

## Sermon followed by Service

September 29, 2024 - St Michael and All Angels

Revelation 12:7

There's a world out there we can't see. A world that sometimes creeps us out. A world that sometimes wows us, sometimes for the wrong reasons. Over this next month, with Halloween coming, we'll hear talk of haunted houses, devils and demons, witches and warlocks. Some of the talk will come from TV and movies; some will come from friends; some will be trying to scare you, some will be trying to entice you. Some of what they say will be made up stories, but some just might be true.

There is a world out there we can't see. A world where demons are fighting for your soul. Working to trip you, trap you, lure you, own you. And if they can't own you, they work to make your life miserable. Sometimes they use the world we see; they work in the evil of the world to tear us down; they use the good of the world to tempt us. We've all been on the wrong side of that, haven't we? But sometimes they use the powers of that other world ... they show us powers from that other world, to draw us in to places where God says: "don't go there."

There is a world out there we can't see. A world where God has his angel armies on duty for you, looking out for you, fighting for you. In that world, God and his angels are at work holding back the forces of evil, drawing God's line against evil - "so far and no further." There is a world out there we can't see, with God and his angels at work in ways we can't see. And

thinking of our Old Testament lesson, in ways that are really hard to understand.

Our lesson today gives us a look into that other world. What do we see? A war is being fought. On one side we have the archangel Michael. His name Michael means “who is like God.” He stands for God’s honor; as angel he serves for God’s honor; as archangel he leads for God’s honor; on the battlefield he fights for God’s honor. As archangel, he’s one of God’s chief angels. As the only archangel named in the Bible, it’s possible Michael is the chief, the captain of God’s angels. In our Old Testament lesson, we saw Michael at work behind the scenes as protector of God’s people. On the last day, we’ll hear Michael blast the trumpet when Jesus returns. Here we see Michael on the battlefield with his angel army; Michael with his name - “who is like God.”

On the other side we see the great pretender, the angel who tried to take God’s place. The dragon who tried to destroy Jesus. The ancient serpent who led Adam and Eve into sin, who works to lead the whole world astray. He’s the devil, whose name from the Greek means slanderer. Before Adam and Eve, before us, he works to slander God. Before God, he would work to slander us. As Satan, whose name from the Hebrew means accuser, he would accuse us before God.

This is the way he would work. He’d tempt us. Slandering God as untrustworthy or unloving or against us, he’d tempt us to doubt and despair; he’d tempt us to break from God. And then he’d run to God, slandering us, accusing us: “Look what they did.

Look what they think of you. I got them. They're not yours any more. They're mine. Look what they did. Look what they think of you. Curse them; damn them. Cut them loose. They're mine."

That's what the devil would do. But what do we see in our lesson? Michael and his angels fought against the devil and his demon angels. And the devil lost. He lost the battle and he lost his place in heaven.

We might be thinking; "What?! The devil had a place in heaven?" We see this again and again. God lets his enemies show off. He lets them show off how strong and how powerful they are. God lets his enemies take their best shot at him. And then what? God drops them. We see that in our lesson. The devil is hurled out of heaven. He loses his place before God. With his angels, he's hurled to the earth.

What does that mean for us? I'll give you the bad news first. The devil is mighty angry, and he has it out for God and for you. Our lesson puts it this way: "**Woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has gone down to you! He is filled with fury, because he knows that his time is short.**" We don't have to look far to find evidence of that, do we? The devil's on the prowl in the world slandering God, slandering those who follow God. He goes after us in Christ's church, filling the church with lies about God. He's at work with a vengeance, tempting us to doubt God's way, tempting us to run with the world. It looks as if we see the devil winning all around us, doesn't it?

But heaven has good news for us! The devil's time is short. And he's lost his most dangerous power. What do I mean? Let's hear it from heaven. In our lesson, after the victory comes the victory song. John tells us: **“Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ. (Sound familiar?) For the accuser of our brothers, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down.”** Satan has lost his place to accuse us! He has lost his power to condemn us! There is a new power, a new authority in heaven who gets to have his say.

- The Christ that Satan tried to silence now has his say in heaven - **“It is finished!”** Where the devil would accuse: “Look what they did!” Jesus says: “Look what I did; I got it done right!” And know this - his right covers your wrong.
- Where Satan would condemn: “They've got to pay!” Jesus says: “I've already paid, in full!”
- Where the devil would say: “They're mine!” Jesus says: “They're mine!” You are his [Jesus’].
- Where the devil would tear our hearts apart, Jesus says “peace.”

We might look around us, at all the evil around us, and think “the devil's winning.” But Satan has lost his most dangerous power; he's lost his place to accuse you. Jesus gets the last word, and his word is “peace.”

