

The Benefice of Chew Valley East

Morning Prayer for Sunday 28 September 2025, The Feast of St Michael and All Angels

*If you wish to join in the service, then the words in **bold** are to be said together.
Please join in with the Psalms and Canticles by reciting each one in its entirety.*

Preparation

O Lord, open our lips
and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Your faithful servants bless you.
They make known the glory of your kingdom.

Blessed are you, Sovereign God,
ruler and judge of all,
to you be praise and glory for ever.
In the darkness of this age that is passing away
may the light of your presence which the saints enjoy
surround our steps as we journey on.
May we reflect your glory this day
and so be made ready to see your face
in the heavenly city where night shall be no more.
Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Blessed be God for ever.

The night has passed, and the day lies open before us;
let us pray with one heart and mind.

Silence is kept.

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day,
so may the light of your presence, O God,
set our hearts on fire with love for you;
now and for ever.
Amen.

The Word of God

Psalm 103:19-22

¹⁹The Lord has established his throne in heaven ♦
and his kingdom has dominion over all.

²⁰Bless the Lord, you angels of his, ♦
you mighty ones who do his bidding,
and hearken to the voice of his word.

²¹Bless the Lord, all you his hosts, ♦
you ministers of his who do his will.

²²Bless the Lord, all you works of his,
in all places of his dominion; ♦
bless the Lord, O my soul.

**Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen.**

First Reading: Revelation 12:7-12

⁷War broke out in heaven; Michael and his angels fought against the dragon. The dragon and his angels fought back, ⁸but they were defeated, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. ⁹The 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.

¹⁰Then 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.

¹¹But 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.

¹²Rejoice 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!’

Canticle

**Return to the Lord, who will have mercy,
to our God, who will richly pardon.**

¹Seek the Lord while he may be found, ♦
call upon him while he is near;

²Let the wicked abandon their ways, ♦
and the unrighteous their thoughts;

³Return to the Lord, who will have mercy; ♦
to our God, who will richly pardon.

⁴‘For my thoughts are not your thoughts, ♦
neither are your ways my ways,’ says the Lord.

⁵‘For as the heavens are higher than the earth, ♦
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

⁶‘As the rain and the snow come down from above, ♦
and return not again but water the earth,

⁷‘Bringing forth life and giving growth, ♦
seed for sowing and bread to eat,

⁸‘So is my word that goes forth from my mouth; ♦
it will not return to me fruitless,

⁹‘But it will accomplish that which I purpose, ♦
and succeed in the task I gave it.’

Isaiah 55.6-11

**Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen.**

**Return to the Lord, who will have mercy,
to our God, who will richly pardon.**

Second Reading: John 1:47-51

⁴⁷When Jesus saw Nathanael coming towards him, he said of him, ‘Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!’ ⁴⁸Nathanael asked him, ‘Where did you come to know me?’ Jesus answered, ‘I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you.’ ⁴⁹Nathanael replied, ‘Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!’ ⁵⁰Jesus answered, ‘Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these.’

⁵¹And 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.’

Responsory

I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord,
my lips shall proclaim your faithfulness.

The heavens bear witness to your wonders;

I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord.

The assembly of your saints proclaims your truth;

my lips shall proclaim your faithfulness.

Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne;
steadfast love and faithfulness go before you.

**I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord,
my lips shall proclaim your faithfulness.**

from Psalm 89

Gospel Canticle: Benedictus

**There was silence in heaven while the dragon waged war;
and Michael and his angels fought against him, and won the victory.**

¹Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel, ♦
who has come to his people and set them free.

²He has raised up for us a mighty Saviour, ♦
born of the house of his servant David.

³Through his holy prophets God promised of old ♦
to save us from our enemies, from the hands of all that hate us,

⁴To show mercy to our ancestors, ♦
and to remember his holy covenant.

⁵This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham: ♦
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

⁶Free to worship him without fear, ♦
holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.

⁷And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, ♦
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,

⁸To give his people knowledge of salvation ♦
by the forgiveness of all their sins.

⁹In the tender compassion of our God ♦
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

¹⁰To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, ♦
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Luke 1.68-79

**Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen.**

**There was silence in heaven while the dragon waged war;
and Michael and his angels fought against him, and won the victory.**

Intercessions

To the words:

With the angels

Please respond:

We praise and worship you O God.

May our eyes and ears and hearts,
and the eyes and ears and hearts of the Church
be open to receive angels who surprise us,
who come unannounced, who come unexpectedly.

We thank you for Raphael who accompanied Tobias on his journey,
Thank you for all angels who travel with us, as individuals, churches,
neighbourhoods and nations, and guide us,
who protect us from danger
and help us find our way when we are lost.

With the angels

We praise and worship you O God.

As Joseph recognised the angels' voice in his dreams
may we recognise angels who come to us in our dreams.
May we listen and respond to their message.

With the angels

We praise and worship you O God.

Dragons abound and threaten us.
Dragons of despondency, despair, darkness, bitterness, greed
they come in all shapes and sizes.

Send your angels to slay the dragons,
send angels to help us tame dragons.

With the angels

We praise and worship you O God.

With Michael may we stand in awe "Who is like God?"
With the Cherubim and Seraphim may we always worship before you saying
Holy, Holy, Holy".

As angels may we be swift to serve, may angel wings carry us,
angel light fill us, angel voices sing in us!

With the angels

We praise and worship you O God.

Grant us a renewed vision for our benefice,
new understanding of your plans for us,
new ways of living out those plans today.

God glorious, Holy, Ever Being
Ever beyond, ever present, ever sustaining, ever love,
to you in the company of Michael and All Angels,
we offer these dreams, hopes and prayers. **Amen.**

Collect

Everlasting God,
you have ordained and constituted
the ministries of angels and mortals in a wonderful order:
grant that as your holy angels always serve you in heaven,
so, at your command,
they may help and defend us on earth;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Uniting our prayers with the whole company of heaven,
as our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

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Conclusion

May Christ, who has opened the kingdom of heaven,
bring us to reign with him in glory. **Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**