

**Salem-Sauk Valley Lutheran Parish**  
**Order of Sunday Worship- Michael & All Angels– September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024**  
**At Salem Lutheran Church**

**Prelude**

Emily Larson, Musician

**Welcome/Announcements**

**Invocation:**

P: We gather in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **C: Amen.**

**Opening Prayer:**

P: O Lord, our Maker, Redeemer, and Comforter, we are assembled in Your presence to hear Your holy Word. We pray that You would open our hearts by Your Holy Spirit, that through the preaching of Your Word we may be taught to repent of our sins, to believe on Jesus in life and in death, and grow day by day in grace and holiness. Hear us for Christ's sake. **C: Amen.**

**Hymn:**

*"Praise to the Lord the Almighty"*

Praise #3

**Confession of Sin:**

P: Let us bow before the Lord and confess our sins.

**C: Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess to You that we are by nature sinful and unclean, and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. Therefore, we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace, for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**Kyrie:**

*C: O God the Father in heaven, have mercy upon us!*  
*O God the Son, Redeemer of the world, have mercy upon us!*  
*O God the Holy Spirit, true Comforter, have mercy upon us!*

**Absolution:**

P: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us, and has given his only Son to die for us, and for his sake God forgives all our sins. To those who believe in his name he gives power to become the children of God, and has promised them his Holy Spirit. Those who believe and are baptized shall be saved. Grant this Lord unto us all.

**C: Amen.**

**Gloria:**

P: Glory be to God in the highest.

**C: And on earth peace, good will toward men.**

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

**Prayer of the Day:**

P: Let us pray together.

**C: Everlasting God, you have wonderfully stablished the ministries of angels and mortals. Mercifully grant that as Michael and the angels contend against the cosmic forces of evil, so 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 whom we worship and praise with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven, now and forever. Amen.**

**Psalm 103:1-5, 20-22**

**First Reading- Daniel 10:10-14, 12:1-3**

**Second Reading- Revelation 12:7-12**

**Gospel Reading- Luke 10:17-20**

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

*C: God be praised for his glad tidings!*

**Apostles Creed**

**C: I believe in God the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe 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, dead, and buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits on the right hand of God the Father Almighty from whence he shall 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 life everlasting. Amen.**

**Children's Message –**

**“Jesus Loves Me”**

**Jingle Change**

**Offering and Offertory: *We give Thee but Thine own, whate'er the gift might be. All that we have is Thine alone, a trust O Lord from Thee.***

**Hymn:**

*“There's a Wideness in God's Mercy”*

Praise #280

**Sermon**

**Pastor Lexy Carson**

Grace and peace to you from God the Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus the Christ.

In life, there's many things that we don't really understand or comprehend and yet we still try desperately to wrap our minds around it. For example, the weather - try as they might - even our favorite meteorologist will get it wrong. One of our friends went to the Minnesota state fair on the day they predicted to be a beautiful day and it poured the whole afternoon on them, and the huge crowd that also joined them on that predicted to be beautiful day.

We have a tendency to speculate and try as we might comprehend matters in Scripture as well and one very susceptible character to this is angels. Some think of “guardian angels” a presence watching over us and leading us. People will sometimes comfort themselves when they lose a loved with the notion that their loved one “has their wings now.” I'm guessing when you picture an angel you might see the “Angel Soft” toilet paper baby resting on the fluffy clouds with their wings. Or Cupid with his arrow and wings shooting hearts and making people fall in love.

There's no shortage of speculations that we make on who angels are and what they are up to. Some speculations have some grounding in scripture, some do not - angels are not some cute diapered baby or interested in match making, they are powerful, invisible and spirit committed to serving God. Scripture highlights for us a clear motive and refrain of angels that give each of us a promise, hope and certainty to cling to. We don't have to make it up to comfort us, there's solid scripture on angels.

Beginning in Luke 1:28, the angel Gabriel appears to Mary with a message “Greetings you are highly favored! The Lord is with you.” While Mary is troubled and worried of what kind of greeting this may be, the angel Gabriel continues “Do not be afraid, Mary you have found favor with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High.”

In Matthew 1:20, Joseph had planned to divorce Mary because he found out she was with child and an angel of the Lord came saying “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”

In Luke 2:10 the angels address the shepherds, “Do not be afraid. I will bring you good news of great joy that will be for all people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and laying in a manger.”

Mark 16:6 and Matthew 28:5-8, “Don’t be alarmed, he said. You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter, He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as I told you.”

