

Historic Lessons for the Festival of St. Michael & All Angels
OLD TESTAMENT Genesis 28:10-22 NIV Jacob left Beersheba and set out ...
EPISTLE Revelation 12:7-12 And there was war in heaven. Michael and his...
GOSPEL Matthew 18:1-11 At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked...

Suggested Bible readings for the week of the 18th Sunday after Trinity

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Ezra 4:1-24	Haggai 1:1-15	Ezra 5:1-17	Ezra 6:1-22	Ezra 7:1-28	Ezra 8:31-9:15
James 3:1-18	James 4:1-5:6	James 5:12-20	1 Peter 3:1-7	1 Peter 3:15-22	1 Peter 5:1-5

PRAYER REQUESTS:	Member or Relation	Pray for...
Madeline Beck	(& -older- Sister)	Guidance & comfort
Mary Fowler	(Sharon Williamson's mother)	Healing & comfort
Dee Kurczewski	(& son David)	Providence & release
Jonathan Jumper	(Elaine's grandson)	Healing in youth
Doug Marsh	(Robin Dux' father)	Out of hospital
Mariah&Jon Jr Sawyer	(Jon Sr. & Andrea)	Both teens have strep
Ray Taylor & family	(deceased son Michael)	Continued comfort in loss
George Wendt	(Steve Wendt's brother)	Continued Healing

Volunteers	Today	Next Sunday
Greeters	John & Orpha Weber	Mary Lou Knigge
Ushers	Leroy Dux	Paul Koehler
Treats	June & Ethel	Mary Lou Knigge

COFFEE will be served in the Fellowship Hall following the service. Everyone is invited to stay! We thank our volunteers for serving today. We are IN NEED OF SERVERS for future Sundays. If you can help, PLEASE SIGN UP. **Thanks!**

Statistics	Last week	Year to date (Avg)
Worship, Communion Attendance	24, --	31, 24
Bible Class: Thursday, Sunday	9, 11	8, 11
Sunday Offering	\$922.00	(YTD) \$53,297.90

Calendar of Events		
Sunday, 9/29	8:30 am 9:30 am 11:00 ff... 6:00 pm	Bible Study: 1 Kings 3 Wise Solomon Divine Worship (W/ Communion) "FFF" = Food, Fun & Fellowship ...Stay! Pastor flies (from TPA) to MN for GPC
Wednesday 10/2	7:00 pm	Fellowship Choir at church
Thursday, 10/3	6:30 pm	Bible Study at Madeline Beck's
Saturday, 10/5	1:00 pm	Catechism: Prescott, Jon & Mariah
Sunday, 10/6	8:30 am 9:30 am 11:00 ff...	Bible Study Divine Worship (W/ Communion) Fellowship time: <i>Treats and Drinks</i>

Our (Savior) Elders are: **Leroy Dux 940-3237; Jim Vanesky 644-7807; John Weber 853-5458 & Don Wienke 863-815-8892.** Please contact them.
 Next Sunday: **10/6 ✳ Trinity-19 (L.S. p.15) Hymns: 233, 318, 644, 315, 581**



Our Savior Lutheran Church  Lakeland, FL USA
 (18th Sunday of Trinity) **St. Michael & All Angels Day**
 September 29th 2013 9:30am  "Michaelmas"



Bild von Georg Witzel in Leipzig.

Bild von Witzel und Witzel in Leipzig.

Der Sieg Michaels über den Drachen.

Und es ward ausgeworfen der große Drache, die alte Schlange, die da heißt der Teufel und Satanas, der die ganze Welt verführt, und ward geworfen auf die Erde, und seine Engel wurden auch dahin geworfen.

Offenbarung Johannis, Cap. 12, v. 9.

Julius Schnorr von Carolsfeld's (1794-1872) depiction of **Michael** and an army of **Angels** casting the dragon **Satan** from heaven.

OSL OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH OSL

www.EvangelicalLutheranSynod.org

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Phone: (863) 859-3400 ~ Web: www.osllakeland.org

BIBLE CLASS 8:30 AM WORSHIP 9:30 AM FELLOWSHIP 10:45 AM

Rev. A.R. Burmeister 430-5859 ✕ Organ: Janice Thomas (813) 650-9198

September 29, 2013 (Trinity-18) † ALL ANGELS †

WELCOME to Our Savior! We are so happy to have you worship with us today. If you are visiting us for the first time (or in a long time), we ask that that you please fill out a visitor card found in the pew cardholder and place it in the offering plate. Come and worship with us again! **God bless you.**

TODAY WE CELEBRATE THE LORD'S SUPPER: If you are new to the area and have never communed with us before, please speak with the pastor before the service. If you are not currently a member of an ELS or WELS congregation, we ask that you please **wait to take communion until you can speak with our pastor.** Out of Christian love and consideration to you the guest, we want you to have the opportunity to learn what our church teaches about the Bible and Sacraments before you unite with us in taking Holy Communion. Thank you.

