

Sunday, September 27, 2026

St. Michael's and All Angels (observed)

Revelation 12:7-12

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

Intro: The Everyday War We Don't See

My friends,
 Ordinary life can conceal spiritual realities.
 Even in the everyday ho-hum of life,
 a battle rages.
 Scripture pulls back the curtain:
*"Be self-controlled
 and alert.
 Your enemy the devil prowls around
 like a roaring lion
 looking
 for someone to devour."* (1 Peter 5:8)

Yet so often we are not alert.
 We let our guard down.
 We expect spiritual warfare
 to be dramatic
 and frightening.
 But Satan's attacks ordinarily come
 through ordinary temptations
 and commonplace problems.
 His goal is simple:
 to keep us
 from believing
 and living God's Word.
 So his activity looks ordinary:
 a lack of desire for God's Word,
 neglect of the Sacrament,
 loving ourselves
 more than our neighbour,
 or simply
 not wanting to come to church.

You are not a mere spectator
 in this war.
 The devil attacks **you**,
your family,
your church,
 and **your** neighbours.
 And your sinful nature gladly cooperates.
 On your own,
 you cannot endure.

But Revelation 12 begins not with Satan's power,
 but with Michael
 and his angels
 fighting the dragon.
 But the angels' own strength
 does not cast down the dragon.
 They overcome him
*"by the blood of the Lamb
 and by
 the word of their testimony."*
 Even the angels rely
 on Christ's Word.

I. The Everyday Battle

My friends,
 If an archangel needs
 to rely on God's Word,
 how much more so
 do you?

That's why you learned
 in Catechism class:
*"We should fear and love God
 so that
 we do not despise preaching
 and His Word,
 but hold it sacred
 and gladly hear
 and learn it."*

God protects His children
 with His powerful Word.
 By that Word,
 God gives His holy angels charge
 over His people.
 By that Word,
 He arms
 both angels and men.
*“Bless the Lord,
 O you His angels,
 you mighty ones
 who do His word,
 obeying the voice
 of His word!
 Bless the Lord,
 all His hosts,
 His ministers,
 who do His will!”* (Psalm 103:20–21)

Hearing God’s Word creates faith.
 And with the shield of faith,
 you can extinguish
 the flaming darts
 of the evil one (Ephesians 6:16).
 God’s Word is the sword of the Spirit
 that drives out Satan.
 So Satan will do everything he can
 to keep you from it.

*“Woe to you,
 O earth and sea,
 for the devil has come down to you
 in great wrath,
 because he knows
 that his time is short!”* (Revelation 12:12)

Or, as St. Peter says,
*“Be self-controlled
 and alert.
 Your enemy the devil
 prowls around like a roaring lion
 looking for someone
 to devour.
 Resist him,
 standing firm
 in the faith!”* (1 Peter 5:8–9)

Yet we forget this.
 The Bible on our shelves gets dusty.
 The Bible app on our phones
 has cobwebs.
 We come to church
if we feel like it.
 We despise preaching
 and God’s Word.
 We do not hold it sacred.
 We do not gladly hear
 and learn it.

What do we gladly hold sacred?
 Our entertainment.
 Our hobbies.
 Our parties and sports.
 Our comfort and convenience.
 Our grudges and grievances.

And so we offer ourselves up
 to the lions
 on a charcuterie board.

Yes, Satan is cast down.
 The devil is defeated.
 He has been fatally,
 eternally wounded.

But
a wounded animal is dangerous.
It thrashes
and growls
and snaps.
It lashes out.

We cannot mess around.

The Devil is bound.
But even a chained dog
can do real harm
if you play in his yard.

The devil wars for your soul.
He wars for your family.
He wars for your neighbours.
And our sinful nature is quite willing
to cooperate.

Demonic activity usually looks ordinary.
It looks like a lack of desire
for God's Word.
It looks like living contrary
to God's Word.
It looks like neglecting the Sacrament.
It looks like breaking the Commandments.
It looks like constant complaining
about Christ's Church.

There is no question
that you are in the battle.
So how will Christ preserve us?

