

St Michael and All Angels - A Late Evening Office (Wed 29th Sept)

Blessed be our God for all time, now and for evermore. Amen.

Glory to you, our God, glory be to you, Holy Spirit, Comforter, treasure of all goodness and giver of life, come and dwell in us, cleanse us from all sin, and in your love bring us to salvation.

Holy God, holy and strong, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

Psalm 91

¹ Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High
will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.

² **I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust."**

³ Surely he will save you from the fowler's snare and from the deadly pestilence.

⁴ **He will cover you with his feathers and under his wings you will find refuge;
his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart.**

⁵ You will not fear the terror of night, nor the arrow that flies by day,

⁶ **nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness, nor the plague that destroys at midday.**

⁷ A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand,
but it will not come near you.

⁸ **You will only observe with your eyes and see the punishment of the wicked.**

⁹ If you say, "The LORD is my refuge," and you make the Most High your dwelling,

¹⁰ **no harm will overtake you, no disaster will come near your tent.**

¹¹ For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways;

¹² **they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.**

¹³ You will tread on the lion and the cobra; you will trample the great lion and the serpent.

¹⁴ **"Because he loves me," says the LORD, "I will rescue him;
I will protect him, for he acknowledges my name.**

¹⁵ He will call on me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble,
I will deliver him and honour him.

¹⁶ **With long life I will satisfy him and show him my salvation."**

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever, Amen.

Reading – Daniel 10 verses 4 – 21

⁴ On the twenty-fourth day of the first month, as I was standing on the bank of the great river, the Tigris, ⁵ I looked up and there before me was a man dressed in linen, with a belt of fine gold from Uphaz around his waist. ⁶ His body was like topaz, his face like lightning, his eyes like flaming torches, his arms and legs like the gleam of burnished bronze, and his voice like the sound of a multitude.

⁷ I, Daniel, was the only one who saw the vision; those who were with me did not see it, but such terror overwhelmed them that they fled and hid themselves. ⁸ So I was left alone, gazing at this great vision; I had no strength left, my face turned deathly pale and I was helpless. ⁹ Then I heard him speaking, and as I listened to him, I fell into a deep sleep, my face to the ground.

¹⁰ A hand touched me and set me trembling on my hands and knees. ¹¹ He said, "Daniel, you who are highly esteemed, consider carefully the words I am about to speak to you, and stand up, for I have now been sent to you." And when he said this to me, I stood up trembling.

¹² Then he continued, "Do not be afraid, Daniel. Since the first day that you set your mind to gain understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to them. ¹³ But the prince of the Persian kingdom resisted me twenty-one days. Then Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, because I was detained there with the king of Persia. ¹⁴ Now I have come to explain to you what will happen to your people in the future, for the vision concerns a time yet to come."

¹⁵ While he was saying this to me, I bowed with my face toward the ground and was speechless. ¹⁶ Then one who looked like a man^[b] touched my lips, and I opened my mouth and began to speak. I said to the one standing before me, "I am overcome with anguish because of the vision, my lord, and I feel very weak. ¹⁷ How can I, your servant, talk with you, my lord? My strength is gone and I can hardly breathe."

¹⁸ Again the one who looked like a man touched me and gave me strength. ¹⁹ "Do not be afraid, you who are highly esteemed," he said. "Peace! Be strong now; be strong."

When he spoke to me, I was strengthened and said, "Speak, my lord, since you have given me strength."

²⁰ So he said, "Do you know why I have come to you? Soon I will return to fight against the prince of Persia, and when I go, the prince of Greece will come; ²¹ but first I will tell you what is written in the Book of Truth. (No one supports me against them except Michael, your prince.

Meditation.

PRAYERS - Let us pray,

Lord in your mercy **Hear our prayer**

Let us continue praying in silence (Silence is kept)

The Collect of St Michael and all Angels

Everlasting God, you have ordained and constituted ministries of angels and mortals in a wonderful order: Grant that as your holy angels always serve you in heaven, so, at your command, they may defend us on earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER - Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Blessing

And the blessing of God Almighty - the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with us and remain with us always. Amen.