

The Feast of St Michael and All Angels

OPENING PRAYER:

Faithful God, You sent us the Holy Spirit to make known the way of life.
May Your angels guide and guard us today.
Open our lips to tell Your glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

FIRST READING Genesis 28:10-17

A reading from the book of Genesis.

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.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM from Psalm 138

R. Before the angels I will bless you, O Lord

1. I thank you, Lord, with all my heart,
you have heard the words of my mouth.
Before the angels I will bless you.
I will adore before your holy temple. (R.)

2. I thank you for your faithfulness and love
which excel all we ever knew of you.
On the day I called, you answered;
you increased the strength of my soul. (R.)

3. All the earth's kings shall thank you when they hear
the words of your mouth.
Thy shall sing of the Lord's ways:
"How great is the glory of the Lord!" (R.)

SECOND READING Revelation 12.7-12

A reading from the Book of Revelation.

Then 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.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL John 1:47-52

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

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.

Praise to you, O Christ.

"You Will See Heaven Opened"

In John 1:47-52, Jesus sees Nathanael coming towards Him and says, "Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!" Nathanael is amazed that Jesus knows him. Jesus replies, "You will see greater things than these... you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

On the Feast of St Michael and All Angels, we remember that Christ is the bridge between heaven and earth. The angels ascend and descend upon Him, revealing that in Jesus, heaven touches earth and God's presence is among us. Angels continue to serve God's purposes, guarding, guiding, and praising Him. Yet Jesus Himself is our greatest mediator, in whom we see heaven opened and God revealed.

Prayer

Lord Jesus,
You are the bridge between heaven and earth.
Open my eyes to see Your glory today,
and strengthen me to serve You
with the faithfulness of Your angels.
Amen.

Short Scripture

"You will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man." (John 1:51)

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS:

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

COMMUNION SENTENCE:

Mortals ate of the bread of angels; the Lord gave food in abundance. Psalm 78:25

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION:

Lord of heaven, in this eucharist You have brought us near to angels and saints.
May we share their joy in heaven, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**