II. The Everyday Victory: The Victory is Christ's

*“And I heard a loud voice in heaven,
saying,
“Now the salvation
and the power
and the kingdom of our God
and the authority
of His Christ have come,
for the accuser
of our brothers
has been thrown down,
who accuses them day
and night before our God.
And they have conquered him
by the blood of the Lamb
and by the word
of their testimony,
for they loved not their lives
even unto death.” (Revelation 12:10–11)*

My friends,
The victorious Christ leads us
into battle.
Upon the cross,
*“[God] disarmed the rulers
and authorities
and put them to open shame,
by triumphing over them
in [Christ].” (Colossians 2:15)*
Christ is salvation.
He holds the power
and authority of the kingdom.
His blood
and Word
have cast down the accuser.
God will not hear one word
of the devil's accusations
against you.

Instead, the Son speaks His Gospel Word.

Christ defends you
and declares your innocence,
for He shed His blood
for you.

Christ's death answers
every accusation of Satan.

Michael's victory

over the dragon

is Christ's victory.

The decisive battle was fought
at the cross.

*"They overcame him
by the blood of the lamb."*

The devil cannot undo Christ's blood.

Speaking of the cross,

Jesus said:

*"Now is the judgment
of this world;*

now will the ruler

of this world be cast out.

*And I, when I am lifted up
from the earth,*

will draw all people

to myself." (John 12:31–32)

The devil cannot stop Christ

from drawing people

from every tribe

and language

to Himself.

*"They overcame him
by...the word of their testimony."*

Christ's victory is proclaimed.

The very Word announcing his defeat
drives the conquered devil out.

In the Gospel Reading,
 Jesus had sent out the disciples
 ahead of Him.
 He sent them to say,
*“The kingdom of God
 has come near
 to you.”* (Luke 10:9)
 They *“returned with joy,
 saying,
 ‘Lord,
 even the demons are subject
 to us
 in your name!’”* (Luke 10:17)
 But the true joy
 is that Christ has secured our place
 with Him.
*“Rejoice
 that your names are written in heaven.”* (Luke 10:20)

III. The Everyday Word: The Victory Delivered

My friends,
 Christ has won the victory.
 But how does Jesus give us
 that victory?
 How does He apply it
 to us?

He gives it
 through His Word.

God’s answer
 to the devil’s attacks
 is not spectacular.
 Not to our physical eyes,
 anyway.
 It is simple.
 Straightforward.
 God sends His Word.

And God's Word does what it says.
The same Word
that announces victory
also delivers the victory.

You need God's Word
in your ears,
your heart,
and your mouth.
The Word of the angels.
The Word steeped in divine blood.
The Word of Christ.

Christ delivers His victory
through the Word
in your ears.
God has given you a pastor
to speak Christ's Word
to **you**.
To preach
to **your** ears.
To speak Christ's forgiveness
to **you**.
To look **you** in the eye,
take the Word and say,
"This is for **you**!"

You can find better preachers on the internet.
But you know what you can't do?
Walk into their office Wednesday morning,
confess your sins,
and have them put their hand
on your head
and forgive your sins.

The Gospel announces Christ's blood
for sinners.
It silences the devil's accusation
with God's verdict.

**You are forgiven.
 You are redeemed.
 You are reconciled
 to God.
 You belong
 to Jesus.**

This is also the Word that cuts.
 The Word is the Spirit's sword:
*"piercing
 to the division
 of soul and of spirit...
 and discerning the thoughts
 and intentions
 of the heart"* (Hebrews 4:12).
 It cuts to the heart.
 It exposes our sin.
 It shows us our Saviour.
 It brings us
 to confession.
 Then it gives us the Word
 of absolution.

The devil says,
 "Hide your sin.
 Justify yourself.
 Blame someone else."

Christ's Word says,
 "Confess your sin.
 Receive forgiveness.
 Live
 as God's redeemed child."

Christ also delivers His victory
 through the Word joined
 to water.
 The Word is breathed
 into water.

Heaven becomes your second womb.
In water and Word,
you are born from above.
God claims you as His own.
You become His little child.
The cross is written upon you.
By Baptism,
You are hidden
in the Word
of God's name.