OUR ORDER OF WORSHIP

Is printed in this service folder or is in the hymnal starting at **page 15.**

Service		
Opening Hymn	289 (4v)	The Law Commands and Makes Us
Angel Hymn/s	475 246 212	Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones, 2, 3
Angel Hymn/s	254 254 413	Lord God, We All to Thee Give, 5, 6
Angel Hymn/s	653 648 574	Now the Light Has Gone Away, 8, 9
Communion Hymn	429 (3v)	Lord, Thee I Love With All My Heart
Closing Hymn	288 (4v)	Lord Help Us Ever to Retain

PROPERs for the FEAST of St. MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS † SEPTEMBER 29

INTROIT: Bless the Lord, you His angels, who excel in strength and do His Word. Bless the Lord, all you His hosts, who heed the voice of His Word. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His holy Name. ...Psalm 103

COLLECT: O everlasting God, You have ordained and constituted the services of angels and men in a wonderful order, mercifully grant that, as Your holy angels always serve You in heaven, so by Your appointment they may also help and defend us here on earth; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever. **C: † A-men.**

GRADUAL: God has given His angels charge over you to keep you in all your ways. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is in me, bless His holy Name. Alleluia! Alleluia! And one cried to another and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of hosts, the whole earth is full of His glory. Alleluia! (148)

SCRIPTURE LESSONS: (printed on outside back page 11 of the bulletin)

Genesis 28:10-22 Jacob sees Angels ascending a "stairway to heaven."
Revelation 12:7-12 St.Michael & Angels throw Satan out of heaven.
Matthew 18:1-11 Angels protect All God's children: small and large.



III. Service of Holy Communion TLH, p.24 PREFACE



P: † The Lord be with you. **C: † And- with thy- spirit.**
P: † Lift up your hearts. **C: † We lift them up unto the Lord.**
P: † Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **C: † It is meet and right so to do.**

The PROPER PREFACE and SANCTUS (Holy, Holy, Holy)

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary, ... evermore praising you and saying:
C: † Ho- -ly, ho- -ly, ho-ly, Lord God of Sab-a-oth;
Heav'n and earth are full of Your glory.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the high-est.
Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is He who comes- in the Name of the Lord. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the high-est.

The LORD'S PRAYER *P: Our Father, Who art in heaven, ... deliver us from evil;*
C: † For Thine is the Kingdom and the Power and the Glory forever and ever. A- -men.

The WORDS of INSTITUTION (Pastor gives the Words of Institution)

P: † Our Lord Jesus Christ, the same night in which He was betrayed, took bread; ... This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.

The PAX DOMINI (Peace of the Lord)

P: † The peace of the Lord be with you always. **C: † A- -men.**

The AGNUS DEI (Lamb of God)

C: † O- Christ, Thou Lamb of God, That takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. O- Christ, Thou Lamb of God, That takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. O- Christ, Thou Lamb of God, That takest away the sin of the world, grant us Your peace. A-men.

DISTRIBUTION. Communicant members of Our Savior please come forward.

(After Distribution...) **NUNC DIMITTIS (Lord, let us Now Depart)**

C: † Lord, now- lettest Thou Thy servant depart- in- peace, according to Thy Word. For mine- eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared- be-fore the face of all people, a Light- to light-en the Gentiles, and the Glo-ry of Thy people of Is- -rael. Glory- be to the Father and to- the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it- was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall- be, world without end. A-men.

COLLECT of THANKSGIVING *P: † O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good.*

C: † And His mercy endures for-ev-er. P: (after the Prayer) C: † A- -men.

The SALUTATION *P: † The Lord be with you.* **C: † And with thy spir-it.**

The BENEDICAMUS *P: † Let us bless the Lord.* **C: † Thanks- be to God.**

The BENEDICTION *P: † The Lord bless you and keep you, The Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you, The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give ✕ you peace.*

C: † A-men, A-men, A- -men.

