



# ABOUT THE PROPER

*An Explanation of the Variable Parts of the Divine Service*



## St. Michael and All Angels

September 29, 2024



### *The Need for Followership*

Followers of Christ Have Powerful Allies

We live during a time of great trouble. We are surrounded by a host of evil enemies. We are combatants on the battlefield in the middle of a massive spiritual war. Satan and his wicked angels have been thrown out of heaven and have come down to earth in great wrath, with woeful temptations to sin and with constant accusations.

Even so, we are encouraged by the presence and protection of St. Michael and the holy angels, whom God sends to help us in this strife. Today, we thank God that we fight this war with the protection of special forces. Since the fifth century, Christians have observed the Festival of St. Michael and All Angels. We commemorate that God has sent Michael, one of the great archangels described in Scripture, and countless of his fellow angels to protect and serve mankind. Let us rejoice that followers of Christ have powerful allies!

#### **First Reading**                      2 Kings 6:8-17

When the wicked king of Aram sought to capture Elisha, the Lord protected his prophet with a host of angels. As Elisha fulfilled his mission to proclaim the word and will of God, the angels fulfilled their mission by providing Elisha with protection.

#### **Second Reading**                      Revelation 12:7-12

Christ revealed to St. John a picture of a great war. It was between Michael and all his angels and Satan and his. Michael and his angels defeated Satan and his demons. Satan was hurled from heaven to the earth along with his army. There is then rejoicing in heaven.

#### **Gospel**                                      Luke 10:17-20

Christ sent out the seventy-two armed with nothing but the Word of God. Satan fell from heaven when the Spirit worked faith in the hearts of men through the Word. Even though the seventy-two had control over the spiritual world, they were told to rejoice over their spots in heaven. We too are to rejoice that Christ enables us to overcome the work of demons. We rejoice even more that our names are written in heaven.

#### **Psalm of the Day**<sup>4</sup>                      Psalm 91 A                      “The Shadow of the Almighty”

The Church sings Psalm 91 in services that focus on times of crisis, especially temptation or persecution. The lion and the snake (verse 13) are sometimes scriptural references to the devil, and the devil uses this psalm to tempt Jesus (Luke 4:10,11). Martin Luther said, “Psalm 91 is a comfort psalm. It encourages us to trust in God through all distress and difficulties. It is full of rich, comforting promises derived from the First Commandment. It is the second psalm (after Psalm 34) in which the dear angels are proclaimed to be our guardians, which is comforting and good to note.”

#### **Gospel Acclamation**                      Psalm 103:20

“Praise the LORD, you his angels, you mighty ones who do his bidding.” The Psalmist, King David calls on all creation to praise the LORD. This includes the angels, his mighty creatures who obey God’s holy Word and do his bidding as his faithful servants.

## Prayer of the Day

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.

**Hymn of the Day**                      499 “Christ, the Lord of Hosts, Unshaken” (Peter M. Prange, b. 1972)

**Church Year Season** <sup>1</sup>                      Season after Pentecost

After reliving the great events of the life of Christ, the worshipping Church spends half a year focusing on the teachings of Christ. The Church wears green during the season of Pentecost as the Spirit uses those teachings of Jesus to grow the faith of believers. The appointed lessons cover a great body of doctrine for faith and life.

**Colors & Symbolism**                      White

White is the color of our Triune God and heaven. It also symbolizes joy, celebration, gladness, light, purity and innocence. We receive these blessings through faith because Christ, our righteousness Savior, has forgiven all our sins.

**Minor Festival**                              St. Michael and All Angels (September 29)

The archangel Michael is mentioned several times in the book of Daniel, where he is described as the guardian of the Israelites, “the great prince who protects (God’s) people” (Daniel 12:1). In the New Testament he is represented in the epistle of St. Jude as disputing with the devil over the body of Moses (Jude 1:9), and in the Revelation to St. John as fighting against the dragon, “that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray” (Revelation 12:9).

Many congregations during the time of the early church were dedicated in honor of Michael, the only angel besides Gabriel mentioned by name in the Bible. The observance of this festival originated in the fourth century upon the dedication of a Basilica of St. Michael outside of Rome. In the mid-seventeenth century this September 29<sup>th</sup> festival it was renamed “St. Michael and All Angels.”

**Nain Paraments**                              Easter

Superfrontal: Alleluia is taken from a Hebrew word which means, “Praise the LORD.” It is a word of joy and gladness and most commonly used in the Psalms (e.g. 103). An ancient custom is to refrain from using the term during Lent in order to distinguish the penitential nature of that season from the joy and hope filled nature of the Easter season that follows. The vines and vegetation branching out from the *Alleluia* represent the spiritual life that Jesus, the vine brings to God’s children, the branches (John 15:5).

Lectern antependium: The doves flying in front of the cross represent purity, innocence (Matthew 10:16), as well as spiritual and eternal rest (Psalm 55:6). When the dove has an olive branch or leaf in its beak, it is a symbol of hope and peace (Genesis 8:11). Each of these blessings and more come by Jesus’ death on the cross and through the gift of faith (Galatians 1:3,4).

Pulpit antependium: The cross is formed by the Greek letters Chi (X) and Rho (P). Chi and Rho are the first two letters in the Greek word for Christ (Χριστός). This ancient symbol represents Jesus and his office as the Messiah, the anointed King of kings and Savior of the world (Matthew 16:16). The vines and vegetation branching out from the cross represent the spiritual life that Jesus, the vine brings to God’s children, the branches (John 15:5).

<sup>1</sup> Courtesy of “Planning Christian Worship: Year A”. Jonathan E. Schroeder, Author.

<sup>2</sup> Courtesy of “Planning Christian Worship: Year B”. Daniel M. Deutschlandler, Author.

<sup>3</sup> Courtesy of “Planning Christian Worship: Year C”. Joel J. Gawrisch, Author.

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