In our lesson Jesus gives us a peek into the other world, the spirit world with Michael and his angels doing battle with the devil and his angels. We see Satan lose his place of power. We see him hurled out of heaven. But we don't see who tossed him.

We aren't told that Michael tossed him. We aren't told that Jesus tossed him. Instead, a voice from heaven tells us how heaven sees it: **“They [the accused, that’s us] overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb. They overcame him because of the word of their testimony. They overcame him because they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death.”** Heaven sees you standing strong with Jesus, and the devil is put in his place. Heaven hears you share the word and promise of Jesus, and the devil is put in his place. Heaven sees you washed with the blood of the Lamb, and Satan has no standing against you. Heaven sees you with Jesus, and you win: you are putting the devil in his place.

We might not always see it that way. It might not always feel that way - that the devil has been put in his place. That's why Jesus gives you this sneak peek into the spirit world. You're not alone in the fight against evil. Behind the scenes you have Michael and all his angels on duty, doing battle, fighting with you against the devil and his demon angels. And this is how the angels in heaven see it: with Jesus, you win! **“Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ.”** Amen.

September 28 & 29, 2024

## DIVINE SERVICE I

**IN OUR WORSHIP TODAY ...** we observe the ancient festival of St. Michael and All Angels, traditionally known as Michaelmas and celebrated on September 29. Through Michael and his other angels, God works his power to fight evil and to serve and protect his children. Today we find comfort and praise God for his angel armies.

### OPENING HYMN

*"I Walk in Danger All the Way"*

Hymn 836 vs. 1-3

I walk in danger all the way; the thought shall never leave me  
that Satan, who has marked his prey, is plotting to deceive me.  
This foe with hidden snares may seize me unawares  
if e'er I fail to watch and pray; I walk in danger all the way.

I pass through trials all the way, with sin and ills contending;  
in patience I must bear each day the cross of God's own sending.  
Oft in adversity I know not where to flee,  
when storms of woe my soul dismay; I pass through trials all the way.

Grim death pursues me all the way, nowhere I rest securely;  
he comes by night, he comes by day, he takes his prey most surely.  
A failing breath, and I in death's strong grasp may lie  
to face eternity today; grim death pursues me all the way.

### INVOCATION

In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

### CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

**M:** 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.

**C:** **Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions.**

**I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

**M:** God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

**HYMN**

*"I Walk in Danger All the Way"*

**Hymn 836 vs. 4-6**

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.

I walk with Jesus all the way, his guidance never fails me;  
within his wounds I find a stay when Satan's pow'r assails me;  
and by his footsteps led, my path I safely tread.  
No evil leads my soul astray; I walk with Jesus all the way.

My walk is heav'nward all the way; await, my soul, the morrow,  
when you at last with joy can say farewell to sin and sorrow.  
All worldly pomp, begone! To heav'n I now press on.  
For all the world I would not stay; my walk is heav'nward all the way.

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Everlasting God, you have ordained and constituted in a wonderful order the ministries of angels and mortals. As your holy angels always serve and worship you in heaven, mercifully grant that 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.**

In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia, a revelation was given to Daniel (who was called Belteshazzar). Its message was true and it concerned a great war. The understanding of the message came to him in a vision.

At that time I, Daniel, mourned for three weeks. I ate no choice food; no meat or wine touched my lips; and I used no lotions at all until the three weeks were over.

On the twenty-fourth day of the first month, as I was standing on the bank of the great river, the Tigris, I looked up and there before me was a man dressed in linen, with a belt of fine gold from Uphaz around his waist. His body was like topaz, his face like lightning, his eyes like flaming torches, his arms and legs like the gleam of burnished bronze, and his voice like the sound of a multitude.

I, Daniel, was the only one who saw the vision; those who were with me did not see it, but such terror overwhelmed them that they fled and hid themselves. So I was left alone, gazing at this great vision; I had no strength left, my face turned deathly pale and I was helpless. Then I heard him speaking, and as I listened to him, I fell into a deep sleep, my face to the ground.

A hand touched me and set me trembling on my hands and knees. He said, "Daniel, you who are highly esteemed, consider carefully the words I am about to speak to you, and stand up, for I have now been sent to you." And when he said this to me, I stood up trembling.

Then he continued, "Do not be afraid, Daniel. Since the first day that you set your mind to gain understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to them. But the prince of the Persian kingdom resisted me twenty-one days. Then Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, because I was detained there with the king of Persia. Now I have come to explain to you what will happen to your people in the future, for the vision concerns a time yet to come."



