

Ss Michael, Gabriel & Raphael : Psalter Proper **29 Sep Tuesday**

Saint Michael (Hebrew: Who is like God?) is the "Prince of the Heavenly Host," the leader of all the angels. **Saint Gabriel** (God's strength) is seen at the annunciations.

Saint Raphael, (God has healed) is seen healing Tobias' blindness in the Book of Tobit.



First Reading: (Dan 7:9-10, 13-14)

As I looked, thrones were placed and one that was ancient of days took his seat; his raiment was white as snow, and the hair of his head like pure wool; his throne was fiery flames, its wheels were burning fire. A stream of fire issued and came forth from before him; a thousand thousands served him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him; the court sat in judgment, and the books were opened. I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him. And to him was given dominion and glory and kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed.

Ps 137:1-5

R./ In the presence of the angels I will bless you, O Lord.

Gospel: (Jn 1:47-51) Jesus saw Nathanael coming to him, and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!" Nathanael said to him, "How do you know me?" Jesus answered him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." Nathanael answered him, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" Jesus answered him, "Because I said to you, I saw you under the fig tree, do you believe? You shall see greater things than these." And he said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man."

Reflection: Today the Church presents before us three great Angels. Michael, the one who Protects, Gabriel, who announces and Raphael, the one who guides. Throughout the Scripture we see 'angels' being mentioned. The angels make the presence of God on earth felt by their guidance, protection and through their messages. God's protection comes through the angels. 'For he will command his angels to guard you in all your ways (Ps 91: 11). We are not alone in our struggles.

In the Gospel Jesus tells Nathanael that he will see greater things than Jacob's ladder. He will see the one who announces God's kingdom to all the nations. He will see the Father himself for Jesus says, "Those who have seen me have seen the father" and it is through Jesus that we will reach heaven. Heaven and earth meets in Jesus. **Nathanael had a personal experience of Jesus. (Jesus read the inmost thoughts of his heart). It is only then that he declares Jesus as the Son of God and the king of Israel.** It is like the Samaritan woman who saw in Jesus the one who satisfies the longing of her heart. And she acclaimed Jesus as the Messiah.