In every single account of angel interactions in the Gospels, the angel/s say “Do not be afraid” and they bring good news. Every single account has these two interactions. The presence of the angels strikes everyone with fear whether it be Mary, Joseph, the shepherds, Mary Magdalene, the women at the tomb and so the angels have to calm them down, tell them not to be afraid and then they give them joyous great news.

Angels are messengers, that terrify humans and yet they calm sinners, and bring them wonderful news. angels are always up to the same thing. Calming the fears of sinners and bringing the good news of Jesus Christ. In those moments where fear comes creeping up, here this refrain from the angels “do not be afraid” for Jesus Christ is for you, died for you, resurrected for you and he has gone on ahead for you. The angels have never strayed from their role in calming the fears of sinners and giving them God’s joyous good news. And they never will, God’s messengers will keep bringing this good news for you.

And woven throughout our Scripture passages today only drives further into this ministry of the angels - as messengers of God. In our Daniel reading, Daniel is spoken to by angel - called beloved and told as angels always say “Do not fear” and he is advised to go and live as he is called because he doesn’t have to worry about the end; his name is written in God’s book - Michael and the angels have prevailed against the devil. That is the good news and the same good news you receive from the angels every time they appear, they do not stray from stilling fear and in delivering God’s message of good news. They never tire of it.

The angels also carry another important task - they humble us, they call our bluff in life that we can fathom, grasp, touch, see and understand everything around us. Angels and their ministry to and with us gives us both purpose and certainty to the God promised life -a reality that has no beginning and no ending - such is the calling mission and message of angels. And the content of their message for us all is that the God we proclaim and believe in made the whole creation, the cosmos, the innumerable stars, the planets, the vast spaces beyond our feeble comprehension all the way down to the single cells that make up each and every one of you. And the angels make it known that far beyond a shred of doubt that the victory Jesus won for us - hanging on the tree is cosmic in scope.

From our Revelations passage, “War broke out in heaven; Michael and his angels fought against 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, the ancient serpent who is called the Devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world - was thrown down. Then I hear a loud voice in heaven proclaiming, Now have come the salvation and the power of the kingdom of our God and the authority of the Messiah - they have conquered him by the blood of the lamb and by the word.”

This is no fairy tale, no ancient myth, the next time you are filled with fear, burdened by anxieties of our world, nation, our church, yourself, remember the victory has already been won, secured and nailed down by Jesus Christ. The good news - the best news we will hear today and every day for that matter is that our enemies have already been conquered, they are fighting a battle that has already been lost.

There’s much we have to speculate with in life but angels they aren’t one of them. Angels have clearly spoken to you - in the words our scriptures in Christ’s birth and resurrection, in the same words of assurance and hope giving to Daniel and Elijah to not fear - they are beloved and claimed and so are you. And we get to go out, just like the angels and bestow these same words to all those around us - to say you are forgiven and that in our baptisms we belong to God - forgiven and given the promise of life eternal.

The peace of Christ which surpasses all understanding guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Amen.

**Hymn:**

*“Victory in Jesus”*

Praise #526

**Prayer of the Church:** Each prayer will end: Lord, in your mercy. **C: *Hear our prayer.***

### **Holy Communion**

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: *And also with you.***

P: Lift up your hearts to the Lord.

**C: *We lift up our hearts unto the Lord.***

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: *It is meet and right so to do.*** P: It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and all places give thanks to you, O Lord, holy Father Through Jesus Christ, your dear son, our Lord and Savior who ascending above the heavens and sitting at your hand, poured out the Holy Spirit as he had promised upon the chosen disciples, causing the whole earth to rejoice.

Therefore with angels and archangels and all the company in heaven we laud and magnify your glorious name, evermore praising you and singing:

**C: *Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sabaoth. Heaven and earth are full of Your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he that comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.***

Words of Institution

Lord’s Prayer

Invitation/Distribution

Thanksgiving-

P: The Lord be with you. **C: *And also with you.***

P: Let us give thanks and pray: We thank you Lord God almighty that you have refreshed us with these gifts; and we ask you, in your mercy, to strengthen us through these same gifts in faith toward you and in fervent love for one another; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

**Benediction**

P: Now may the Lord bless us and keep us. May the Lord make his face to shine upon us and be gracious to us. May the Lord lift up the light of his countenance upon us and give us his peace.

**C: Amen, Amen, Amen.**

**Doxology**

**C: Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise him all creatures here below. Praise him above ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

**Birthdays & Anniversaries**

**Dismissal: P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord. C: Thanks be to God! Postlude**