



St George's Anglican Church | Malvern

**MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS**

**27 September 2015**

**Sentence**

All the angels sang, 'Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honour and power and might be to our God for ever and ever! Amen.'

*Revelation 3.78*

**Collect of the day**

Almighty God, you govern the courses of this world  
by means too wonderful for us to comprehend:  
give us reverence before the mysteries of your providence,  
and grace to know the messengers of your will;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**A reading from the book of the prophet Ezekiel.**

*Ezekiel prophecies are among the most puzzling writings in the scriptures, written during the exile of the Jews in Babylon, dating from 597BC. This is the beginning of Ezekiel's vision of God's throne-chariot, symbolising God's transcendence. This imagery occurs in Patrick White's novel Riders in the Chariot, where four characters, each a mystic in their own way who has seen Ezekiel's vision of God's chariot, are drawn into a narrative about good and evil as they explore their life experiences.*

As I looked, a stormy wind came out of the north: a great cloud with brightness around it and fire flashing forth continually, and in the middle of the fire, something like gleaming amber. In the middle of it was something like four living creatures. This was their appearance: they were of human form. Each had four faces, and each of them had four wings. Their legs were straight, and the soles of their feet were like the sole of a calf's foot; and they sparkled like burnished bronze. Under their wings on their four sides they had human hands. And the four had their faces and their wings thus: their wings touched one another; each of them moved straight ahead, without turning as they moved. As for the appearance of their faces: the four had the face of a human being, the face of a lion on the right side, the face of an ox on the left side, and the face of an eagle; such were their faces. Their wings were spread out above; each creature had two wings,

each of which touched the wing of another, while two covered their bodies. Each moved straight ahead; wherever the spirit would go, they went, without turning as they went.

*Ezekiel 1.4-12*

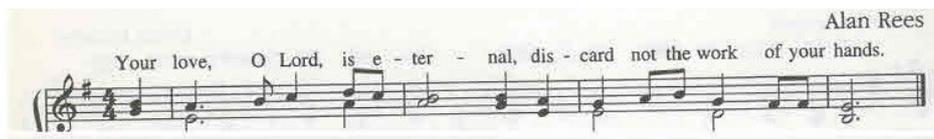
**Reader** Hear the word of the Lord

**ALL** Thanks be to God

Psalm 138 8am APBA, page 369

*This psalm is one of a collection of hymns written to raise God in the Temple in Jerusalem. In exile, the people of Judah longed to return to a rebuilt city and Temple.*

### Responsorial Psalm 138



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| 1 I thank you, Lord, with <u>all</u> my heart,<br>you have heard the words <u>of</u> my mouth.<br>Before the angels <u>I</u> will bless you.<br>I will adore before your <u>holy</u> temple. | 2 I thank you for your <u>faithfulness</u> and love<br>which excel all we <u>ever</u> knew of you.<br>On the day I <u>called</u> , you answered;<br>you increased the strength of <u>my</u> soul. |
| 3 The Lord is high yet he looks <u>on</u> the lowly,<br>and the haughty he knows <u>from</u> afar.<br>Your love, O Lord, <u>is</u> eternal,<br>discard not the work <u>of</u> your hands.    |   |

### A reading from the book of Revelation.

*In the Book of Revelation, this war in heaven is offered as a reason for the present (1<sup>st</sup> century) persecution of Christians. Since that war was won by God's power of life and death, so the present circumstances in the 21<sup>st</sup> century will not prevail over God's Church.*

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! *Rev. 12.7-12a*

**Reader** May your word live in us

**ALL** **And bear much fruit to your glory**

#### **Gospel Acclamation**

**ALL** Alleluia, alleluia!

Bless the Lord, you angels of the Lord:  
sing praise to him and highly exalt him forever.

**ALL** **Alleluia, alleluia!**

**Reader** The Lord be with you

**ALL** **And also with you**

**Reader** A reading from the holy gospel according to John.

**ALL** **Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

*Nathaniel may well be a collective character, meaning all those without deceit, ie not like tricky Jacob of Genesis. Those who are open to God will see in Jesus the fullness of his role as mediator between heaven and earth.*

Philip found Nathanael and said to him, 'We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth.' Nathanael said to him, 'Can anything good come out of Nazareth?' Philip said to him, 'Come and see.' When

Jesus saw Nathanael coming towards him, he said of him, 'Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!' Nathanael asked him, 'Where did you come 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.'

*John 4.45-51*

**Reader** For the Gospel of the Lord

**ALL Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ**



**PRAYER FOR THE WEEK.**

O God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: mercifully grant us such a measure of your grace that, running in the way of your commandments, we may obtain your gracious promises, and be made partakers of your heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**BIBLE READINGS NEXT SUNDAY**

4 October 19th Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 2.18-24 Psalm 8 Hebrews 1.1-4; 5-12 Mark 10.2-16

**Pray for the Faithful Departed** We remember before God: Elaine Jarvie, Richard Coles, Mary Lewis, William (Bill) Tickner, Jean Collier Armstrong, Richard Markillie, Llewellyn Moline, Margaret Bridges, Irene Lowe, James Essex Holt, Priest, David McInnes, Nancy Milne, Kenneth Moss, Barbara Hindell, John Weigall, Rosa Brenda Righetti, Nancy Macindoe, Peter Campbell Trumble *whose anniversaries occur this week.*

**COMMEMORATIONS OF THE WEEK.**

October 4 **Francis** of Assisi (1181-1226), friar and priest and founder of the Franciscan Order. Born of a wealthy family, Francis renounced his inheritance to become a friar. His simple life style, renunciation of wealth, generosity, love of nature and deep devotion, have made him popular in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The *Little Flowers of St. Francis*, legends about the early Franciscan movement, has been treasured for centuries.

October 6 **William Tyndale** (1494-1536) biblical scholar. His translation of the bible from the Greek and Hebrew, in vigorous English, is the basis for the Authorised Version and many other versions. Tyndale created many English words and expressions we still use today, such as 'let there be light', 'the powers that be', 'my brother's keeper', 'filthy lucre', 'fight the good fight', 'sick unto death', 'flowing with milk and honey', 'the apple of his eye', 'a man after his own heart', 'the spirit is willing but the flesh is weak', 'ye of little faith', 'broken-hearted' and 'eat, drink and be merry', 'we live and move and have our being' and 'let my people go'. He invented words we still use: 'fisherman', 'stumbling-block', 'taskmaster', 'two edged'; and 'Passover'.