

## St. John's Lutheran Church (LCMS) 8948 N 1900 Ave Geneseo, IL 61254 815-989-2025

September 29, 2024 St. Micha

St. Michael and All Angels

Divine Service Three (Lutheran Service Book, p. 184)

Hymn of Invocation 520 Stars of the Morning, So Gloriously Bright

#### Invocation and Versicles (p. 184)

Introit

Psalm 103:20-22; antiphon: v. 1

Bless the Lord, O my soul,

and all that is within me, bless his holy name! 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! Bless the Lord, all his works, in all places of his dominion. Bless the Lord, O my soul!

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name!

Gloria Patri and Kyrie (p. 186)

Gloria In Excelsis (p. 187)

## Collect of the Day

- P Everlasting God, You have ordained and constituted the service of angels and men in a wonderful order. Mercifully grant that, as Your holy angels always serve and worship You in heaven, so by Your appointment they may also 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, now and forever.
- C Amen. (sung)

## Readings (on back of bulletin)

## Gradual

Psalm 91:11; 103:1

He will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways. Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name! The Apostles' Creed (p. 192)

Hymn of the Day 522 Lord God, to Thee We Give All Praise

Sermon

Offertory (p. 192)

## Presentation of the Offering

## Prayer of the Church

After each petition:

- P Lord, in Your mercy,
- C hear our prayer.

The prayer concludes:

P ...one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

## Service of the Sacrament (p. 194)

(Please see the Communion statement in the pew pads for receiving the Sacrament at St. John's.)

## Distribution Hymns

621 Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence 716 I Walk in Danger All the Way 670 Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones

Nunc Dimittis (p. 199)

Hymn to Depart 521 Christ, the Lord of Hosts, Unshaken

## Old Testament Reading: Daniel 10:10-14; 12:1-3

<sup>10</sup> And behold, a hand touched me and set me trembling on my hands and knees. <sup>11</sup> And he said to me, "O Daniel, man greatly loved, understand the words that I speak to you, and stand upright, for now I have been sent to you." And when he had spoken this word to me, I stood up trembling. <sup>12</sup> Then he said to me, "Fear not, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand and humbled yourself before your God, your words have been heard, and I have come because of your words. <sup>13</sup> The prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days, but Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I was left there with the kings of Persia, <sup>14</sup> and came to make you understand what is to happen to your people in the latter days. For the vision is for days yet to come .... "

<sup>12:1</sup> "At that time shall arise Michael, the great prince who has charge of your people. And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never has been since there was a nation till that time. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone whose name shall be found written in the book. <sup>2</sup> And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. <sup>3</sup> And those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky above; and those who turn many to righteousness,

# like the stars forever and ever." **Epistle: Revelation 12:7-12**

<sup>7</sup>Now war arose in heaven, Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon. And the dragon and his angels fought back, <sup>8</sup> but he was defeated, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. <sup>9</sup> And the 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. <sup>10</sup> 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. <sup>11</sup> 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. <sup>12</sup> Therefore, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them! But 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!"

#### Holy Gospel: Matthew 18:1-11

<sup>1</sup> At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" <sup>2</sup> And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them <sup>3</sup> and said, "Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. <sup>4</sup> Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>5</sup> "Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, <sup>6</sup> but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.

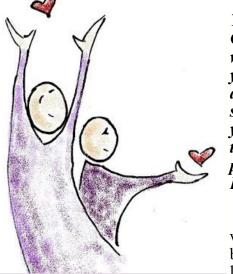
<sup>7</sup> "Woe to the world for temptations to sin! For it is necessary that temptations come, but woe to the one by whom the temptation comes! <sup>8</sup> And if your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life crippled or lame than with two hands or two feet to be thrown into the eternal fire.

<sup>9</sup> And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into the hell of fire.

<sup>10</sup> "See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven. <sup>11</sup> For the Son of Man came to save the lost."

## **CHRISTIAN LIVING**

A message from Bd. Of Stewardship & Evangelism September 2024



You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it; You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets. Matthew 22:37-40.

