. 6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,
you a - lone are the Lord, 7. you a - lone are the Most
High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the
glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray.

Everlasting God, you have ordained and constituted in a wonderful order the ministries of angels and mortals: Grant that as your holy angels stand before you in heaven, so at your command they may help and defend us here on earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

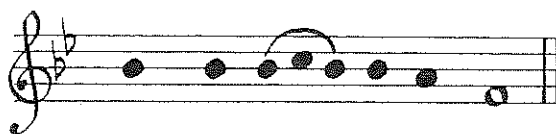
A Reading from the Book of Genesis

Jacob dreams of a heavenly ladder with angels travelling between heaven and earth. God also appears and reminds Jacob of the promises made to Abraham and his descendants.

Jacob left Beer-sheba and went towards Haran. He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. And the LORD stood beside him and said, 'I am the LORD, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring; and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.' Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, 'Surely the LORD is in this place—and I did not know it!' And he was afraid, and said, 'How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.'

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 103 praises the power of God working through the ministry of angels. The Cantor sings the refrain, all repeat, and sing as indicated.



Bless the Lord, O my soul.

The Lord has set his throne in heaven, and his kingship has dominion over all. **R.** Bless the Lord, you angels of his, you mighty ones who do his bidding, and hearken to the voice of his word. **R.** Bless the Lord, all you his hosts, you ministers of his who do his will. **R.** Bless the Lord, all you works of his, in all places of his dominion; bless the Lord, O my soul. **R.**

A Reading from the Book of Revelation

This reading is a metaphor for a renewed heaven in which evil, embodied as a dragon, can no longer abide. The story is a source for the image of the devil as a fallen angel.

War broke out in heaven; Michael and his angels fought against the dragon. The dragon and his angels fought back, but they were defeated, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. The great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the Devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.

Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, proclaiming, '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 comrades has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God. But they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony for they did not cling to life even in the face of death. Rejoice then, you heavens and those who dwell in them! But woe to the earth and the sea, for the devil has come down to you with great wrath, because he knows that his time is short!'

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn 453, As Jacob With Travel Was Weary One Day, At Night On A Stone For A Pillow He Lay

The Holy Gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ, according to John. **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

When Jesus saw Nathanael coming towards him, he said of him, 'Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!' Nathanael asked him, 'Where did you come to know me?' Jesus answered, 'I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you.' Nathanael replied, 'Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!' Jesus answered, 'Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these.' And he said to him, 'Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.'

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Sermon -- The Rev. Michael L. Bradley, rector

Affirmation of Faith – The Nicene Creed

What do we believe?

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth,

of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son.

With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of the People

In the power of the Spirit, and in union with Christ, let us pray to God, the maker of all things, seen and unseen.

Father in heaven, by his blood your Christ has ransomed us to you, and has made us a kingdom of priests to serve you. As the angels minister to you in heaven, strengthen your Church to serve you here on earth.

Lord, hear us, Lord, graciously hear us.

Father in heaven, when the angels greeted the birth of your Son they sang for joy 'Glory to God and peace on earth'.

Bless with Christ's peace the nations of the world. **R.**

Father in heaven, your Son has promised to your children the care of the guardian angels who look upon your face.

Protect by your mercy our neighbors, families and friends. **R.**

Father in heaven, you give your angels charge over those who trust in you to guard them in all their ways.

Be with those in trouble; rescue them, and show them your salvation. **R.**

Father in heaven, your angel declares 'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord,' says the Spirit,

'for they rest from their labors.' Enfold in your love all who come in faith to your judgement seat in heaven. **R.**

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

Prayers are offered for those on the parish prayer list, for special concerns and for thanksgivings.

The people add their own petitions and thanksgivings.

Donald Burton, Lori Pranior, Lynn Kerber, Susan Rich, Ed Haug, Karen Schulze, Jim Veit.

For the continued recovery from surgery of Al Hanson and Dianne Pegg.

God of heaven and earth, your Son has promised to all your children the care of the guardian angels who look upon your face. Protect by your mercy our neighbors, families and friends; and send your angels to be with all whom we have prayed for this day. This we ask through the mercy and compassion of Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

HOLY COMMUNION

Hymn 618, Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones, Bright Seraphs, Cherubim and Thrones

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

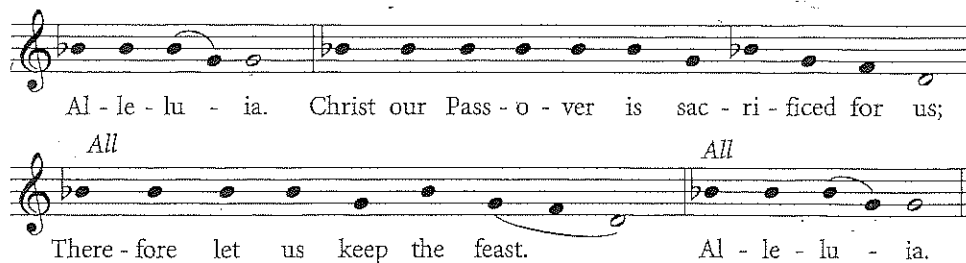
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right and good, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ; For through the ministry of angels and archangels you have revealed the light of your being to all people, that your thoughts may be implanted in our hearts, and that we might feel the presence of your steadfast love and protection. While they contemplate your glory and proclaim your majesty, they also keep faithful vigil for us, guarding our journey along the path that leads to eternal life. Therefore, in joyful gladness, our voices join with theirs as we sing this ageless hymn to your unending praise:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest, Hosanna in the highest. Blessed are they who come in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

The celebrant continues with the Prayer of Consecration, Memorial Acclamation, and Great Amen.



The gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you.

Feed on him in your hearts by faith, and be filled with thanks.

After all have received Communion, please stand and pray together:

Lord of heaven; In this eucharist you have brought us near to a multitude of angels and to the spirits of the saints made perfect: grant that, as we have shared in this food of our earthly pilgrimage, so may we come to share their joy in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

God keep you in the fellowship of his saints; Christ protect you by the ministry of the angels; the Spirit make you holy in God's service; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. Amen.

Let us go forth to love and serve the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Hymn (insert): Angels and Ministers, Spirit of Grace

Our Mission: We share the light of Christ by loving and serving our neighbors in the world.

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