



Canon Davis Memorial Church
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September 29, 2024—Saint Michael and All Angels
Officiant –Ginny Schleihauf – Organist – Dorothy Miller

Genesis 28:10-17; Psalm 103 19-22; Revelation 12: 7-12; John 1:47-54

Sermon

The celebration of St. Michael and All Angels

The celebration of St. Michael and All Angels aligns powerfully with the theme of today's Gospel. This feast day commemorates the roles of angels, especially St. Michael, as messengers and protectors in God's divine order. It's directly connected to the imagery Jesus uses in the Gospel when He tells Nathanael, "You will see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man."

On this day, the Church reflects on angels' role in the cosmic struggle between good and evil, their mission as servants of God, and their connection to humanity through Jesus. St. Michael is often depicted as a warrior leading the heavenly hosts against the forces of darkness, while the angels are seen as God's messengers who connect heaven and earth, just as they do in Jesus' statement.

Jesus' promise to Nathanael about seeing angels ascending and descending reinforces the message of the feast: Christ is the bridge between heaven and earth, and the angels are part of that divine interaction. The angels remind believers of God's presence and protection, and their role as mediators speaks to the broader theme of Christ's reconciling work.

We can assume that this heavenly activity, the ongoing work of angels and God's divine presence, surrounds the Church today. The imagery of angels ascending and descending on the Son of Man (John 1:51) suggests that through Jesus, heaven and earth remain connected, and God's activity is ever-present in the life of the Church, regardless of its struggles.

The Church, as the Body of Christ, continues to be the focal point of God's work in the world. Though the church may face challenges, this does not mean God has abandoned it. The Feast of St. Michael and All Angels reminds us that there is an unseen spiritual realm where God's will is being carried out, and the angels are part of that, working to protect, guide, and strengthen the Church.

This divine activity around the Church is especially significant when the Church is in a state of transition. In those moments, like Nathanael, believers are invited to trust in God's presence and to recognize that the Church's transition do not occur in isolation. Angels, as God's messengers and servants, are still active, helping to guide the Church toward renewal, restoration, and its mission of witnessing to the world.

This feast day and the Gospel remind us of hope—that despite appearances, heaven is still "open," and God's presence is with the Church, continually working for its healing and growth. This can be a profound encouragement for the Church today, as it navigates its journey with the assurance that God's angels surround and assist in its divine mission.

Let Us Pray

Heavenly Father, who has ordained under Holy law the services of Angels and people in a Holy order: Mercifully grant that, as your Holy Angels always do service in heaven, may they by appointment assist and defend us here on earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