Over these past months we have talked about ALL things being created by God and so belonging to God. We were created

in His image as caretakers of his creation. We understand our calling as we put regular worship, daily reading His word, and prayer, as priorities in our lives. As we grow in stature and faith we understand our greatest gift is forgiveness and salvation only in Jesus Christ. Learning and recognizing that we are *stewards* of the Gospel leads us naturally into *evangelism*. It is this message that we can now share with EVE-RYONE.

The verses above remind us of the two most important commands our Heavenly Father gives to all of us. We can only love Him when we come into a relationship with Him through Baptism and continued regular study of His Word. This is where we grow in true wisdom and understanding of who we are in light of God. As faith develops in each of us. We then can go forth to love our neighbors (anyone who crosses our path in life).

But what does loving our neighbor look like through the lens of God? During the nest several months we will unpack this command. We will talk about how each of us are able to evangelize wherever we are in our daily life.

Lord, we thank you for calling us as Your stewards and evangelist. May we be willing to answer Your call to love You and our neighbors each day we have to serve on this side of eternity. In the name of Jesus our Lord and risen Savior. Amen.

#### ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH-LCMS

churchoffice@stjohnsgeneseo.org Website: www.stjohnsgeneseo.org https://www.facebook.com/St.Johns.Geneseo

#### HEARING ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE

**Rev. Timothy Nerud** 

815-989-2025 (Office) 612-

Pastor 612-940-8138 (Cell)

Elder: Mike Dahl

Greeter: Janet Bertsos

Videographers: Joel Werling, Nicole Nerud, or Heidi Nerud

**WE PRAY**: Holy Spirit of the Godhead, who has called us into the marvelous light of Christ, lead us also in the footsteps of Christ that the sinner in us always give way to our sainthood in Christ; through that same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who with You and the Father are one God with dominion over us forever. Amen

#### WELCOME TO ALL!

We are anxious to share with you the Christ-centered ministry at St. John's. Our Liturgy follows closely the pattern of Word and Lord's Supper handed down from the ancient Church. It is our hope that you will make the Church's life of prayer your own. If you have difficulty following our order of service, please ask someone sitting near you for assistance. We pray that you will receive rich spiritual blessings from your presence here. May the peace and power of our risen Christ be yours always.

#### **OFFICE HOURS**

Terri's hours (Monday—Friday, please call ahead) 8 am—12 pm Pastor's hours (Monday, Pastor's day off) (Tuesday—Friday) please call ahead

## **STREAM SERVICES** https://www.facebook.com/St.Johns.Geneseo/ and on the website: www.stjohnsgeneseo.org.

**DAILY DEVOTIONS FROM LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES** - use this website (**www.lhm.org**) to receive daily devotions sent to your email or phone. You never have to be without God's word.

All bulletin announcements need to be in the Office by Wednesday mornings.

ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY Sunday school—7 Adult Bible Class—8 Worship—47

#### OFFERING

Offering last Sunday\$2,193.00Weekly giving needed per 2024 Budget\$4,481.54

## WEEKLY ACTIVITIES AT ST JOHN'S

Today	8:45 am	SS, Adult/Youth Bible Study
-	10:00 am	Divine Worship/Holy Communion
Thursday	4:30 pm	Wedding of Mike Blair/Dayla Jones
Next Sunday	8:45 am	SS, Adult/Youth Bible Study
·	10:00 am	Divine Worship/Holy Communion

I rejoiced with those who said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD." Psalms 122:1

MARK 9:45 – "And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life lame than with two feet to be thrown into hell." So what is causing us to sin? Lust? Greed? Fear? Better to cut it off! We need the Lord's help to do this — and you are in the right place this Lord's Day to receive that help through Word and Sacrament!

**ATTENDANCE BOOK**—We ask everyone attending this morning to sign the red attendance book found at the end of each pew, then pass it back.

**PHONE NUMBER CHANGE**—The church phone number is changed. Please make a note of this change. The new church number is: 815-989-2025. This will connect you to either the church office or Pastor's office.

**WILL YOU SERVE?**—We are look people to serve on various Council Boards. Anyone willing to serve on a Board may contact Dave.

