



The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion. The following examples may be adapted or used as appropriate.

Drawn together in the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray with confidence for the church, God's good creation, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

We pray for the church and its leaders: for council members and music ministers, deacons, pastors, and bishops. Make us faithful messengers of your love in a world hungry for good news. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for the flourishing of all that you have made, for birds and squirrels, spiders and whales, oak trees and humble grasses. Renew prairies and forests, tundra and wetlands, that they sustain all who make their home there. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for the peoples of the world and for their leaders. Where conflict and violence reign, bring peace; wherever there is oppression or discrimination, bring liberation. Guide all in power to protect those who are most vulnerable. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for all who are suffering this day (*especially*). Accompany people fleeing from danger and encourage all who help them on their journeys. Abide with all who are in prison or detention centers. Reassure them of your steadfast love. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for all who question their faith. Fill our dry wells with your living water and reassure all who doubt of your boundless grace. Let us accompany all in discernment with open hearts and tender care. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We offer thanksgiving for our beloved dead (*especially*). At the close of our earthly pilgrimage, gather us with Michael and all the saints and angels into everlasting life in you. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We entrust these and all our prayers to you, holy God, in the name of your beloved child, Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

Preparing for Next Week

Monday (commemoration of Jerome, translator, teacher, 420) Psalm 5. **Tuesday** Zechariah 8:18-23. **Wednesday** Matthew 18:6-9. **Thursday** Psalm 8. **Friday** (commemoration of Francis of Assisi, renewer of the church, 1226; Theodor Fliedner, renewer of society, 1864) Romans 8:1-11. **Saturday** Luke 16:14-18. **20th Sunday after Pentecost** (commemoration of William Tyndale, translator, martyr, 1536) Genesis 2:18-24; Psalm 8; Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12; Mark 10:2-16.

CELEBRATE September 29, 2024 (Michael and All Angels)

Volume 55, Number 4

CELEBRATE (ISSN 1083-3242, USPS 763-460) is published quarterly by Augsburg Fortress, 411 Washington Avenue North, Third Floor, Minneapolis, MN, 55401. Periodicals postage paid in St. Paul, MN and additional mailing offices. Postmaster: Send address changes to Celebrate, Augsburg Fortress Publishers, P.O. Box 1553, Minneapolis, MN 55440-8730. Printed in U.S.A. Price per weekly part \$5.79 per 100 copies; price in Canada subject to exchange rates. Minimum order 50 copies of each issue; all orders must be in multiples of 50. Copyright © 2024 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. May not be reproduced. Revised Common Lectionary © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts. Readings from New Revised Standard Version Bible with Apocrypha © 1989 Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. Prayer of the day, psalm, and readings during the week from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* © 2006, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Refrain music by Anne Krentz Organ. Refrain accompaniment is in *Psalter for Worship, Year C* (Augsburg Fortress, 2006). Please visit our website at augsburgfortress.org. Lectionary year B. CELEBRATE is protected through trademark registration in the U.S.A. and Canada.

The archangel Michael is pictured as a prince and a general of the heavenly army, defeating the dragon (the ancient serpent, the devil, Satan). It is important, though, to see in Revelation 12:11 that God's victory ultimately comes by Jesus' death and the testimony of his followers. The power of God's truth gives us confidence in the face of evil on earth, even in the face of our own death.

Prayer of the Day

Everlasting God, you have wonderfully established 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.**

First Reading

Daniel 10:10-14; 12:1-3

Daniel trembles in the presence of an angel. That angel tells the prophet about the good and terrible future when the dead will be resurrected and the archangel Michael will usher in the deliverance of the nation.

A hand touched me and roused me to my hands and knees. ¹¹He said to me, "Daniel, greatly beloved, pay attention to the words that I am going to speak to you. Stand on your feet, for I have now been sent to you." So while he was speaking this word to me, I stood up trembling. ¹²He said to me, "Do not fear, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your mind to gain understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your words have been heard, and I have come because of your words. ¹³But the prince of the kingdom of Persia opposed me twenty-one days. So Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, and I left him there with the prince of the kingdom of Persia, ¹⁴and have come to

help you understand what is to happen to your people at the end of days. For there is a further vision for those days."

^{12:14}"At that time Michael, the great prince, the protector of your people, shall arise. There shall be a time of anguish, such as has never occurred since nations first came into existence. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone who is found written in the book. ²Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. ³Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever."



Bless the LORD, you an - gels, all you hosts of God.

Bless the LORD, ¹ O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless God's ¹ holy name.

²Bless the LORD, ¹ O my soul,
and forget not ¹ all God's benefits—

³who forgives ¹ all your sins
and heals all ¹ your diseases;

⁴who redeems your life ¹ from the grave
and crowns you with steadfast ¹ love and mercy;

⁵who satisfies your desires ¹ with good things
so that your youth is renewed ¹ like an eagle's.

²⁰Bless the LORD, you angels, you mighty ones who
¹ do God's bidding,

who obey the voice ¹ of God's word. **R**

²¹Bless the LORD, all you ¹ hosts of God,
you servants who ¹ do God's will.

²²Bless the LORD, all you works of God, in all places
¹ where God rules;

bless the LORD, ¹ O my soul. **R**

Armed with the power of God, Michael and the angels of God fight those armed with the power of evil, the devil and the devil's angels. The "blood of the Lamb," our crucified Lord Jesus, gives Michael the power to force the devil from a place in heaven.

War broke out in heaven; Michael and his angels fought against the dragon. The dragon and his angels fought back, ⁸but they were defeated, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. ⁹The 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.

¹⁰Then 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.

¹¹But 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.

¹²Rejoice 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!"

The missionary church ("the seventy-two") is given magnificent power. Greater than this gift of power over the enemy, however, is the gift of salvation: their names are written in heaven.

The seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord, in your name even the demons submit to us!" ¹⁸He said to them, "I watched Satan fall from heaven like a flash of lightning. ¹⁹See, I have given you authority to tread on snakes and

scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy; and nothing will hurt you. ²⁰Nevertheless, do not rejoice at this, that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven."