

## FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH OF TEMPLE CITY

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## ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS

Angels All Around

September 29, 2019



### AS WE GATHER

The reality of an all-encompassing cosmic conflict is not a concept that may often cross our minds. Yet in both the Old and New Testaments, the battle between good and evil, between God and His forces, and Satan and his allies is a prominent theme. On the day of St. Michael and All Angels, we reflect on that mighty battle and its combatants. We become part of the action and realize anew how costly the victory has been for Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God, who is worthy to receive our endless praise. The holy angels have been and continue to be God's agents, surrounding us and ceaselessly working on our behalf!

### ✠ PREPARATION ✠

#### INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit

People: **Amen.**

#### OPENING SENTENCES

*Luke 10:17–20; Psalm 104:31, 33–34*

Pastor: The seventy-two returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name!" And He said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you. Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven."

People: **May the glory of the LORD endure forever; may the LORD rejoice in His works, I will sing to the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have being. May my meditation be pleasing to Him, for I rejoice in the LORD.**

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us confess our sins to God, our gracious Father.  
People: **Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, maker of all things, judge of all people, we humbly confess our sins to You. We are by nature sinful and unclean. We have not followed Your law in our thinking, speaking, or doing. We have followed our own ways and have not obeyed Your commands. We repent of our transgressions and ask Your forgiveness. Renew us by the power of Your Holy Spirit that we may cast aside the works of darkness and live as Your faithful people who walk in the light of Christ.**

Pastor: In His mercy, God has promised to hear our confession and to respond with forgiveness and love. As a called and ordained servant 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. Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; He will surely do it. Be at peace.

People: **Amen.**

**HYMN** "Christ, the Lord of Hosts, Unshaken" Hymnal 521

**PRAYER** *Luther's Morning Prayer* Hymnal 327

People: **I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.**

✠ **WORD** ✠

**INTROIT** *Psalm 103:20–22, antiphon: v. 1*

People: **Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His holy name!**

Women: *Bless the LORD, O you His angels, you mighty ones who do His word, obeying the voice of His word!*

Men: *Bless the LORD, all His hosts, His ministers, who do His will!*

People: **Bless the LORD, all His works, in all places of His dominion. Bless the LORD, O my soul!**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

**Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His holy name!**

**THEME SEQUENCE: MEETING THE ANGELS**

*Part 1: Michael and*

*Uriel*

Pastor: This day in the life of the Church is focused on the divinely ordained work of the angels and archangels. Although there are countless angels at work in the service of God, few are known to us by name. The archangel Michael is one of two who are specifically named in both the Old and the New Testaments. Michael's name means "who is like God." Michael is given the greatest of assignments in striving on behalf of God's people and commanding the legion of heavenly beings.

**Reader:** The Old Testament Book of Daniel identifies Michael as the protector of God’s people, and the New Testament Book of Jude tells of Michael contending with the devil himself. In Revelation, there is a vision to John that shows Michael leading armies of heaven to a great final victory over Satan and the forces of evil and darkness. Paul writes that at the Day of the Lord, heralding the end of time, “the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God.” That archangel may well be Michael, whose day we now celebrate together.

**Pastor:** The name of the angel Uriel comes not from the Bible but from other religious works written in Bible times. Uriel is associated with the forces of nature that reveal the power of God at work. The author of Hebrews reflects the words of Psalm 104 this way: “Of the angels he says, ‘He makes His angels winds, and His ministers a flame of fire.’” The name Uriel means “fire of God” in Hebrew. The angel Uriel has traditionally been associated with the angel that God placed at the gate of the Garden of Eden with the flaming sword, guarding the way to the tree of life. God places angels in important places as His special agents and servants.

**Reader:** The message of angels may come to people in many ways, including through dreams and visions. By tradition, it was Uriel who echoed God’s message of warning to Noah about the coming flood and saved him and his family from the deluge that followed. God uses angels for His people in every age. In the sixteenth century, Philip Melancthon, noted reformer and close friend of Martin Luther, wrote a text about the work of angels that became a well-loved hymn in Lutheran churches. Together we sing “Lord God, to Thee We Give All Praise.”

## **HYMN OF PRAISE** “Lord God, to Thee We Give All Praise”

Hymnal

522

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### **SALUTATION**

**Pastor:** The Lord be with you.

**People:** **And also with you.**

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**Pastor:** Let us pray.

Everlasting God, You have ordained and constituted the service of angels and men in a wonderful order. Mercifully grant that, as Your holy angels always serve and worship You in heaven, so by Your appointment they may also 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.

