



*Chaplaincy of All Saints' Marseille
with Aix-en-Provence
and the Luberon*

*29th September 2024
18th Sunday after Trinity
Michael and All Angels*

Welcome to our online service. Below you will find readings, prayers and links to music for this Sunday. There is also a reflection by our Licensed Lay Minister, Jane Quarmby, published separately on the website, the text of which is included in the service.

The Gathering

The minister says

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All **Amen.**

Grace, mercy and peace
from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ
be with you

All **and also with you.**

Hymn Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UsPne9PiJkk>

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation;
O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation:

Come ye who hear,
Brothers and sisters draw near;
Praise him in glad adoration!

Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,
Shelters thee under his wings - yea, so gently sustaineth:
Hast thou not seen,
All that is needful hath been
Granted in what he ordaineth?

Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee;
Surely his goodness and mercy here daily attend thee:
Ponder anew
All the Almighty can do,
He who with love doth befriend thee.

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before him!
Let the Amen
Sound from his people again:
Gladly for aye we adore him!

Words: Joachim Neander (1650-1680), tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878)
Tune: Lobe den Herren – 17th century melody

Prayer of Preparation

All **Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Prayers of Penitence

The minister says

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.
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.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

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

All **Christ, have mercy.**

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

All **Lord, have mercy.**

The celebrant says

Almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen.**

The Gloria

All say:

**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.**

The Collect

The minister says
Let us pray.

Silence is kept.

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.

All: **Amen.**

The Ministry of the Word

Old Testament Reading

Genesis 28.10-17

Jacob left Beer-sheba and went towards Haran. He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. And the Lord stood beside him and said, 'I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring; and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.' Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, 'Surely the Lord is in this place—and I did not know it!' And he was afraid, and said, 'How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.'

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 103.19-end

19 The Lord has established his throne in heaven, *
and his kingdom has dominion over all.

20 Bless the Lord, you angels of his, *
you mighty ones who do his bidding and hearken to the voice of his word.

21 Bless the Lord, all you his hosts, *
you ministers of his who do his will.

22 Bless the Lord, all you works of his, in all places of his dominion; *
bless the Lord, O my soul.

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.

New Testament Reading

Revelation 12.7-12

And war broke out in heaven; Michael and his angels fought against the dragon. The dragon and his angels fought back, but they were defeated, and there was no longer any place for

them in heaven. 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. Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, proclaiming, ‘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 comrades has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God. But they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they did not cling to life even in the face of death. Rejoice then, you heavens and those who dwell in them! But woe to the earth and the sea, for the devil has come down to you with great wrath, because he knows that his time is short!

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn Around the throne of God a band

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dssc-kxSrpQ>

Around the throne of God a band
Of glorious angels ever stand;
Bright things they see, sweet harps they hold,
And on their heads are crowns of gold.

Some wait around him, ready still
To sing his praise and do his will;
And some, when he commands them, go
To guard his servants here below.

Lord, give thy angels ev’ry day
Command to guide us on our way,
And bid them ev’ry evening keep
Their watch around us while we sleep.

So shall no wicked thing draw near,
To do us harm or cause us fear;
And we shall dwell, when life is past,
With angels round thy throne at last.

*Words: John Mason Neal (1818-1866)
Tune: Solothurn, traditional Swiss melody*

The minister says

Alleluia, alleluia.

Bless the Lord, all you his hosts,
your ministers of his who do his will.

Psalm 103.21

All **Alleluia.**

The Lord be with you.

All **And also with you.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

All **Glory to you, O Lord.**

When Jesus saw Nathanael coming towards him, he said of him, 'Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!' Nathanael asked him, 'Where did you come to know me?' Jesus answered, 'I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you.' Nathanael replied, 'Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!' Jesus answered, 'Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these.' And he said to him, 'Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Reflection

Today we celebrate Michael the Archangel and all angels – but do we actually think about what we are celebrating? Do we, nowadays, really believe in angels at all? Michaelmas is now a season in the agricultural year, a term in the scholastic year, even a flower which blooms in September – the Michaelmas Daisy.

The word angel crops up all over the Bible in both the Old Testament and the New. We heard this morning about Jacob seeing angels going up and down a ladder to heaven, (which is also now a flower – Jacob's Ladder), in the psalm we spoke of the angels of the Lord, the mighty ones who do his bidding, our New Testament reading from Revelation describes how Michael and his angels won the fight against Satan and his angels, and threw them out of heaven and onto earth. Not good news for us, living on earth, to have Satan and his angels here with us and in a very bad temper. And in our Gospel Jesus tells Nathanael he will see "the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man".

