



Proclaiming the Praises of Christ in Prague



September 2019



Lord God, to Thee We Give All Praise

Lord God, to Thee we give all praise,
With grateful hearts our voices raise,
That angel hosts Thou didst create
Around Thy glorious throne to wait.

They never rest nor sleep as we;
Their whole delight is but to be
With Thee, Lord Jesus, and to keep
Thy little flock, Thy lambs and sheep.

The ancient dragon is their foe;
His envy and his wrath they know.
It always is his aim and pride
Thy Christian people to divide.

But watchful is the angel band
That follows Christ on ev'ry hand
To guard His people where they go
And break the counsel of the foe.

For this, now and in days to be,
Our praise shall rise, O Lord, to Thee,
Whom all the angel hosts adore
With grateful songs forevermore.

Text: Philipp Melancthon
Lutheran Service Book #522

Art: Albrecht Dürer



The Holy Gospel is read for
St. Michael's Day

St. Michael's Day - A Day to Celebrate!

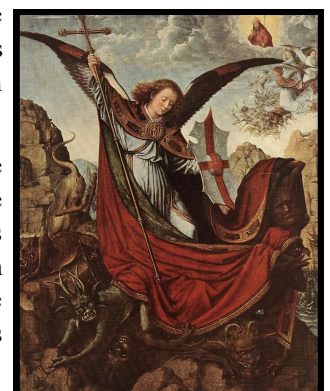
The Feast of St. Michael and All Angels (September 29) only falls on a Sunday every 5 to 6 years. So, when it does fall on a Sunday, it seems wise that St. Michael the Archangel Lutheran Church (Prague) should celebrate it in grand style. And why not? After all, the angels are confessed every Sunday when we say the Nicene Creed, stating that God the Father has overseen the creation of all things, visible and invisible. And so, as we gathered on the last Sunday in September, we pulled out all the stops and praised God for His angelic army that guards us.

It is easy to fall into the error that this teaching on the doctrine of the angels is childish stuff. Perhaps, we have been led to believe it is merely something we tell children so that they will sleep soundly. But this doctrine of the angels is an important one, not only because of the holy angels who aid and pray for us (Hebrews 1:14; Zechariah 1:12), but also for the evil angels who seek to mislead us and bring great evil upon us (1 Peter 5:8; 1 Timothy 4:1).

This is especially true when we talk about missions—not only those done by missionaries who live elsewhere, but whenever and wherever the Church bears witness to its Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ. We are told in Daniel 12 that Michael the Archangel will guard the Church, especially in the latter days (i.e., here and now). We need his protection for which the Lord Jesus appointed him. We should praise God for His angelic army that guards us and that protects us from the roaring lion's fangs. God sends these ministering spirits to assist us and to assist the proclamation of the Church, as seen in Revelation.

So, in our prayers we ought to ask the Lord to send His angelic army to aid His Church in its work. And we ask you to join in that prayer for the sake of the salvation of many people, both here and there where you are. We clearly live in a time where mankind thumbs its nose at God and His will as expressed in the Law. How often we are confronted with evil that is proclaimed as good and good proclaimed as evil! The rot and decay of this world reminds us of the warnings about which the apostles wrote (2 Timothy 4; 1 John 4:1; 2 Peter 2:2). But even so, we are promised the victory as long as we hold fast to the Word of Christ's testimony (Revelation 3:11). It is our calling to share that victory with others through the witness of Jesus' message (Luke 24:46-47).

Now that St. Michael's Day has come and gone, we are in the last weeks of the Church Year. As we move toward the holidays and, especially towards Christmas, we pray that the visitors in your church and here in Prague might be confronted with the Gospel of salvation found in Jesus alone. May His angels guard you in that task! Amen.





We thank the Lord for all of the ministries that support us. This month, we especially give thanks for:

The English District
LCMS

Grace Lutheran
Women's Ministry,
Redford, MI

Thrivent Financial
Appleton, WI

Our address in Prague:
Rev. Dale and Suzanne Kaster
Bubenečská 365/41
160 00 Praha 6
Czech Republic

The church address in Prague:
St. Michael's Lutheran Church
V Jirchářích 14/152
110 00 Praha 1
Czech Republic

Please, pray for Dale's upcoming ear surgery

Please, pray for our Czech language learning classes as well as for the Greek and Hebrew being taught.

Please, pray for our Sunday School and Adult Bible Class which began anew this month.

There are many opportunities to serve as short-term or GEO missionaries. Check out the current list and download an application at www.lcms.org/service. Click on "Service Opportunities."

Our email address is
Dale.Kaster@lcms.org

Upcoming Surgery on Dale's Ear

Dale has been dealing with a major loss of hearing in his right ear for quite some time. It has been diagnosed as otosclerosis, a hardening of one of the tiny bones God put in our ears. We first learned about a surgery to fix it back in 2013 as we were preparing to deploy to Ghana, West Africa. It did not fit into our time table then because you cannot fly right away after the surgery. So we waited. African hospitals are not the best, so we did not pursue it there. We had hoped to get it fixed while we were stateside doing our support raising last year, but again it did not fit into our timetable. So, now we are here in the Czech Republic, and the medical situation is as good as the States. Therefore, on October 31, Dale will be having ear surgery in the town of Benešov (about 30 km south of Prague). The doctor performing the procedure is a highly regarded expert, and we have a lot of peace about it. Our only concern is that Dale will be at the mercy of a lot of non-English-speaking nurses. (The doctors are all English fluent.) He will be hospitalized for three days. So, we are trying to learn as much medical Czech as we can before the stay. Your prayer for our learning and their understanding would be greatly appreciated! As well as prayers for a successful surgery and speedy recovery.



St. Michael's Day Fellowship

Our congregational family celebrated St. Michael's day not only in worship but also with a potluck luncheon. We had a wonderful time spending the afternoon together. As we have people of many ethnicities, we were able to try different foods from the USA, from here in the Czech Republic, and even from Pakistan. It was delicious and we were able to give away some food afterwards to

help the homeless as well. We will be trying to hold fellowship events from time to time as ways for us to share Christ's love.

A Busy Time at Our Parish

Many of the things we have written about before are still going on. Deacon Damašek is still being trained, learning Greek, doctrine, and good exegetical skills. Our Czech classes are challenging but very enjoyable. There is the monthly trip to Olomouc in the eastern part of the Czech Republic to bring the Sacrament and to share some fellowship with our lay missionaries. Dale still occasionally leads the Czech language liturgy at different times of the month. And there is the weekly schedule of office hours and worship. On top of those, Dale is doing Hebrew readings with a young man of our parish who is planning to attend the seminary in the USA starting next year.

However, we are also seeking to establish new points of contact with English-speaking people here in Prague. We are looking into all sorts of advertising for the English-language service as well as encouraging our members to invite people to join us. And we thank God for the increase we have had lately of locals who have visited the congregation. We pray that the Word will grab their hearts!

Please, pray for the Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in the Czech Republic (ECAVvCR). Know that we pray for your parishes in the States!

We commend you and your witness to Christ!

Rev. Dale and Suzanne Kaster

Your Missionaries to the Czech Republic

To support the LCMS through the work of the Kasters, you may send a tax-deductible gift to:

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod **OR**
P.O. Box 66861
St. Louis, MO 63166-6861

Mission Central
40718 Hwy E16
Mapleton, IA 51034

Make checks payable to The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod or LCMS. Include "Kaster – Czech Republic," in the memo line. Gifts can also be given securely online through the LCMS website at www.lcms.org/kaster.