**People:** **Amen.**

### **OLD TESTAMENT READING**

*Daniel 10:10–14; 12:1–3*

(The Book of Life contains the names of the faithful whom God will deliver.)

<sup>10</sup> And behold, a hand touched me and set me trembling on my hands and knees. <sup>11</sup> And he said to me, “O Daniel, man greatly loved, understand the words that I speak to you, and stand upright, for now I have been sent to you.” And when he had spoken this word to me, I stood up trembling. <sup>12</sup> Then he said to me, “Fear not, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand and humbled yourself before your God, your words have been heard, and I have come because of your words. <sup>13</sup> The prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days, but Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I was left there with

the kings of Persia, <sup>14</sup> and came to make you understand what is to happen to your people in the latter days. For the vision is for days yet to come.”

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12:1 “At that time shall arise Michael, the great prince who has charge of your people. And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never has been since there was a nation till that time. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone whose name shall be found written in the book. <sup>2</sup> And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. <sup>3</sup> And those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky above; and those who turn many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## EPISTLE

*Revelation 12:7–12*

(The greatest war in heaven is won by Michael and the angel army.)

<sup>7</sup> Now war arose in heaven, Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon. And the dragon and his angels fought back, <sup>8</sup> but he was defeated, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. <sup>9</sup> And 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. <sup>10</sup> And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, “Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God. <sup>11</sup> And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death.

<sup>12</sup> Therefore, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to you, O earth and sea, for the devil has come down to you in great wrath, because he knows that his time is short!”

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

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## THEME SEQUENCE: MEETING THE ANGELS

*Part 2: Gabriel and*

*Raphael*

Pastor: In a lovely hymn of the Advent season, one of God’s special messengers takes center stage. The words of the Basque carol proclaim: “The angel Gabriel from heaven came, with wings as drifted snow, with eyes as flame.” Gabriel is mentioned by name in the Book of Daniel in the Old Testament and again by Luke in the New Testament. Gabriel’s name means “strong one of God,” which is appropriate. Gabriel brings strong messages from God. The message from Gabriel to Daniel was the assurance that God’s Anointed One would be coming to His people. And to the Virgin Mary, Gabriel announced the greatest of all news—that she would be the mother of Jesus, the Savior, and delivered the news of John, who would prepare His way.

Reader: In one of his sermons, Martin Luther comments on our relationship with the angels, saying, “Christ is our Brother, and we are His fellow heirs. And the dear angels, such as Michael and Gabriel, are not to be our masters but our brothers and servants; for they also call God their Father, just as we do. This is a grand and overpowering thought!” (*Luther’s Works* 22:88). That angels have the call to serve as God directs is reflected in the account of the temptation of Jesus in the wilderness. There we read that when He had completed that time of testing, “angels came and were ministering to Him.” The ministry of angels continues among us according to God’s good and gracious will!

century. Together we sing “Stars of the Morning, So Gloriously Bright.”

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Pastor: St. Raphael is a name sometimes associated with Christian hospitals and care facilities. It is not reflective of a human person, but rather it comes from the name of Raphael, an angel who appears in biblical literature from before the time of Christ, including the apocryphal book of Tobit. In this singular book, the story of Tobit, his son Tobias, and Raphael, who turns out to be a guardian angel, is charmingly told. Regarding the book, Martin Luther wrote: “This book is useful and good for us Christians to read. It is the work of a fine Hebrew author who deals not with trivial but important issues, and whose writing and concerns are extraordinarily Christian” (*Luther’s Works* 35:347). The name of Raphael means “God’s healer,” and the ministry of Raphael often is recalled by people who have been delivered from challenging situations in their lives. The psalmist tells us that God “will command His angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways.” Raphael works as God directs—which is good news for us!

Reader: The work of angels on earth is as important as their work in heaven, where they surround the throne of God and fill the courts of heaven with praise. Revelation is filled with visions of the angels. John writes: “Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice, ‘Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!’” (Revelation 5:11–12). Not only do the angels praise the Lord, but all creatures join in the praise as well. That great heavenly vision is shared by an early hymn text, written by Joseph the Hymnographer in the ninth

**HYMN** “Stars of the Morning, So Gloriously Bright” Hymnal 520

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**HOLY GOSPEL**

*Matthew 16:1–10*

(“Their angels always see the face of My Father.”)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eighteenth chapter.