CLOSING HYMN Lord Help Us Ever to Retain #288 (4v) HERR JESU CHRIST

SILENT PRAYER. (CANDLES OUT) ✕ p.10 ✕ ANNOUNCEMENTS; FELLOWSHIP.

ANGELS-9: The Angel Host will accompany Christ on the Last Day

The holy angels serve us one last time, when Jesus returns in glory. The Bible says: *"The voice of the archangel"* will announce His coming. Jesus said *"all the holy angels"* will be with Him. On the Last Day, it says, *"All the nations will be gathered before Him."* Who does this? The angels. Jesus raises the dead, and the angels bring them before Him.

The holy angels will be a terrifying sight to the unbelievers. Jesus said that He *"will send out His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness ... The angels will come forth, separate the wicked from among the just, and cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."*

But the holy angels will be a comforting sight to every Christian. After all, they are our angels, whom God gives to His little ones, His Christians. Jesus said that He *"will send His angels, and gather together His elect from the four winds, from the farthest part of earth to the farthest part of heaven."* The believers will hear Jesus say to them: *"Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world."*

What a happy day for **all the saints** and **all the angels**. The angels no longer will be required to protect us – we'll no longer need their protection. We'll join their everlasting worship of Christ in His kingdom that has no end.

HYMN-9: **Come, Ye Thankful People, Come #574; Sing only verse 4**

**4. Even so, Lord, quickly come - To Thy final Harvest-home;
Gather Thou Thy people in, - Free from sorrow, free from sin,
There, forever purified, - In Thy garner to abide.**

COME WITH ALL THINE ANGELS, COME, - RAISE THE GLORIOUS HARVEST-HOME.

NICENE CREED *(Confession of Faith)*

All say together:

C: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible;

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried; and the Third Day He rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the Right Hand of the Father; and He shall come again with glory, to judge both the quick and the dead; whose Kingdom shall have no end

And I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord, and Giver of Life, Who proceedeth from the Father and the Son; Who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; who spake by the Prophets. And I believe one holy Christian and Apostolic Church; I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins; and I look for the Resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.



I. The Service of Preparation TLH p.15



WELCOME ALL ✕ (TRINITY-18) SEP.29 = **St. Michael and All Angels Day**

OPENING HYMN *The Law Commands & Makes Us Know #289 (4v) OLD 100TH*

The INVOCATION (Congregation please rise.)

P: ♪ In the Name of the Father, and of the Son ✕ and of the Holy Spirit. C: ♪ A- -men.

The CONFESSION OF SINS

P: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking Him in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness. ♪ Our help is in the Name of the Lord.

C: ♪ Who made heaven and earth.

P: ♪ I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord.

C: ♪ And Thou forgavest the iniquity of- my- sin.

C: O Almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor, miserable sinner confess unto Thee all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended Thee and justly deserve Thy temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them, and sincerely repent of them, and I pray Thee of Thy boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Thy beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor sinful being.

P: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the Name of the Father and of the Son ✕ and of the Holy Spirit.

C: ♪ A- -men.

The INTROIT *(Entrance)*

P: Bless the Lord, you His angels, who excel in strength and do His Word. Bless the Lord, all you His hosts, who heed the voice of His Word. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His holy Name.

The GLORIA PATRI *(Glory be to God)*

C: ♪ Glory- be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning; is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

KYRIE ELEISON *(Lord Have Mercy)*

C: ♪ Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

The GLORIA IN EXCELSIS *(Glory in the Highest) Today, we sing:*

GLORIA VERSE: A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing #212; Sing verse 1

**1. A Hymn of glory let us sing: New songs throughout the world shall ring:
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Christ, by a road before untrod, Ascendeth to the throne of God.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

SALUTATION *(Greeting) P: ♪ The Lord be with you. C: ♪ And with thy spir-it.*

COLLECT *(Prayer for This Day) C: (sung after the Collect) ♪ A- -men.*



II. *Special Service of The Word* (printed here)

September 29 is **St. Michael and All Angels' Day**. Today then we devote to learning what the Bible says about God's **holy angels**.

ANGELS-1: The Creation of angels, and their various titles or ranks

The first question is: How did the angels come into being? God created them. They're part of His creation. God created all things "visible and invisible." The angels are in the "invisible" part of God's creation. We can't see them. So, the only things we can know about them are revealed to us in the Bible. That includes their beginning.

