Michaelmas – Spiritual Warfare – Special Event

Focus:
Understanding Angels and their ministry of spiritual warfare on our behalf all the time in heaven and on earth

Lesson:
Angels - As the Sun is surrounded by rays of glorious light, so God in heaven is surrounded by countless numbers of angels - pure spirits created by God to worship him, enjoy him, and serve him. Along with visible creatures (like human beings and animals, plants, birds, etc.) God created invisible creatures - bodiless spirits, that are usually called angels - pure minds that move with the speed of thought.

The Fall of the Angels - At their creation, most angels saw God in his glory and began to worship him and serve him. But some saw their own glory, and
though it was less than God's, they preferred their own glory to God's. In their pride they rebelled against God, and sought to put themselves in his place, and they were brought low (Isaiah 14, Revelation 12) - Michael and his angels fought against the Devil (Lucifer, Satan) and his angels, and cast them out of heaven.

Spiritual Warfare - at our baptism we renounce the Devil - we promise to have nothing to do with the Spirit of Pride. He is a Liar and Deceiver (John 8:44), who is constantly trying to undo God's work, and to bring man down to ruin. His favorite weapon is lies and deceptions, illusions and fantasies, whereby he tempts us to rebel against God. In this spiritual warfare, what is our greatest weapon against his lies and hatred? The truth and love of God, revealed to us in Christ. Christian education is training for warfare! "The truth shall set you free" (John
8:32). Cf. Ephesians 6:10-18. The armor of God - Christ's saving work, the Word of God, and Prayer. "Walk as children of light...and have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness" (Ephesians 5:8, 11).

On Michaelmas, we remember how by the command of God and of Christ, Michael the archangel and his angels defend the people of God (Daniel 12:1) in their spiritual warfare against the Devil and his angels (Revelation 12). In the Collect p. 251 we pray that the angels who worship him in heaven may

defend us on earth. We also give thanks for the care of the "guardian angels" whom protect the children of God (Matthew 18:10).

How do angels help or hurt us? By presenting thoughts for us to consider, and either reject or adopt. See Collect Lent 2, p. 127, "evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul". Can a fallen angel (a devil or demon) possess me? Yes, but only if I willingly entertain him and welcome him.

Do angels have wings? Are they male or female? Angels do not have bodies, so they do not have sex (they are neither male nor female) - although they can take on the visible appearance of a human being, and usually this is the appearance of a man. The appearance of a human being shows that they are rational - capable of knowing, loving, and speaking. The appearance of wings (Isaiah 6) shows that they can move with the speed of thought. The descriptions of them in Scripture show that they are splendid beings, who dazzle all who see them.

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General Hymns

65. 65. D., with Refrain

ST. GERTRUDE

ARTHUR S. SULLIVAN, 1871

In march time

1 On-ward, Chris-tian sol - diers, March-ing as to war, With the cross of
2 At the sign of tri - umph Sa-tan's host doth flee; On, then, Chris-tian
3 Like a migh-ty ar - my Moves the Church of God; Broth-ers, we are

Je - sus Go - ing on be - fore! Christ, the roy - al Mas - ter, Leads a -
sol - diers, On to vic - to - ry! Hell's foun-da-tions quiv - er At the
tread - ing Where the saints have trod; We are not di - vid - ed, All one

gainst the foe; For-ward in - to bat - tle, See, his ban-ners go.
shout of praise; Broth-ers, lift your voic - es, Loud your an-thems raise.
bo - dy we, One in hope and doc - trine, One in cha - ri - ty.

Refrain

On - ward, Chris-tian sol - diers, March-ing as to war,

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