“At that time Michael, the great prince who protects your people, will arise. There will be a time of distress such as has not happened from the beginning of nations until then. But at that time your people—everyone whose name is found written in the book—will be delivered. Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt. Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever.”

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM OF THE DAY – CHOIR

*Psalm 91E*



1 Dwell in God Most High as shel - ter, rest with -  
 2 With God's truth your shield and buck - ler, you will  
 3 If you make the LORD your ref - uge, if you  
 4 You will tram - ple co - bras, li - ons, tread on



in Al - might - y's shade. To the LORD I  
 fear no ill by night, nor the day - light  
 dwell in God a - lone, noth - ing e - vil  
 snakes whose fangs in - flame. "For his love to



say, "My ref - uge!"— all my trust, my God, my aid.  
 ar - rows fly - ing, nor dis - ease that shuns the light.  
 will be - fall you; harm will not come near your home.  
 me I'll save him, keep him, for he knows my name.



He will save you from the fowl - er, from the  
 None of this will ven - ture near you, though be -  
 He will have his an - gels keep you, guard you  
 When he calls me I will an - swer, res - cue



dead - ly pes - ti - lence, cov - er you with  
 side you thou - sands fall; as he guards you,  
 well in all your ways. In their hands they  
 him and lift him high; I will show him  
 out - spread feath - ers, make his wings your con - fi - dence.  
 God will sure - ly pay the wick - ed back for all.  
 will up - hold you lest your foot a stone should graze.  
 my sal - va - tion, with long life will sat - is - fy.”

**EPISTLE LESSON**

*Revelation 12:7–12*

Then war broke out in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven. The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.

Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say:

“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 brothers and sisters,  
 who accuses them before our God day and night,  
 has been hurled down.

They triumphed over him  
 by the blood of the Lamb  
 and by the word of their testimony;  
 they did not love their lives so much  
 as to shrink from death.

Therefore rejoice, you heavens  
 and you who dwell in them!

But woe to the earth and the sea,  
because the devil has gone down to you!  
He is filled with fury,  
because he knows that his time is short."

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**VERSE OF THE DAY**

*Psalm 103:20*

Alleluia. Praise the Lord, you his angels, who obey his word. Alleluia.

**GOSPEL**

*Luke 10:17–20*

The seventy-two returned with joy and said, "Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name."

He replied, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you. However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise be to you, O Christ!**

**NICENE CREED**

**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 of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became truly human. 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 in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian 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.**

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

*“Christ, the Lord of Hosts, Unshaken”*

**Hymn 499**

Christ, the Lord of hosts, unshaken by the devil’s seething rage,  
thwarts the plan of Satan’s minions, wins the strife from age to age;  
conquers sin and death forever, slams them in their steely cage.

Michael fought the heav’nly battle, godly angels by his side;  
warred against the ancient serpent, foiled the beast, so full of pride,  
cast him earthbound with his angels; now he prowls, unsatisfied.

Long on earth the battle rages, since the serpent’s first deceit  
twisted God’s command to Adam, made forbidden fruit look sweet.  
Then the curse of God was spoken: “You’ll lie crushed beneath his feet!”

Jesus came, this word fulfilling, trampled Satan, death defied;  
bore the brunt of our temptation, on the wretched tree he died.  
Yet to life was raised victorious, by his life our life supplied.

Swift as lightning falls the tyrant from his heav’nly perch on high,  
as the word of Jesus’ vict’ry floods the earth and fills the sky.  
Wounded by a wound eternal now his judgment has drawn nigh!

Jesus, send your angel legions when the foe would us enslave.  
Hold us fast when sin assaults us; come then, Lord, your people save.  
Overthrow at last the dragon; send him to his fiery grave.

CREATE IN ME

Cre - ate in me a  
 pure heart, O God, and re - new a right spir - it with -  
 in me. Do not cast me a - way from your  
 pres - ence or take your Ho - ly Spir - it from  
 me. Re - store to me the joy of your sal - va - tion, and up -  
 hold, up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

OFFERING

*If you prefer to give online, the code at the right will take you to our Online Giving page. We invite our online givers to join in our offering with an "I Give Online" card in the pew racks.*



## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Heavenly Father, how great is your love to us in Christ Jesus! As heirs of salvation, you send your holy angels to serve us. When we feel weak and helpless, comfort us with the knowledge that your powerful angels surround us. When we are concerned about the welfare of our children and our fellow believers, remind us of your promise that guardian angels are also there to watch over them.

On various occasions you sent your archangel Michael to accomplish your purposes.