God made the angels during the 6 days of creation. The Old Testament says the angels "shouted for joy" when God "laid the earth's cornerstone." The New Testament says Christ created "all things visible and invisible," then it names the angels as part of the invisible creation. Everything God made was "very good." But in **Revelation 12** it says certain angels, led by Satan, rebelled against God. That's when these angels became "evil angels." Then God cast them out of heaven, and He made hell for them. Now those evil angels will always be evil angels, belonging to hell and their Prince, the chief devil, Satan. Likewise, the holy angels will always be holy: the heavenly host.

The Bible gives the holy angels **titles**, and divides them into **ranks**. It says Christ is seated "far above all principality and power and might and dominion" – titles for various ranks of angels. Another verse mentions "thrones, dominions, principalities, powers." These names refer to the great strength of the angels.

The Bible mentions some angels **by name**. For instance, the "archangel" **Michael** leads the heavenly host against Satan and the evil angels. The angel **Gabriel** did important things like explaining visions to Daniel, announcing the birth of John the Baptist, and announcing to the virgin Mary that she was giving birth to the Savior.

Also, we're able to know a little more about certain ranks of angels: There are "**cherubim**." They guarded the way to the Garden of Eden, which shows their great power. Also there are "**seraphim**," angels with six wings whom we read about in **Isaiah 6**, where they were singing "Holy, holy, holy" around the Lord's throne. In the following hymn, we recognize that these ranks of angels praise God in heaven, and also that all Christians in heaven are just as glorious as the angels.

HYMN-1: Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones #475; Sing verses 1 & 2

1. Ye watcher and ye holy ones,	2. O higher than the cherubim,
Bright seraphs, cherubim, and thrones,	More glorious than the seraphim,
Raise the glad strain, Alleluia!	Lead their praises, Alleluia!
Cry out, dominions, principedoms, pow'rs,	Thou bearer of th'eternal Word,
Virtues, archangels, angels' choirs,	Most gracious, magnify the Lord,
Allelu-ia! Allelu-ia!	Allelu-ia! Allelu-ia!
Allelu-ia! Allelu-ia! Allelu--ia!	ALLELU-IA! ALLELU-IA! ALLELU--IA!

But in that moment, God sends guardian angels to be that child's great, powerful friends. How comforting! It's another reason to bring them to baptism right away.

Every boy and girl should know angels are protecting them, just as baby Moses was kept from harm when his mother had to set him adrift in a little basket. All Christian parents who worry about their children's welfare should know that angels are protecting them. Martin Luther said: "If it were not for the protection of the dear angels, no child would grow to full age, even if the parents took all possible care."

The holy angels also protect us when we sleep. **Psalm 121** says: "He who keeps you will not slumber. Behold, He who keeps Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep."

How does God do this? One way is through our guardian angels. Parents watch the night-time breathing of their babies, wanting them to be safe while they sleep. Adults pray for a quiet sleep, and to make it safely through the night. But our angels will protect us best. Both in the morning and at night-time, we Lutherans have learned to pray: "Let Your holy angel be with me, that the wicked foe may have no power over me."

HYMN-7: Now the Light Has Gone Away #653; Sing verses 1 & 3

1. Now the light has gone away;	3. Let my near and dear ones be
Father, listen while I pray,	Always near and dear to Thee.
Asking Thee to watch and keep	Oh, bring me and all I love
And to send me quiet sleep.	To Thy happy home above.

ANGELS-8: Angels accompany and Welcome souls to Heaven

The holy angels are always the Christian's companions. This is true even at the moment of death. A Christian never dies alone. We know this from **Luke 16**, in Jesus' words about the death of a poor man named Lazarus. "The beggar died, and was carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom," Jesus said. We sing about this in a hymn: "Lord, let at last Your angels come, To Abram's bosom bear me home, That I may die unfearing."

This is what the old spiritual, "**Michael**, row your boat ashore," describes. It pictures the **archangel Michael** leading each Christian soul to the harbor of heaven. The holy angels are present to see the Christian's soul safely to heaven. A Christian's departure is even more glorious than Elijah's journey to heaven in a chariot! The holy angels bear the soul up to heaven, where it is welcomed by all the heavenly host, all saints and all angels. Think of the glorious welcome each Christian soul receives from all the holy angels! This is what we sing about next.

HYMN-8: I Am Jesus' Little Lamb #648; Sing only verse 3

**3. Who so happy as I am, - Even now the Shepherd's lamb?
And when my short life is ended, - By His angel host attended,
He shall fold me to His breast, - There within His arms to rest.**

(Hymn 254 verse) **8. For this, now and in days to be,
Our praise shall rise, O Lord, to Thee,
Whom all the Angel hosts adore
With grateful songs forevermore.**

ANGELS-6: The Angels' Guardianship of Christians

The holy angels serve God on earth by protecting Christians.