And Christ delivers His victory
through the Word joined
to flesh and blood.
The Word became flesh
and dwelt among us.
Christ joined our flesh
and blood
in the Virgin Mary.
And that same flesh
and blood
is given to us
in our Mother,
the Church.
In the Lord's Supper,
we receive the Word made flesh
for us.
We receive Christ's unending life.
We receive the very thing
that defeated Satan.

Here Christ feeds His soldiers.
He fills them
with His life
and strength.
This is where Christ comes
to His people.
Here He gives His Word.

Here He clothes us
 with His armour.
 Here He places His sword
 in our hands—
 the same sword
 the holy angels wield.

IV. The Everyday Conversation: Share the Word

My friends,
 The word “angel” means “messenger.”
 Context tells us
 whether a messenger
 in the Bible
 is a heavenly messenger,
 a human messenger,
 or even Christ Himself.

As your pastor,
 I am not alone
 when I bring you
 the message of the cross.
 The other angels are here too.
 And when you share the Gospel
 with your neighbour
 or grandchild,
 you are not alone.
 The holy angels are there too.

*“They have conquered [Satan]
 by the blood of the Lamb
 and by the word
 of their testimony” (Revelation 12:11)*

The Word of God is in your heart.
 It is in your ears.
 It is in your mouth.

*“Blessed are those
who hear the Word of God
and keep it!”
“How beautiful are the feet
of those
who bring good news!”*

Sharing the Gospel can be scary.
You do not know how people will respond.
You may not know fancy evangelism techniques.

But you know Jesus.
You know
what Jesus has done
for you.
And they conquered the devil
*“by the blood of the Lamb
and by the word of their testimony.”*

When you speak Christ’s Word,
you join ranks with the angels.
& the Holy Spirit is with you.

You live in the midst
of a war.
It is not a war for tariffs,
oil, land, or power.
It is a war for souls.

But you do not defeat the enemy
through cleverness
or strength.
You speak the Word
of Christ.
Share the everyday Word
in your everyday life.

Parents tell their children about Jesus.
Grandparents speak God's promises.
Christians encourage one another.
We lovingly correct one another
with God's Word.
We invite neighbours
to hear the Gospel.
Teenagers invite friends
to youth group.
We speak forgiveness
instead of accusation.
We pray,
"Thy will be done."
That is spiritual warfare.

The devil wants
to silence God's Word.
Therefore,
simply continuing to hear,
learn,
confess,
and speak the Word is warfare.

So do not underestimate ordinary faithfulness.
Come to Divine Service.
Hear the Scriptures.
Receive Absolution.
Receive Christ's Supper.
Pray.
Encourage one another.
Confess Christ.

These things look ordinary.
They look simple.
But they are vital.

The holy angels serve Christ's Church.

And we join our voices
with angels and archangels,
with Michael
and all the company of heaven,
and with all the saints
on earth.

Together we praise
and proclaim the name
of Jesus,
the Word made flesh.

Conclusion:

My friends,

The dragon rages
because he knows his time is short.

He accuses.

He prowls and roars,
seeking someone
to devour.

But the Word
of Christ
drowns him out.

The Word spoken
by Michael
and the angels.

The Word preached
by pastors.

The Word confessed
by everyday Christians.

The Word of the Cross drives him out.

Satan is cast down,
defeated
by the Lord Christ.

Our confidence is not
 that Satan is harmless.
 It is not
 that we are strong.
 Our confidence is
 that Christ has conquered Satan.
 And by His blood-soaked Word,
 Christ gives that victory to us.

So stay under the Word.
 Hear Christ's forgiveness
 in Absolution.
 Remember
 that in your Baptism,
 God claimed you as His own
 and clothed you
 with Christ.
 Come to the Lord's Table
 and receive
 the very body and blood
 of the Lamb
 who conquered the dragon.

Take the devil seriously.
 Take temptation seriously.
 Take your neighbour's soul seriously.
 But take Christ's promise most seriously of all:
*"Rejoice,
 for your names are written
 in heaven!"*
 Receive His Word.
 Trust His promise.
 Confess His name.
 And the victorious Christ
 will bring His little ones safely home—
 to the marriage feast of the Lamb,
 with angels and archangels,
 and all the company
 of heaven.

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