As stated in our By-Laws, we will be seeking people to fill the following positions. Everyone is asked to consider where they might serve:

Chairman	Financial Treasurer	5	Elder
Trustee	Evangelism		Stewardship (2)
SS Superintendent			

**CHRISTIAN LIVING—Mark 9:38-50**: Becoming a disciple of Jesus by our own choosing is impossible for us! We cannot choose Him. He chooses us and equips us to be His people in action. Through us, He is still calling sinners to repentance and a life with purpose and meaning. We are blessed to be His ambassadors and to help in this process of calling people to Jesus. May we do it with joy and fervent love for God in our witness.

**LIFE THOUGHTS**—The horror of abortion happening over 3,000 times each day in the U.S. should make Christians angry. The silence of the Church and the indifference of fellow congregational members should make Christians angry. But anger must not lead us to sin (Ephesians 4:26). Screaming and yelling and returning evil for evil is not the way of the body of Christ. The truth needs to be proclaimed but without "bitterness and wrath" (4:31).

**DOLLAR FOR MISSIONS**: The current Dollar for Missions project is for replacement of furnaces at Immanuel Lutheran Student Center, Macomb, which is expected to cost some \$25,000. The Student Center was built 55 years ago. Equipment replacement like this is important so the Gospel can continue to be proclaimed and students can go on being reached there for years into the future. For more information visit <u>https://www.cidlems.org/ministry-dfm-current-project.html</u>. (Thank you to those at St. John's who consistently support the work of Missions on the District and Synodical level. You are a blessing!)

ALTAR FLOWERS—The 2023 Flower Chart is now on the bulletin board next to the restrooms. Cost for weekly flowers are \$30 for two arrangements. We greatly appreciate those who help with providing flowers for Sunday worship services. <u>Please sign up for a Sunday</u>.

#### PRAYER MINISTRY

#### *Rejoice in God's goodness in Christ as you pray:*

**MISSION**—Thank God that He always answers our confession with words of forgiveness and life..

**ST JOHN'S—Mr. & Mrs Bradford Gehn**—We offer before You our common request for the well-being of Your church throughout the world that it may be so guided and governed by Your good Spirit that all who profess themselves Christians may be led into the way of truth and hold the faith in unity of spirit in the bond of peace, and the righteousness of life. Specifically, we pray for Brad and Mary Jo asking Your blessings upon them.

**ST. JOHN'S FAMILY**—O Lord, You are the great Physician of soul and body. We pray that You would show mercy to Your servants:

body. We play that I bu would show mercy to I but servants.					
Elizabeth Bjork	Paula Chapa	Joyce DeFauw			
Betty Firch	Arlyn Helke	Jessica Johnson			
Lynne Johnson	Linda Lundquist	Aaron Raschke			
Drew Schillinger	Carolyn Wildermuth	Marilyn Woods			
Dawn Daebelliehn					
Brandon & Shaeli Streeks & family (Adopted Seminarian)					
Jon/Anita Clausing (missionaries in Kenya)					
Don Eggers ( son of friend of Marilyn Woods)					
Jodi Martins (daughter of Gary & Darla Johns)					
Shandel Loenser					
Paul Werner (brother of Dan Werner)					
Ron Powell (friend of Brad Gehn)					
Justin Rittenhouse (grandson of John/Nancy Wickwire)					
Marty Cavato (cousin of Mary Jo Gehn)					
Ellen Bauer (grandmother of Joel Werling)					
Don Lutz (husband of an LWML friend of Liz Neumann)					
Carol Eggers (friend of Marilyn Woods)					
Gary Kilstom (friend of Brad Gehn)					
Kenneth Cullison (son of Kevin and Stacie Rahn)					
	)				

MILITARY—We pray for those serving in our military and their families: Mandy Davila (daughter of Linda Aper) Luke/Nicole Thompson (son/daughter-in-law of John/Kindra Thompson) Karl Flynn (son of Mr/Mrs Paul Flynn) Casey Powers Jr. (step son of Lisa Powers) Brittany Loenser (daughter of Gabe Loenser) Rylie Hallendorff (grand-daughter of Carolyn & Dan Werner)