Jesus said: "Take heed that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that in heaven their angels always see the face of My Father who is in heaven." The angels belong to Jesus' "little ones"; they are "their angels." You belong to Jesus, you're baptized and believe in Him, and He gives angels to protect you.

This Bible verse from **Hebrews 1** reveals that the holy angels protect you, a child of God by faith in Jesus Christ. It's another of Christ's benefits!

Hebrews 1:14: *Are [the angels] not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?*

The next Bible verse is very comforting, because it teaches that the holy angels are stronger than the devil and all his evil angels. It says they never fail to guard and deliver you from evil. What a great promise! (These are good verses to commit to memory - learn by heart!)

Psalms 91:9-12: *Because you have made the Lord, who is my refuge, even the Most High, your dwelling place, no evil shall befall you, nor shall any plague come near your dwelling; for He shall give His angels charge over you, to keep you in all your ways. In their hands they will bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone.*

HYMN-6: I Walk in Danger All the Way #413; Sing only verse 4

**4. I walk with Angels all the way,
They shield me and befriend me;
All Satan's pow'r is held at bay
When heav'nly hosts attend me;
They are my sure defense,
All fear and sorrow, hence!
Unharm'd by foes, do what they may,
I walk with Angels all the way.**

ANGELS-7: Angels also guard our children, and guard us when we sleep.

All Christians are God's "little ones." But Jesus actually set a child among the disciples when He said angels belong to His "little ones," that they are "their angels." ... When infants are baptized and receive faith in Jesus, they receive angels to protect them too. A baby who receives saving faith in baptism in that moment receives the devil and all the hordes of hell as his/her enemies. How frightening!

ANGELS-2: The Angels' Adoration of God

The first reason for the angels' existence is to glorify and worship God. This reminds us of the first reason for our existence too.

Isaiah 6:1-3 shows that the main feature of the angels' worship of God is humility; in this they are examples for us: "*I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple. Above it stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one cried to another and said: Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory!*"

Another important passage is in **Revelation 4**. It shows "four living creatures" who are six-winged angels – seraphim. Their worship around the throne is never-ending. This is how we will worship Him in heaven, adoring Him all the time. It says: "*Before the throne there was a sea of glass, like crystal. And in the midst of the throne, and around the throne, were four living creatures full of eyes in front and in back. ... The four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within. And they do not rest day or night, saying: 'Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!' (Rev. 4:6, 8)*

HYMN-2: Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God... #246; Sing verses 2 & 4

2. Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore Thee Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea; Cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee Which wert and art and evermore shall be.	4. 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!
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ANGELS-3: Angels in the Story of Salvation

Christ is "the Lord of hosts" and "the King of angels," but He isn't one of them; He is their King, their God. He's above them. A favorite hymn says: "Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer, than all the angels in the sky." **Hebrews 1** says He is, "*much better than the angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they. For to which of the angels did [God] ever say: 'You are My Son, Today I have begotten You'? ... To which of the angels has He ever said: 'Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool?'*"

But the holy angels do not resent Christ's exalted position, like the evil angels did. Because they live to glorify God, they glorify Christ and His work as the Savior. **The angels rejoice the most about the salvation of each sinner.**

In **Luke 15**, Jesus says: "*There is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.*" Also, in **1 Peter** it says the preaching of the Gospel contains "*things which angels desire to look into.*" This is why we sing: "*Crown Him the Lord of love. Behold His hands and side, Rich wounds, yet visible above, in beauty glorified. No angel in the sky Can fully bear that sight, But downward bends his wond'ring eye At mysteries so bright.*"

The following verse from **2 Peter** says the evil behaviour of false teachers is much different than how the angels love Christians: *“Angels, who are greater in power and might, do not bring a reviling accusation against them before the Lord.”*

*Think of what the holy angels love in us! They love **our faith** and **our salvation**. They show us what we should love most in each other.*

The angels show this in how obediently they participated in the history of our salvation, in the life of Christ. First, they often protected the people of Israel from whose line the Savior was born, especially on the night of the Passover: the angel of death “passed over” the Israelites’ houses but killed the Egyptians’ first-born. Also, the angel Gabriel announced the incarnation of Christ. During His life, angels appeared with Him: to strengthen Jesus after He was tempted in the wilderness, and to comfort Him when He suffered in Gethsemane. Jesus said that *“more than 12 legions of angels”* stood ready to keep Him from death, but Jesus’ will held them back.