- As Michael once fought against the devil and his angels in heaven, assure us that your angels are still overcoming the powers of evil around us in the world.
- As you sent Michael to carry out your will for the nations of the ancient world, comfort us with the knowledge that your holy angels are still guarding and protecting your institutions of government and family.
- As you once sent Michael to protect the body of your servant Moses, help us realize that whether we live or die, your angels continue to watch over us and at last will carry our souls to heaven to be with you.
- Cause those who are sick or in pain to understand that you and your angels are there to watch over them.
- Soothe those who are troubled with the knowledge that you and your holy angels are present in their lives.
- Calm those who are afraid with the assurance that you and your angels are there to protect them.

*Special prayers and intercessions may follow.*

Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

*Silent prayer.*

As the angels praise your name continuously, so move us to offer you our constant thanks and praise for all you have done and continue to do for us. Hear us for the sake of Jesus our Savior. **Amen.**

#### LORD'S PRAYER

**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 and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

#### THE SACRAMENT

(Guests, please see our communion practice on page 2.)

(Gluten-free wafers are available; ask Pastor.)

M: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

C: **It is good and right so to do.**

M: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who in blessing his saints of the past has given us glorious assurance and hope that, following their example of faith, we may run with perseverance the race marked out for us, and receive the crown of glory that will never fade away. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er,  
God of might: heav'n and earth are full of your glo -  
ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless -  
ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san -  
na in the high - est. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my (+) body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my (+) blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **Amen.**



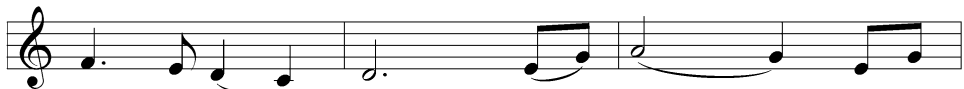
# O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD



O Christ, Lamb of



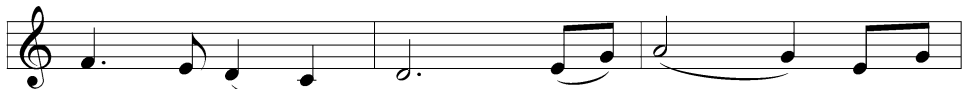
God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have



mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of



God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have



mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of



God, you take a - way the sin of the world;



grant us your peace. A - men. A - men.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

*“Lord God, to You We Give All Praise”*

**Hymn 500**

Lord God, to you we give all praise, with grateful hearts our voices raise  
that angel hosts you did create around your glorious throne to wait.

They shine with light and heav'nly grace and constantly behold your face.  
They heed your voice, they know it well; in godly wisdom they excel.

They never rest nor sleep as we; their whole delight is but to be  
with you, Lord Jesus, and to keep your little flock, your lambs and sheep.

The ancient dragon is their foe; his envy and his wrath they know.  
It always is his aim and pride your Christian people to divide.

As he of old deceived the world and into sin and death has hurled,  
so now he subtly lies in wait to undermine both Church and state.

A roaring lion, round he goes, no halt nor rest he ever knows;  
he seeks the Christians to devour and slay them by his dreadful pow'r.

But watchful is the angel band that follows Christ on ev'ry hand  
to guard his people where they go and break the counsel of the foe.

O Lord, awaken songs of praise for angel hosts that guard our days;  
teach us to serve you and adore as angels do forevermore.

CLOSING PRAYER

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.  
**and his mercy endures forever.**

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,  
**we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this Holy  
Supper.

We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

### **BLESSING**

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace. **Amen.**

### **CLOSING HYMN**

*“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”*

**Hymn 617**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise him, all creatures here below;  
praise him above, ye heav’nly host;  
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

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**Did you know?**

**YOU can heal and help others in need simply by supporting **Christian Family Solutions (Wisconsin Lutheran Child & Family Service)** through your workplace?**

Many workplace giving programs, such as United Way, have begun to organize their 2024-2025 campaigns.

As a 501(c)(3) social service charitable agency, Christian Family Solutions (under our legal name of Wisconsin Lutheran Child & Family Service - WLCFS) is one of the donor choice program options to which employees can designate funds. Through this option, **you can support organizations and causes that closely align to your own Christian values.**

Each year, Christian Family Solutions heals and helps thousands of people through Christian counseling and services. In 2023, our providers logged over 80,000 sessions of Christian counseling! That is 80,000 opportunities for the hope of the Gospel to be shared with a hurting soul. In addition, our valuable mental health resources offer Gospel-motivated healing to anyone in their time of need.

**Consider supporting our ministry through your workplace giving.**

If you have questions about your participation in such a program, check your employer's guidelines. **You can also contact 888.685.9522, or e-mail [info@wlcfs.org](mailto:info@wlcfs.org) for more information.**

**Wisconsin Lutheran Child & Family Service, Inc.**

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