

## St Michael and All Angels... on Sunday 27th September

### Opening Antiphon

**Praise, my soul, the King of heaven,  
to his feet thy tribute bring;  
ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,  
who like me his praise should sing?  
Praise Him, Praise Him!  
praise the everlasting King.**

**Angels, help us to adore him;  
Ye behold him face to face;  
sun and moon, bow down before him,  
praise him all in time and space.  
Praise Him, Praise Him!  
praise with us the God of grace.** *Henry Francis Lyte*

### Introduction

The Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns.

**Let us rejoice and shout for joy,  
giving God the glory.**

Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
**as it was in the beginning is now  
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

*cf Revelation 19.6,7*

### Penitential Rite

We have come to Mount Zion,  
the city of the living God,  
the heavenly Jerusalem,  
to myriads of angels,  
to God, the judge of all,

and to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant.

*Hebrews 12.22-24*

Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith.

Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts;  
the whole earth is full of his glory.  
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Woe is me, for I am lost;  
I am a person of unclean lips.  
Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Our guilt is taken away,  
and our sin is forgiven.  
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

May the God of love and power  
forgive *you* and free *you* from *your* sins,  
heal and strengthen *you* by his Spirit,  
and raise *you* to new life in Christ our Lord. **Amen**

**Gloria for today** beginning with the song of the Angels

**Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to His people on earth.  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
Almighty God and Father,  
we worship You, we give You thanks,  
we praise You for Your glory.  
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
You take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;**

**You are seated at the right hand of the Father:  
receive our prayer.**

**For You alone are the Holy One,  
You alone are the Lord,  
You alone are the Most High,  
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

### **Collect**

Everlasting God, you have ordained and constituted  
the ministries of angels and mortals in a wonderful order:  
grant that as your holy angels always serve you in heaven,  
so, at your command,  
they may help and defend us on earth;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

### **1st Reading: Revelation 12:7-12. (NIV)**

**7** Then war broke out in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. **8** But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven. **9** 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.

**10** 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 night,

has been hurled down.

**11** 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.

**12** 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."

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**Response:**

**Safe in the shadow of the Lord,  
beneath his hand and power,  
I trust in him, I trust in him,  
my fortress and my tower.**

**My hope is set on God alone,  
though Satan spreads his snare,  
I trust in him, I trust in him,  
to keep me in his care.**

**His holy angels keep my feet  
secure from every stone;  
I trust in him, I trust in him,  
and unafraid go on. *Timothy Dudley-Smith Ccli 2643137***

**Gospel Acclamation**

**Alleluia, Alleluia.**

Praise the Lord, you his angels,

you mighty ones who do his bidding,  
who obey his word.

Praise the Lord, all his heavenly hosts,  
you his servants who do his will.

Praise the Lord, all his works  
everywhere in his dominion.

Praise the Lord, O my soul. *Psalm !03*

**Alleluia.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

John 1:47-51 (NIV)

**47** When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said of him,  
“Here truly is an Israelite in whom there is no deceit.”

**48** “How do you know me?” Nathanael asked.

Jesus answered, “I saw you while you were still under the fig  
tree before Philip called you.”

**49** Then Nathanael declared, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God;  
you are the king of Israel.”

**50** Jesus said, “You believe[a] because I told you I saw you  
under the fig tree. You will see greater things than that.” **51** He  
then added, “Very truly I tell you,[b] you[c] will see ‘heaven  
open, and the angels of God ascending and descending  
on’[d] the Son of Man.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon -**

There is a saying that I have used myself “God’s in his  
heaven; all’s right with the world”, ( it’s Robert Browning)

But surely there's more: God is also with us, God is also among us and between us and God is also within us.

Today's feast must first of all draw our attention to heaven - to the presence of God there - transcendent, majestic, glorious, God worshipped by the saints and angels. "...in the midst of the throne, and round about the throne ... they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, LORD God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come." (Rev 4:8)

But this feast also draws our attention to other modes of God's presence - God with us, God among us, God is in us.

God is also among us, between us. As Jesus said, "truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them. [Matthew 18: 19, 20]"

So we can and should then think of God speaking directly to us, out of his love and care for us as individuals.

