THE SYNAXIS OF THE HOLY ARCHANGEL MICHAEL AND THE OTHER BODILESS POWERS
TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
November 8, 2026

MATINS

Versicle and Response 11
Venite 11
Psalm: 8, 91
Lesson: Job 38:1 - 7

Benedictus 15*
Resurrection Gospel
Kyrie eleison & Lord's Prayer
Prayers & Benediction

*Officiant: An Angel stood at the Altar of the Temple.
People: Having a golden censer in his hand.

THE DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. GREGORY THE DIALOGIST

Only those Orthodox Christians who have prepared themselves may approach the Chalice for Holy Communion, but everyone is welcome to partake of the Holy Bread after the Liturgy.

Introit
Kyrie
Gloria 85
Collect of the Day
Lesson & Gradual
Epistle
Alleluia
Holy Gospel
Sermon
Nicene Creed 45
Litany

Offertory **159**
Secret
Sursum Corda 88
Sanctus 89
Canon of the Mass 89
Lord's Prayer and Fraction 92
Agnus Dei 93
Communion
Dismissal & Blessing
Last Gospel
Angelus

COLLECT: Almighty and Everlasting God, you have ordained and constituted in a wonderful order the ministries of angels and mortals: Mercifully grant that, as your holy angels always serve and worship you in heaven, so by your appointment they may help and defend us here on earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, God, for all ages of ages. Amen.

LESSON: Genesis 28:10-17 Jacob left Beer-sheba and went toward Haran. He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. And the LORD stood beside him and said, 'I am the LORD, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring; and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.' Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, 'Surely the LORD is in this place—and I did not know it!' And he was afraid, and said, 'How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.'

EPISTLE: Revelation 12:7-12 And war broke out in heaven; Michael and his angels fought against the dragon. The dragon and his angels fought back, but they were defeated, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. 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. Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, proclaiming, 'Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Messiah, for the accuser of our comrades has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God. But they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they did not cling to life even in the face of death. Rejoice then, you heavens and those who dwell in them! But woe to the earth and the sea, for the devil has come down to you with great wrath, because he knows that his time is short!'

HOLY GOSPEL: John 1:47-51 When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, 'Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!' Nathanael asked him, 'Where did you get to know me?' Jesus answered, 'I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you.' Nathanael replied, 'Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!' Jesus answered, 'Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these.' And he said to him, 'Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.'

SECRET: God of glory, as you have appointed angels to minister in your presence, so may all our worship bring you worthy praise; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, God, for all ages of ages. Amen.

POSTCOMMUNION: Eternal God, you have fed us with the bread of angels in these holy mysteries. May we who come under their protection, like them, give you continual service and praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, God, now and ever and for all ages of ages. Amen.

SERVICES & MEETINGS FOR THE WEEK

Mon. Nov 9	**Men's Group 7pm**
Wed. Nov 11	**Liturgy 6pm**
Thurs. Nov 12	**Jesus Prayer 7pm**
Fri. Nov 13	**Women's Group 10am**
Sat. Nov 14	**Vespers 4:30pm**
Sunday, Nov 15	**XV Pentecost: Class 9am Matins 9:45am Divine Liturgy 10am**

On the 8th of November, the Orthodox Church celebrates the Feast of Synaxis of the Archangels Michael and Gabriel and the rest of the archangels. The word synaxis means the gathering of believers to celebrate a feast, or to make a remembrance of a saint. This feast also has a special meaning; it is the gathering of the humans with the angels, "their union, their gathering and standing in fear in front of the Creator. "Because of the fall of the devil and his angels, this feast is the celebration of the "sobriety and unity" of the rest of the angelic powers who stayed loyal to God. "We celebrate also the contribution of the angels and archangels and their help and support in the war against the dark powers and the devil." We celebrate this feast of unity between angels and humans, and this unity is not in the "life to come" at the end of times — it starts in this world: the angels direct and guard the sons of God who are struggling in this world; they are glad with every sinner returning to God; they convey prayers to God's throne. Hence, there is a common liturgical work between angels and humans. The angels offer a non-stop continuous doxology and mental worship with humans to God. They offer to the Holy Trinity the Trisagion: "With these holy powers, we sinners say the trisagion, 'Holy, Holy, Holy Lord of Sabaoth, the heavens and earth are filled with Thy glory, hosanna in the highest, blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord, hosanna in the highest'." They gather around the holy altar with the priest to serve with him the Liturgy. So there is only one celebration, one feast common between humans and angels: "Angels with humans celebrate together, earthly with heavenly speak." "Through Thy Cross Christ our God, the angels and humans become one church, heaven and earth are united, O Lord Glory to Thee." The angels are members of the Church, the body of Christ. The 8th of November is also a specific feast of Archangel Michael, going back in history in celebrating the memory of his church in Arkadia in Constantinople.

In name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. St. Michael the Archangel, illustrious leader of the heavenly army, defend us in the battle against principalities and powers, against the rulers of the world of darkness and the spirit of wickedness in high places. Come to the rescue of mankind, whom God has made in His own image and likeness, and purchased from Satan's tyranny at so great a price. Holy Church venerates you as her patron and guardian. The Lord has entrusted to you the task of leading the souls of the redeemed to heavenly blessedness. Entreat the Lord of peace to cast Satan down under our feet, so as to keep him from further holding man captive and doing harm to the Church. Carry our prayers up to God's throne that the mercy of the Lord may quickly come and lay hold of the beast, the serpent of old, Satan and his demons, casting him in chains into the abyss, so that he can no longer seduce the nations. AMEN

ST. MICHAEL ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH
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"Never, never, never let anyone tell you that, in order to be Orthodox, you must be Eastern. The West was fully Orthodox for a thousand years, and her venerable liturgy is far older than any of her heresies."

Saint John Maximovitch