

# The Order of Vespers

for the Festival of St. Michael

Wednesday, September 29, 2021

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member of the Evangelical Lutheran Diocese of North America (ELDoNA)

## *The Lutheran Hymnal, p. 41*

**Hymn**

*TLH #257 - Jesus Brightness of the Father*

*Stand*

**Versicles and Responses**

*p.41*

**The Psalmody**

*Psalm 34*

*The verses are spoken antiphonally between the Pastor and Congregation.*

**P** *(Antiphon)* The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him, and he delivers them.

I will bless the LORD at all times.

**His praise shall continually be in my mouth.**

My soul shall make its boast in the LORD.

**The humble shall hear of it and be glad.**

Oh, magnify the LORD with me,

**and let us exalt his name together.**

I sought the LORD, and he heard me

**and delivered me from all my fears.**

Those who look to him are radiant,

**and their faces are not ashamed.**

This poor man cried out, and the LORD heard him

**and saved him out of all his troubles.**

The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him,

**and he delivers them.**

Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good!

**Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him.**

Oh, fear the LORD, you his saints!

**For those who fear him want for nothing.**

The young lions suffer lack and hunger,

**but those who seek the LORD shall not want for any good thing.**

Come, children, listen to me!

**I will teach you the fear of the LORD.**

Where is the one who desires a good life  
**and would like to see good days?**  
 Keep your tongue from evil,  
**and your lips from speaking deceit.**  
 Depart from evil, and do good;  
**seek peace, and pursue it.**  
 The eyes of the LORD are on the righteous,  
**and his ears are open to their cry.**  
 The face of the LORD is against those who do evil,  
**to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth.**  
 The righteous cry out, and the LORD hears  
**and delivers them out of all their troubles.**  
 The LORD is near to the broken-hearted  
**and saves those whose spirit is contrite.**  
 Many are the afflictions of the righteous,  
**but the LORD delivers him out of them all.**  
 He keeps all his bones;  
**not one of them shall be broken.**  
 Evil shall slay the wicked,  
**and those who hate the righteous shall be condemned.**  
 The LORD redeems the soul of his servants,  
**and none of those who trust in him shall be condemned.**  
**Glory | be to the Father, and to | the Son, \***  
**and to the Holy | Ghost;**  
**as it | was in the beginning, is now, and ever | shall be, \***  
**world without end. A- | men.**

**P** (*Antiphon*) The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him, and he delivers them.

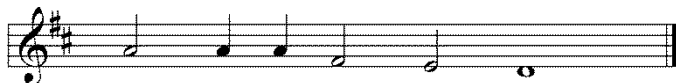
*Sit*

## First Lesson

*Revelation 12:7-12*

*After each Lesson:*

**P** But Thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us.



**R** Thanks be to Thee, O Lord!

## Second Lesson

*Matthew 18:1-11*

*Hymn*

*TLH #254 - Lord God We All to Thee Give Praise*

*The Sermon*

*Stand*

Versicle and Response	p.42
The Canticle	<i>The Magnificat, p.43</i>
The Prayers	p.44
The Kyrie	
The Lord's Prayer	
The Salutation & Collects	p. 45
The Benedicamus and The Benediction	p. 45

## **THE FIRST ARTICLE: CREATION**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.**

*What does this mean?*

I believe that God has made me, along with all created things; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still preserves them; He also richly and daily provides me with clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and yard, wife and children, land, animals, and all that I have—with all that I need to sustain this body and life; He shields me from all danger and guards and protects me from all evil; and all this He does out of pure, fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me; for all this it is my duty to thank and praise, to serve and obey Him. This is most certainly true.

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## THE PURPOSE OF TODAY'S FESTIVAL

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### **Martin Chemnitz, *Loci Theologici: A Treatise on Angels***

From antiquity the church year, for very good reasons, has been divided into certain festivals, in order that the chief articles of the Christian doctrine can be taught to the people in a definite order and inculcated by annual repetition. Thus the festival of the holy angels has also been established. This was done, first, in order that there might be a set time in which the doctrine of the angels might be publicly taught and repeated each year. Second, that in the regular church services consideration might be given to the benefits bestowed upon us all year through the mediation and protection of the holy angels. In Ps. 34:7 mention is made of the benefits we receive from them. And, third, this was done that we should give thanks that God, who is offended with our sins and ingratitude, yet does not take away from us the ministry and care of His holy angels. Fourth, it was done that we might pray that God would strengthen and preserve us ever more under the protection of His angels. For just as a certain day of the year was set aside for a consideration of the exodus from Egypt, so that it should never be forgotten, so also our ancestors have instituted the same practice regarding the angels, so that we should never overlook this doctrine and its benefits.

But because Scripture has spoken of certain angels by name, such as Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael, we have a feast called the feast of the angel Michael, in order that by this very name itself we should be instructed in the most important things to be learned in this life about angels and what we ought to believe and know about them.

For example, in regard to Michael the Scriptures tell how he fought against the dragon and his angels on behalf of the church, Rev. 12:7 and Jude 9, and how he was sent to minister in the affairs of the government in Dan. 10:13, 21, and 12:1.

Thus the festival of Michael instructs us to teach about evil and good angels. We should also teach how Satan “walks about as a roaring lion,” 1 Peter 5:8, and how the good angels “encamp around them that fear the Lord,” Ps. 34:7.

This kind of instruction is given to us in such festivals and is useful and necessary so that we can sanctify the Sabbath in accord with the Third Commandment.