But God does not always work directly among us: the angels - the mighty ones who do God's bidding - assist in mediating the presence of God with us and amongst us.

Firstly, angels bring messages from God. The very word means "messenger". An angel called to Abraham as he was about to sacrifice his only son, telling him to stop and let Isaac live. An angel informed Zechariah that his wife Elizabeth would at last have a child. An angel appeared to Mary announcing the coming birth of Jesus. An angel told Joseph not to leave Mary, because her child was from the

Holy Spirit. On the first Christmas night, angels proclaimed Jesus' birth to shepherds in the fields. These heavenly beings deliver messages to us directly from God's mouth.

Secondly, angels carry out God's work on earth: The Psalms describe an angel of the Lord driving enemies away or chasing after them (Psalm 35:5,6). Angels minister to Elijah while he's in the wilderness for forty days and nights (1 Kings 19:5). Angels also minister to Jesus in the wilderness after his baptism and testing by the devil.(Matt 4:11) Angels carry out God's earthly work.... judgment or comfort.

Thirdly, angels deliver the people of God from difficult situations. In the exodus, the angel of God travelled in front of Israel's army, until the Egyptians caught up with them, then the angel stood behind the Hebrew people, to keep them safe from attack. When Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were in the fiery furnace the angel of God kept them safe (Daniel 3:28). An angel shut the mouths of the lions when Daniel was in the lions den (Daniel 6:22). And in the book of Acts, apostles are freed from prison by the angel of God ( Acts 5:19, 12:7-15).

Fourthly, angels praise God in heaven. In the book of Revelation John writes:

*All the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, saying: "Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honour and power and strength. be to our God for ever and ever. Amen!" . . .( Rev 9:7)*

And for many of us - texts like these and...

*See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven. (Matt. 18:10)*

*Hebrews 1:14, which notes that angels are “ministering spirits sent out to serve for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation.”*

... Lend to the comforting and widely held belief that God has assigned to each of us, a guardian angel to be close by, to guide or protect.

What do angels look like? Well.... The prophet Isaiah saw God seated on a throne in a temple with “seraphim, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. Daniel writes in Daniel 10:5-6: "I lifted up my eyes and looked, and behold, a man clothed in linen, with a belt of fine gold from Uphaz around his waist. His body was like beryl, his face like the appearance of lightning, his eyes like flaming torches, his arms and legs like the gleam of burnished bronze, and the sound of his words like the sound of a multitude." Angels seem to be very striking in appearance as the typical angelic greeting seems to be "Do not be afraid," (Luke 1:11-13)

But there are examples of angels appearing in human form. The writer of Hebrews tells us, “Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.” (Heb 13:2) Obviously, angels can appear in human form, looking just like the rest of us.

But although angels appear in human form at times, they are not human, and never have been.

Humans too, can undertake the work of God on earth. . . we recognise that - and often, colloquially , in our recognition of their Godly inspiration - we call them “angels”. But we are human - we are not angels and we don’t become angels when we die - though we too can be called by God, inspired by God, sent by God to speak his word, to act in his name. . .

But I think that what we are called to notice today - is that whether God speaks to us, heals us, comforts us directly...

...or whether he commands his angels - to speak to us in his name, to guard and protect us in his name, to comfort us and minister to us in his name...

...or whether he invites another human person to speak his words to us, to help and hold and to comfort and to heal us in his name, to support and encourage and inspire us in his name

- all of these things are examples of the faithful loving care of our almighty and merciful God. We may be thankful to all those who do his bidding - we may hope even expect to experience, to see or bump into heavenly and even human “Angels” from time to time - but the love and the care comes first from God himself - to him be the glory!

**Response.**

**Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,  
casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;**

**cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,  
who wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.**

**Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!  
All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea.  
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!  
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!   *Reginald Heber***

### **Our Declaration of Faith**

Let us declare our faith in God - using the words of the  
Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator 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 to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.   **Amen.****

## **Intercessions:**

In the power of the Spirit, and in union with Christ,  
let us pray to the Father.