The hymns that we sing are sprinkled liberally with angels too. On a quick poll in my hymn book about 10% have a reference to angels. At Christmas we sing “Hark the Herald Angels Sing”; “The Angel Gabriel from heaven came” to tell Mary the news of her holy child to come, and another old favourite is “While Shepherds watched their flocks by night” when the angel tells them of the Christ child. Look around most churches and you’ll see depictions of angels in stained glass windows, in flight in the stonework, in paintings. You’ll find any amount of them in art galleries too – especially paintings of Gabriel and Mary, and sculptures like the powerful one of Sir Jacob Epstein’s “Jacob and the Angel”, exhibited in the Tate Gallery. Angels are also in a number of modern songs – Robbie Williams had a hit with his song “Angels”, the Eurythmics had a number 1 hit with “There must be an angel” and you’ll no doubt think of lots of others. They pop up nowadays in TV series and films – who doesn’t cheer for Clarence the guardian angel who gets his wings in “A Wonderful Life”? If you haven’t seen the film, it will be on TV again this Christmas. And they are even now in sport – there’s a baseball team in LA called the Los Angeles Angels. We have an angel on top of our Christmas tree, and you can buy little angel brooches and charms in jewelers’ shops.

So angels have been with us since time began and are still highly visible in some form now. But what about real angels? In the First World War, a number of servicemen told of seeing a troop of angels between them and the German forces, others of a single angel, or 4 or 5 angels protecting them from overwhelming odds. The men who told these stories were often not believed, they were exhausted, in pain, frightened – but these weren’t raw recruits, they were tough experienced soldiers at the Battle of Mons, heavily outnumbered and up against impossible odds. But they survived, and many were convinced it was due to the intervention of Michael and his angels.

Angels appear in many religions and cultures, but in today’s world what do we think? Do we all have a guardian angel who looks over us? Is God not alone in heaven but has any number of divine beings who not only worship him but are active in our world too? Without angels in the Bible, there would be an awful lot of gaps – and, without angels doing God’s will, there would be an awful lot of gaps in our world too. Does the church believe in angels? Well, in 2020, at a time of misery caused by the pandemic, angels began appearing all over England, made by local churches. Everything from full sized illuminated versions in Somerset, to teenagers delivering small angels with a card to people in care homes. They brought hope, and comfort, and a smile to people’s faces.

At the heart of today’s festival of St Michael is the recognition of the reality and presence of angels, and their participation in the war against evil and darkness. It’s a source of comfort to believe that angels are on our side, they protect us, mostly without our knowing. God created angels as well as us. They are his messengers, like Gabriel, protectors, like Michael, healers, like Raphael. Augustine considered that “the good angels seek at all times to direct us towards the true source of happiness, God; that they encourage us in worship of God”. The catechism of the Catholic church states “The whole life of the church benefits from the mysterious and powerful help of the angels.... From its beginning until death, human life is

surrounded by their watchful care and intercession... Christ is the centre of the angelic world. They are his angels... They belong to him because they were created through and for him.”

So yes, we need angels, and yes, we need to let them into our lives, to bring us hope, protection, reassurance and comfort, to guide us in living our lives as nearly as possible to how Jesus directed us to live them. Not in fear, not in the pursuit of our wants and desires at the expense of others, not in isolation from God, but in the light. And if Satan and his dark angels are roaming about in high bad humour, doing their best to lead us astray, to cause havoc, pain, misery and darkness, then I for one welcome as many of God’s angels into my life as can cram themselves in.

I’m going to finish with the words from Robbie Williams’ song – not the usual prophet for a Sunday but I really like these lyrics:

“I sit and wait
Does an angel contemplate my fate?
And do they know the places where we go
When we’re grey and old?
‘Cause I have been told
That salvation lets their wings unfold.

So when I’m lying in my bed
Thoughts running through my head
And I feel that love is dead
I’m loving angels instead.

And through it all she offers me protection
A lot of love and affection, whether I’m right or wrong
And down the waterfall, wherever it may take me
I know that life won’t break me
When I come to call, she won’t forsake me
I’m loving angels instead.

When I’m feeling weak
And my pain walks down a one way street
I look above
And I know I’ll always be blessed with love.”

It just goes to show - angels are often in the most unexpected places.

Amen

Jane Quarmby, Licensed Lay Minister

The Nicene Creed

All **We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,
seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven**

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Prayers

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.

All **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. We pray especially for the peoples of Ukraine, Russia, Israel, Palestine and Lebanon.

Lord, hear us.

All **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.

All **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, rescue them and show them your salvation. Heal the sick and bring compassion and skills to those who care for them. We pray especially for Malcolm, Peter, Gerline, Gabrielle, Effie and Jill, and for the continued recovery of King Charles, and in a moment of silence we pray for those we know and love who need your healing.

Lord, hear us.

All **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.

Lord, hear us.

All **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.

Merciful Father,

All **Accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

The Peace

The minister says

Hear again the song of the angels:

'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace.'

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All **And also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Hymn Angel-voices ever singing

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iVYIIQEB2yE>

Angel-voices ever singing
Round thy throne of light,
Angel harps for ever ringing,
Rest not day nor night;
Thousands only live to bless thee,
And confess thee
Lord of might.

Thou who art beyond the farthest
Mortal eye can see,
Can it be that thou regardest
Our poor hymnody?
Yes, we know that thou art near us
And wilt hear us
Constantly.

Yea, we know that thou rejoicest
O'er each work of thine;
Thou didst ears and hands and voices
For thy praise design;
Craftsman's art and music's measure
For thy pleasure
All combine.