**People: Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, “Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?” <sup>2</sup> And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them <sup>3</sup> and said, “Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. <sup>4</sup> Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. <sup>5</sup> “Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, <sup>6</sup> but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea. <sup>7</sup> “Woe to the world for temptations to sin! For it is necessary that temptations come, but woe to the one by whom the temptation comes! <sup>8</sup> And if your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life crippled or lame than with two hands or two feet to be thrown into the eternal fire. <sup>9</sup> And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into the hell of fire. <sup>10</sup> “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.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Praise to You, O Christ.**

**HYMN OF THE DAY** "Holy God, We Praise Thy Name"

Hymnal

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**SERMON**

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**CREED** *Apostles' Creed*

**People:** I believe in one God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth

And 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 into hell.  
The third day He rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty,  
From thence He will come to judge the living and  
the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life ☩ everlasting. Amen.

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

**Pastor:** Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for  
all people according to their needs.

Lord of all creation, we thank You for the ministry of the blessed  
angels, who are called to do Your work among us. Help us  
realize as we deal with people in our daily lives that sometimes  
we are entertaining angels unawares, and help us to seek to be  
healers and bringers of joy as Your angels are among us. Lord,  
in Your mercy,

**People:** hear our prayer.

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**Pastor:** Lord of all creatures, we pray for the world in which we live.  
Grant us what is needful in our lives, while instilling within us a  
sense of charity and a willingness to share what we have been  
given with those who are in need. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People:** hear our prayer.

**Pastor:** Lord of time and eternity, we ask that the protection of Your  
holy angels be with those whose labor is challenging or  
dangerous and with those who are bringing the good news of  
salvation in Jesus to the far corners of the world. Lord, in Your  
mercy,

**People:** hear our prayer.

**Pastor:** Lord of mercy and care, we pray for those with special needs  
and concerns this day, especially the hospitalized, the grieving,  
the unemployed, the shut-ins, and all others for whom our  
petitions are desired. Enable us to encourage, uphold, and  
strengthen those around us in Your name. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People:** hear our prayer

**Pastor:** As we bring our petitions, Lord, we remember all who have  
departed this life and now with angels and archangels are  
rejoicing in the glory of Your promised heavenly kingdom. Direct  
our ways on earth that we complete this life in faith and at last  
rejoice together with them in Your presence. Lord, in Your  
mercy,

**People:** hear our prayer.

Pastor: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray,  
trusting in Your mercy through Jesus Christ, our Lord and  
Savior.

**People: Amen.**

## OFFERING

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## OFFERTORY

**HYMN** "We Give Thee But Thine Own" Hymnal 781

**HYMN** "Lamb of God" Hymnal 550

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

*Numbers*

*6:24–26*

**People: Amen.**

**HYMN** "Come, Let Us Join Our Cheerful Songs" Hymnal 812

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Pastoral Care:

Please contact

Pastor Kenneth Frese (310) 398-3741, or  
Jo Tschopp at (626) 355-9433.

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## BLESSED TO BE SERVING TODAY

Pastor: Reverend Dr. Graeme Rosenau  
Missionary: Janet Borchard, Lutheran Bible Translators  
Greeter: Jo Tschopp  
Reader: Jo Tschopp  
Musician: Christine Geltz  
Ushers: Craig Boehne, Donald Lammerts, & Dave Lassanske

## PRAYERS OF CARE & CONCERN FOR OUR FLC FAMILY

Margaret Bradfute that her treatments will improve her health.  
Debbie Morrow – Praise God the cancer tumor has started to shrink.  
She continues to be followed by City of Hope.

## Bible Study Series – Death...Then What?

The title of this week's study is "Will We Ever Meet Again?" One of the discussion points will be suicide; another topic will be strong emotions at a death. God's Word will comfort us as we read selected Bible passages.

## Friends in Deed:

This week I think I will include some staples such as dried beans; there are so many different kinds. There are also numerous choices for different types of rice. People of limited financial resources are hesitant to try some of the newer choices such as couscous, wild rice, quinoa, millet, so I will stick to barley, lentils, split peas etc.

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### **THIS WEEK AT FIRST LUTHERAN**

**SUNDAY**            **TODAY – SEPTEMBER 29**  
9:30 a.m.           Fellowship time  
9:45 a.m.           Bible Study and Sunday School

**TUESDAY**        **OCTOBER 1**  
11:00 a.m.        Bible Study – “Death ...Then What?”

**WEDNESDAY**    **OCTOBER 2**  
10:00 a.m.        SONshine House Chapel

**SATURDAY**      **OCTOBER 5**  
9:00 a.m.        Pray-ers (Please contact Jo Tschopp for location)

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### **BIRTHDAY THIS WEEK**

Christina Geltz            September 29



