



ABOUT THE PROPERS

An Explanation of the Variable Parts of the Divine Service



St. Michael and All Angels

September 24, 2023



God Sends His Holy Angels to Guard and Protect His Church

We live in a time of trouble, in the midst of great tribulation; for 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 the strife. By the authority of his Christ, his holy angels guard and keep us in body and soul. These heavenly servants of God preserve his human messengers on earth against all the power of the enemy; for by the word of Christ, the Church is saved, and the devil is defeated.

The Propers

The Propers are those portions of the service that change (i.e. are “proper” to) each Sunday or season of the church year. The Propers differ from the Ordinary (from the Latin ordo, which means “regular order”) portions of the liturgy, which do not change (e.g. the Lord’s Prayer). The Propers offer the variety to the worship service and emphasize particular worship themes throughout the liturgical calendar.

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.

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. 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.

Psalm of the Day Psalm 91 E

“Dwell in God Most High as Shelter.” God continues to watch over us and guard us. In love he sends the angels to deliver us from danger, but more importantly he guards and delivers us from sin and death.

Verse of the Day Psalm 103:20

“Praise the Lord, you his angels, who obey his word.” 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 500 “Lord God, to You We All Give Praise” (Philipp Melanchthon, 1497-1560)

This hymn was written in September of 1543 for the Festival of St. Michael and All Angels. The author is Philipp Melanchthon, one of the early Lutheran reformers.

Church Year Season³ Sundays 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 St. Michael and All Angels: White

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

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 29th 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).

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

² Courtesy of “Planning Christian Worship: Year B”. Daniel M. Deutschlander, Author.

³ Courtesy of “Planning Christian Worship: Year C”. Joel J. Gawrich, Author.

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