## LUTHERANS FOR LIFE

"When we engage in the political process, we as Christians rightfully assert these rights, knowing that in doing so we are defending not only or even primarily ourselves, but our neighbors ... By asserting the right to life, and to other natural rights, we are in fact confessing God's given order." *Rev. Dr. Peter Scaer, Concordia Theological Seminary – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life* • *lutheransforlife.org* 

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St. Michael and All Angels
September 29, 2024
Text: Psalm 91:11-12
Other Texts: Daniel 10:10-14; 12-:1-3 (Old Testament); Revelation 12:7-12 (Epistle); Matthew 18:1-11 (Gospel)

## "God's Gift of the Holy Angels"

Grace, mercy and peace be yours from God our Father through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Fellow redeemed, the church year has been established so that important biblical doctrines can be taught to God's people. And so the Festival of St. Michael and All Angels gives us the opportunity to consider and instruct upon the doctrine of angels as that is not otherwise regularly done. Let us begin with a few basic facts about the angels.

First, we recognize that the angelic beings are a unique creation, made sometime during the six days of creation week.<sup>i</sup> As a part of the invisible creation, they are completely distinct from the visible creation of the universe, including humans. They were all created at once and their number forever remains the same since as spirits they do not procreate.<sup>ii</sup> The only change is those angels which rebelled and became the devil and demons, which decreased the number of *holy* angels, yet the total number of these spirit beings remained the same.

Second, and related to what was just said, we can identify two somewhat common thoughts to be serious errors. One is that when people die, or at least certain people, perhaps babies or small children, they become angels.<sup>iii</sup> But this denies that humans and the angelic spirits are distinct creations, it denies the fixed number of the angels, and it rejects the glorious baptismal promise to all believers, young and old, that their *human* body will be raised in power, glory and immortality on the Last Day in imitation of Christ Jesus who's not only our Lord and Savior, but also our *brother* according to His human nature.

The other error is the idea that the fallen angels, before the Flood, procreated with human women and produced a half-breed race known as the Nephilim.<sup>iv</sup> For first, this too denies that humans and the angels are *distinct creations*. For even if demons took on human form, which might be possible but is actually not revealed in Scripture,<sup>v</sup> they would still be unable to *procreate* since taking on human form *is not the same as becoming human*. Second, to believe demons became *human* rejects the one-time miracle of the incarnation of Jesus Christ, that only God could become a *true* man. Third, it also credits demons with creating a new race, which is *impossible* as only God can create something new. And just to close this topic: should a demon-possessed human procreate with another human, *even another possessed one*, the child would still be *human* (though the situation for that poor human child would be horrific indeed).

When considering the holy angels, perhaps the only thing more amazing than who they are is one of their primary duties. Just consider these verses of Psalm 91, one of which was part of the appointed Gradual. "For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways. On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone."<sup>vi</sup>

While there are countless reasons to give thanks, praise and worship to our God and Savior, today we think especially of His promise to send His holy angels to help us. Day and night, though completely hidden to our senses, these members of heaven's army surround us. Under Jesus' command, these warriors keep countless dangers away from us. How many times, unbeknownst to us, have we escaped harm because of the angelic defenders around us? How many times has disaster been turned aside from us when others were careless, or when we ourselves were foolish, by these mighty soldiers? How much harm to our body and soul have we, without knowing it, either completely escaped or had lessened because of the vigilance of the angels? Perhaps we remember some "close calls" when driving or in other instances. Do we really believe it was "luck" that kept us safe? No. It was the holy angels, under God's rule, shielding us, without which we would have perished, physically, morally, spiritually, long ago.

When we walk in God's ways, remaining close to Him in loving obedience, the angels lift us up so that we do not strike our foot on a stone. Even when we meet sickness, pain, emotional distress, loss, even when temptation comes, under God's direction the holy angels permit what occurs so that God may use it for our good even as they limit it so that we not tempted beyond what we can bear.