Father in heaven,  
by his blood your Christ has ransomed us to you,  
and has made us a kingdom and priests to you our God.  
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.  
Lord, hear us, **Lord, graciously hear us.**

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 neighbours, families and friends.  
Lord, hear us, **Lord, graciously hear us.**

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 and distress.....  
rescue them, heal them, and show them your salvation.  
Lord, hear us, **Lord, graciously hear us.**

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

'Blessed indeed,' says the Spirit,  
'for they may rest from their labours,  
for they take with them the record of their deeds.'  
Enfold in your love all who come in faith  
to your judgement seat in heaven ..... (name)  
Lord, hear us, **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Father in heaven,  
the angels sing by day and night around your throne:  
'Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God almighty.'  
With Michael, prince of the angels,  
who contends by our side,  
with Gabriel, your herald, who brings glad tidings,  
with Raphael, the protector, who ministers your healing,  
and with the whole company of heaven,  
we worship you, we give you glory,  
we sing your praise and exalt you for ever. **Amen.**

**Merciful Father: accept these prayers for the sake of your  
Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Let's pray together the prayer that Jesus taught us.

**Our Father in Heaven, hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and forever. Amen.**

## **Notices and Birthdays**

### **The BLESSING and SENDING**

God bring you to the home  
that Christ prepares for all who love him. **Amen.**

God give you the will to live each day  
in life eternal. **Amen.**

God make you citizens of heaven,  
with the whole company of the redeemed. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.  
**Amen.**

## **Ending**

**Blessing and honour and thanksgiving and praise  
more than we can utter, more than we can even imagine,  
be to you, most holy and glorious Trinity,  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
from all angels, and all people, all creatures  
for ever and ever. Amen**

## **Final acclamation:**

I cannot tell how he, whom angels worship,  
should stoop to love the people of the earth,

or why, as Shepherd, he should seek the wanderer,  
with his mysterious promise of new birth.

**But this I know, that he was born of Mary  
when Bethl'em's manger was his only home,  
and that he lived at Nazareth and laboured,  
and so the Saviour, Saviour of the world, is come.**

I cannot tell how silently he suffered,  
as with his peace he graced this place of tears,  
or how his heart upon the cross was broken,  
the crown of pain to three and thirty years.

**But this I know, he heals the broken-hearted  
and stays our sin and calms our lurking fear  
and lifts the burden from the heavy laden;  
for still the Saviour, Saviour of the world is here.**

I cannot tell how all the lands shall worship,  
when at his bidding every storm is stilled,  
or who can say how great the jubilation  
when every heart with love and joy is filled.

**But this I know, the skies will thrill with rapture,  
and myriad myriad human voices sing,  
and earth to heav'n, and heav'n to earth, will answer,  
'at last the Saviour, Saviour of the world, is King!'**

*W. Y. Fullerton*

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# You Mighty ones who do God's bidding

Psalm 103:20

## Angels

W	I	N	G	S	A	L	S	A	H	U	S	O	T
H	E	A	V	E	N	O	R	S	T	E	U	D	M
T	P	P	M	A	M	E	M	U	G	B	P	U	S
R	S	U	I	C	J	E	E	B	N	L	E	S	R
U	T	C	A	O	R	M	E	J	E	E	R	V	O
M	U	T	I	S	E	I	P	E	R	I	N	S	T
P	D	C	M	W	G	B	S	C	T	R	A	E	C
E	E	R	M	O	L	U	E	T	S	B	T	R	E
T	T	O	O	R	E	R	R	T	R	A	U	V	T
S	A	G	R	D	A	E	A	O	E	G	R	A	O
R	E	M	T	I	H	H	P	G	P	E	A	N	R
E	R	S	A	M	C	C	H	O	U	M	L	T	P
O	C	V	L	L	I	O	I	D	S	P	T	S	P
W	U	U	T	E	M	C	M	P	T	R	O	T	O

MICHAEL  
SERVANTS  
SUPER STRENGTH  
IMMORTAL  
SWORD  
PROTECTORS  
HEAVEN  
SUPERNATURAL  
SUBJECT TO GOD  
GABRIEL  
REJOICE  
WINGS  
SERAPHIM  
TRUMPETS  
CHERUBIM  
CREATED

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# You who worship him day and night

Revelation 7:15



St. Michael