

# November 8.

## C. 🏰 *Synaxis of the Commander Michael and the Other Bodiless Powers.*



Commander Michael, whose name in Hebrew means "Who is like God? ", or "Who is Equal to God? ", is the leader of heavenly Powers and is why in Holy Scriptures he is called the Commander of the Powers of the Lord (Joshua 5:14)," "One of the chief princes" (Dan. 10:13) "Your great prince" (Dan. 10:21; 12: 1). In church hymns he is hymned as "leader of the angelic choir", "Intercessor to the Tri-solar Divinity". Celebrating him, the Holy Church celebrates also all the bodiless Powers, and is why the same feast is called the Synaxis. This feast was established in the Fourth Century. The reason why the Holy Angels is commemorated in November is that November is the ninth month from March (which originally was the first month of the year) and there are nine orders of angels. These nine orders, according to the teaching of the Holy Church, are divided into three hierarchies: the highest, the middle and the lowest; each hierarchy has three ranks. To the highest hierarchy belong (1) the six-winged Seraphim (Is. 6: 2), (2) the many-eyed Cherubim (Gen. 3:24) and (3) the God-bearing Thrones (Col. 1: 16); to the middle hierarchy belong (1) the Dominions (Col. 1:16), (2) the Powers (1 Pet. 3: 22) and (3) the Authorities (1 Pet. 3:22; Col. 1:16); to the lowest hierarchy belong the (1) Principalities (Col. 1:16), (2) the Archangels (1 Thess. 4:16) and (3) the Angels (1 Pet. 3:22). Besides the Archangels Michael and Gabriel (Mar. 26 and July 13) the following archangels are known both in the Holy Scriptures and Holy Tradition: Raphael, the physician of God (Tobit 3:17; 12:15), Uriel, the fire or light of God (3 Esdras 5:16), Salaphiel, the prayer of God (3 Esdras 5:16), Jegudiel, the glorifier of God, Barachiel, the blessing of God, and Jeremiel, the exaltation of God (3 Esdras 4:36).

### *Troparion, tone 4*

**O Commanders of the Heavenly Hosts,  
We who are unworthy beseech you ceaselessly,  
That you would encompass us with the shelter of your prayers,  
And cover us beneath the wings of your immaterial glory.  
We fall down before you crying out:  
Protect us all from harm, //  
O Princes of the Powers on High.**

### *Kontakion, tone 2*

**You Princes and Leaders of the Armies of God,  
Servants of the Divine Glory and guides of men,**

**Ask whatever is good for us and for bountiful mercy, //**  
**O Commanders of the Heavenly Hosts.**

In the 1742 publications of the Kiev Monastery of the Caves the Horologion for the day for the Holy Commander Michael (November 8) there is the following Magnification: *"We magnify thee, Holy Archangel of Christ Michael, and you, the Holy Angels, Archangels, Principalities, Authorities, Powers, Dominions, Thrones, Cherubim, and Seraphim, glorifying the Lord"*.

**If the temple is of the Synaxis of the Commander Michael, or at the desire of the rector, we do the vigil.**

**Paramoedas** 1) Joshua 5:13-15; 2) Judges 6:2, 7, 11-24; 3) Isaiah 14:7-20.  
**Matins Gospel** Mt. 13:24-30, 36-43; sel. 52. **Epistle** Hebrews 2:2-10; sel. 305.  
**Gospel** Luke 10:16-21, sel. 51.

**Martha** of Pskov, the wife of St. Dovmont (Timothy), Prince of Pskov (May 20), was tonsured a nun in the Pskov Forerunner Monastery. She died in 1300.

*S. V. Bulgakov, **Handbook for Church Servers**, 2nd ed., 1274pp. (Kharkov, 1900). P 405.  
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