What a wonder that God uses the holy angels to guard that which is unholy, whether the governments of the earth to keep the demons in check, but also we who have such sin within us. Would it not seem right that these holy beings, perfect in every way, would shun us as our sins and failures are open and obvious to them, clearly revealed in the light of God's holiness which they perfectly reflect? Surely, they *are* disgusted by our sins, especially when we willfully put our bodies and souls at risk. Truly, they *are* frustrated when we hinder their work of protecting us by our own foolishness and desire to do that which is sinful, filthy, evil. Yet like true noble knights, they do not turn away and leave us to fend for ourselves. Without either complaint or harm to their own holiness, they remain faithful to their God-given charge to protect us.

Just consider, God sends these spirits of light and power to the aid of us who are but dust and ashes; the mighty and undying to help the frail and dying. The generosity of God's love is seen most clearly in the giving of His Son to live, die and rise again as our Savior from our sins and their just punishment in time and eternity. Yet it is surely also revealed in His sending these powerful warriors to protect us, His feeble, frail, yes, sinful, but also forgiven, blood-bought *children*. So while it is right to do so every day, today especially we give thanks to our Triune God for the love He has lavished on us through the ministration of the angels. Whether we each have our own guardian angel is not revealed, but neither is it necessary, for the angels are God-given protectors for all His children, young and old, throughout this life, the good and bad.

Marvel at this reality and give God all glory and thanks for it: What the holy angels do at God's command they do for Him. And they also do it *for us*! Even as we honor and serve God by serving our neighbor in love in our holy vocations, so the holy angels honor and serve God by serving us, God's precious Christians. They do not do this grudgingly, despite our sins which you would think would bring that out. But no, they do it gladly, for it is God's pleasure that they do such and it is their pleasure to do what is God's pleasure. After all, that is true holiness!

The angels praise God at Jesus' birth. They rejoice that the Word of God through whom they were made and whom they serve, has come to earth to save us.<sup>vii</sup> Peter writes that the angels long to look into the mysterious working of God in mankind's salvation.<sup>viii</sup> It amazes them as they see the eternal Son becoming a true man to save the ones He also created in His image, but who willingly turned from Him. They do not resent us for God's grace, mercy and love toward us, that which their fallen brothers did not receive, but instead know God's way is always right and so rejoice in our salvation and gladly carry out their duties to bring us into glory with them.

Is it not interesting how God brings together the strong and the weak, the mighty angels and frail, fallen humanity? Those who always behold the glorious face of God with those whose cannot see Him except by faith and, worse, who too often are focusing on earthly, unspiritual, even sinful things instead of God, His Word, and His Church. But we, who because of sin are but dust and ashes, on that day when our mortality is made the most obvious, the day of our death, will then be ushered to Abraham's bosom, the nearer presence of Christ, by the immortal angels.

How amazing and blessed it will be for us in the new creation when we too see God with our own resurrected eyes as our mortality is swallowed up by immortality. No, we will *not* be angels, for we will remain that which were created to be, *human*. But then we will be humans who are free from sin and its effects; being powerful and immortal as well. Then we will fully join the holy angels in the eternal praise and worship of God that is heaven. And then we will have the opportunity to speak with the angels who watched over us in love for God and us.

Here we do not pray to them, call upon them, or invoke them, nor do they want such. Here we speak to God in prayer and let Him command His angels accordingly. But in the new creation we will be able to talk to the angels without sin, perhaps asking them about the many times they protected us from danger, kept us from physical and/or spiritual ruin by keeping the attacking demons in check, driving them back so that they could not have their way with us.

Today, especially as Christ come to us in the Holy Sacrament, we once more join not only with one another, *but with angels, archangels, and all the company of heaven* in the presence and worship of the most blessed and holy Trinity. No doubt, the angels could find better company then us. But certainly we couldn't! Yet, in pure holiness and worship of God, they join with us, God's children in Christ Jesus, *their* creator and commander,<sup>ix</sup> and do so willingly and joyfully.