In thy house, great God, we offer
Of thine own to thee;
And for thine acceptance proffer,
All unworthily,
Hearts and minds and hands and voices
In our choicest
Psalmody.

Honour, glory, might and merit
Thine shall ever be,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
Blessed Trinity.
Of the best that thou hast given
Earth and heaven
Render thee.

Words: Francis Pott (1832-1909)

Tune: Angel voices – Edwin G. Monk (1819-1900)

Preparation of the Table

The celebrant says

God of glory,
as you appointed angels to minister in your presence,
so may all our worship bring you worthy praise;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord is here.

All **His Spirit is with us.**

Lift up your hearts.

All **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right,
it is our duty and our joy,
at all times and in all places
to give you thanks and praise,
holy Father, heavenly King,
almighty and eternal God,
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.
Through him the angels sing your praise,
the angels fulfil your commands,
the cherubim and seraphim
continually proclaim your holiness;
the whole company of heaven glorifies your name
and rejoices to do your will.
Therefore we pray that our voices
may be heard with theirs,
for ever praising you and saying:

All **Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Accept our praises, heavenly Father,
through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ,
and as we follow his example and obey his command,
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us his body and his blood;
who, in the same night that he was betrayed,
took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper
he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying:
Drink this, all of you;

this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.

Do this, as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of me.

Therefore, heavenly Father,
we remember his offering of himself
made once for all upon the cross;
we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension;
we look for the coming of your kingdom,
and with this bread and this cup
we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

Great is the mystery of faith:

All **Christ has died:
Christ is risen:
Christ will come again.**

Accept through him, our great high priest,
this our sacrifice of thanks and praise,
and as we eat and drink these holy gifts
in the presence of your divine majesty,
renew us by your Spirit,
inspire us with your love
and unite us in the body of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, and with him, and in him,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,
we worship you, Father almighty,
in songs of everlasting praise:

All **Blessing and honour and glory and power
be yours for ever and ever.
Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;**

thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

Notre Père, qui es aux cieux,
que ton nom soit sanctifié,
que ton règne vienne,
que ta volonté soit faite,
sur la terre comme au ciel.
Donne-nous aujourd'hui notre pain de ce jour.
Pardonne-nous nos offenses,
comme nous pardonnons aussi à ceux qui nous ont offensés;
et ne nous laisse pas entrer en tentation,
mais délivre-nous du mal.
Car c'est à toi qu'appartiennent le règne, la puissance et la gloire,
pour les siècles des siècles. Amen.

The celebrant breaks the consecrated bread, saying:

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

All **Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

All **Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
grant us peace.**

The celebrant says

Jesus is the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

**All Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word and I shall be healed.**

An Act of Spiritual Communion

As circumstances are such that we cannot share in the Eucharist in person, we make an Act of Spiritual Communion, in which we express our faith in Christ and in his presence in the Eucharist, and we ask him to unite himself with us.

Heavenly Father, in union with Christian people throughout the world and across the centuries gathered to make Eucharist, hearing your holy Word and receiving the precious Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, we offer you praise and thanksgiving. Even though we cannot at this time receive Communion, we pray that you will unite us with all the baptised and with your Son who gave his life for us.

Come, Lord Jesus, into our hearts, dwell in us in the fullness of your strength, and send your Holy Spirit that we may be filled with your presence. Amen.

Music Piotr Ilitch Tchaikovsky (1840-1893) – The Cherubic Hymn

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=113w-1vNvPA>

Let us, who mystically represent the cherubim
and sing the thrice-holy hymn
to the life-giving Trinity,
now lay aside all earthly cares. Amen.
That we may receive the King of all,
Who comes invisibly escorted by the angelic hosts.
Alleluia.

Prayer after Communion

Lord of heaven,
in this eucharist you have brought us
near to an innumerable company of angels
and to the spirits of the saints made perfect:
as in this food of our earthly pilgrimage
we have shared their fellowship,

so may we come to share their joy in heaven;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

All **Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Through him we offer you our souls and bodies to be a living sacrifice. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.**

Hymn Ye holy angels bright

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ajhDNODibGg>

Ye holy angels bright,
Who wait at God's right hand,
Or through the realms of light
Fly at your Lord's command,
Assist our song,
For else the theme
Too high doth seem
For mortal tongue.

Ye blessed souls at rest,
Who ran this earthly race,
And now, from sin released,
Behold the Saviour's face,
God's praises sound,
As in his sight
With sweet delight
Ye do abound.

Ye saints, who toil below
Adore your heav'nly King,
And onward as ye go
Some joyful anthem sing;
Take what he gives
And praise him still,
Through good or ill,
Who ever lives.

My soul, bear thou thy part,
Triumph in God above,
And with a well-tuned heart
Sing thou the songs of love;

Let all thy days
Till life shall end,
Whate'er he send,
Be filled with praise.

Words: Richard Baxter (1615-1691) and John H. Guerney (1802-1862)
Tune: Darwall's 148th – John Darwall (1731-1789)

Blessing

God keep you in the fellowship of his saints;
Christ protect you by the ministry of the angels;
the Spirit make you holy in God's service;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

The minister says

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

Picture: Icon of Archangel Michael, Mount Sinai, 14th century

Offertory

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