But most important, they were **“herald angels,” messengers**. The word, “Angel” means “messenger.” Angels were the messengers of the Gospel at **three great events** in the history of our salvation: Jesus’ **Birth**, **Resurrection**, and His **Ascension**.

Reading:	Luke 2:8-15	1. Jesus’ Birth...
C: ♪ HYMN:	A Great and Mighty Wonder TLH 76: v.2-3	
	2. The Word becomes incarnate 3. While thus they sing your Monarch,	
Reading:	Matthew 28:1-7	2. Jesus’ Resurrection...
C: ♪ HYMN:	Ye Sons and Daughters of the King TLH 208: v.1-3	
	1. Ye sons and daughters of the King, 2. On that first morning of the week,	
	3. <i>An angel</i> bade their sorrow flee,	
Reading:	Acts 1:9-11	1. Jesus’ Ascension.

HYMN-3: A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing #212; Sing verses 2 & 3

2. The holy apostolic band	3. To whom the angels, drawing nigh,
Upon the Mount of Olives stand;	“Why stand and gaze upon the sky?
Alleluia! Alleluia!	Alleluia! Alleluia!
And with His followers they see	This is the Savior!” thus They say;
Jesus’ resplendent majesty.	“This is His noble triumph-Day.”
Allelu-ia! Allelu-ia!	Allelu-ia! Allelu-ia!
Allelu-ia! Allelu-ia! Allelu--ia!	ALLELU-IA! ALLELU-IA! ALLELU--IA!

ANGELS-4: The Angels’ Service in Heaven

The holy angels continually see God “face to face.” In **Matthew 18** (the **Gospel** reading for this day), Jesus says: “I say to you that in heaven the little ones’ angels always see the face of My Father who is in heaven.”

The holy angels always stand in the presence of God and see Him face to face, as each Christian will in heaven. In a dream God showed Jacob that angels were *“ascending and descending”* on a ladder that *“reached to heaven.”*

(Today’s Old Testament reading). The angel Gabriel said to Zechariah: *“I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God.”*

While they are seeing God, the angels worship Him. In the book of Revelation, St. John wants to worship a mighty angel, but the angel says: *“See that you do not do that! I am your fellow servant. Worship God!”* In the communion service we believe that we share this worship of Christ *“with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven.”*

Philip Melancthon, the chief co-worker with **Martin Luther** during the Reformation, wrote this hymn about the angels. We will sing 6 verses from this great hymn. The first 3 verses teach about the angels’ service of worship to God in heaven.

HYMN-4: Lord God, We All to Thee Give Praise #254; Sing verses 1-3

1. Lord God, we all to Thee give praise,	2. They shine with light and heav’nly grace,
Thanksgivings meet to Thee we raise	And constantly behold Thy face;
That angel hosts Thou didst create	They heed Thy voice, they know it well,
Around Thy glorious throne to wait.	In godly wisdom they excel.

3. They never rest, nor sleep, as we;
Their whole delight is but to be
With Thee, Lord Jesus, and to keep
Thy little flock, Thy lambs and sheep.

ANGELS-5: The Need for Angels’ Service On Earth

The world is a dangerous place, not first because evil people are here, but because the devil is here. He *“walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.”* He can’t defeat Christ: who “lives, yea, He lives, and will nevermore die.” So he tries to take us away from Christ and into his own kingdom. In **Revelation 12** (the **Epistle** for this day) a voice from heaven says: “Woe to the inhabitants of the earth ... for the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time.”

The history of the Christian Church shows the attacks on Christians - on Lot, Daniel, and Peter, for instance. But the Bible says that angels “brought Lot out” of Sodom and Gomorrah to safety, and “God sent His angel and shut the lion’s mouths” so Daniel was not hurt, and “the Lord sent His angel” to rescue Peter from imprisonment.

Especially in these last days, every Christian needs the protection of the holy angels. This is what 3 more verses from Melancthon’s hymn teach us.

HYMN-5: Lord God, We All to Thee Give Praise #254; Sing verses 4,7-8

4. The ancient Dragon is their foe	7. But watchful is the angel band
His envy and his wrath they know.	That follows Christ on ev’ry hand
It always is his aim and pride	To guard His people where they go
Thy Christian people to divide.	And break the counsel of the foe.