So let us imitate the angels by striving ever more to serve God by carrying out His will in our lives just as they do. Let us strive to be holy as they are so that we do not offend them, disgust them and, most importantly, hinder their work of protecting us by putting our heads in the satanic lion's jaws through willful sin. Instead of driving them away clinging to sin, let us put on the full armor of God and, though weakly, join with them in battling the spirits of darkness. Instead of shaming our angelic protectors by deliberate sin, with them may we bring honor to God, the creator of the angels and us, who has saved us and even sends His angels to guard us until He brings us, His redeemed children in Christ Jesus, into the fullness of salvation. So not to us, not even to the angels, but to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be all glory forever. Amen!

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>i</sup> Job 38:7 indicates the angels witness parts of the creation of the earth, so it would seem likely that they were created earlier in creation week, maybe even in the initial bringing forth of the heavens and the earth. However, we cannot be dogmatic about the specific day since Scripture does not directly tell us.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>ii</sup> This is what Jesus is referring to in Matthew 22:30. Note He does not say that we become angels in the resurrection, but will be like them in this way, namely marriage and procreation are no longer necessary. <sup>iii</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>iv</sup> Genesis 6:4.

 $<sup>^{</sup>v}$  Holy angels can appear as humans, usually young men (e.g. the angels at Jesus' empty tomb), but this is not actually said of the evil ones.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>vi</sup> Psalm 91:11-12. Scripture quotes are from *The Holy Bible English Standard Version* (ESV) unless otherwise noted.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>vii</sup> John 1:1-3, 14. See also Hebrews 1.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>viii</sup> 1 Peter 1:12.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>ix</sup> See Joshua 5:13-15 where the pre-incarnate Son of God refers to Himself as "the commander of the army of the Lord."

## St. Michael and All Angels 29 September 2024

## **Collect of the Day**

Everlasting God, You have ordained and constituted the service of angels and men in a wonderful order. Mercifully grant that, as Your holy angels always serve and worship You in heaven, so by Your appointment they may also 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, now and forever.

## **Presentation of the Offering**

Christ Jesus, Lord of the angelic armies, having these mighty warriors to protect us from the devil and his hordes is one more incredible blessing from Your hand. Cleanse us from all sin and unrighteousness that our words of confession, thanks and praise, our offerings, and our whole lives may be well-pleasing to You, a true joining with the heavenly hosts in holy worship now and forever. Amen.

## Prayer of the Church—Responsive Form

Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Remember, Lord, Your Holy Church and all her children. May Your holy angels watch over us and guard us both collectively and individually. Grant to Your blood-bought Bride peace and unity throughout the world. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer**.

Remember Matthew, our Synod president; Michael, our district president; and all pastors, teachers, deaconesses and servants of Your Church. Strengthen them in the true faith, and enable them to teach it well. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.** 

Remember our president, our public servants and all in our armed forces. Guide, bless, protect and uphold them in honor. Bring all nations into the ways of peace and justice. In Your kindness and love, grant us seasonable weather and an abundance of the fruits of the earth. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer**.

Remember all who suffer for Your name, all who are in prison, the hungry and ill-clad, the poor and the lonely, those who travel, and all who cry out to You in their time of need, especially all who have asked for our prayers including Ellen, Elizabeth, Marty, Paula, Kenneth, Dawn, Joyce, Carol, Don, Betty, Arlyn, Jessica, Lynne, Gary, Shandel, Linda, Don, Jodi, Ron, Aaron, Justin, Drew, Paul, Carolyn, and Marilyn. Grant that Your holy angels may be with them always, that the evil foe may have no power over them. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer**.

O Lord, remember Brad and Mary Jo Gehn. Bless them in body and soul with all things needful for this life and eternity. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer**.

Father in heaven, Your Son instituted His Holy Supper for the forgiveness of our sins. Give us hearts humbled in repentance to receive this blessed Sacrament with thanksgiving, and strengthen us through the same for our daily lives of faith. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.** 

Everlasting God, You have ordained and constituted the service of angels and men in a wonderful order. Mercifully grant that, as Your holy angels always serve and worship You in heaven, so by Your appointment they may also 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, now and forever. **Amen.**