Readings Insert for Sep 22nd 2021

THE FEAST OF SAINT MATTHEW

Psalm 119:33-40
Legem pone   *(Read aloud in unison)*

33 Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes, *
   `and I shall keep it to the end.

34 Give me understanding, and I shall keep your law; *
   I shall keep it with all my heart.

35 Make me go in the path of your commandments, *
   for that is my desire.

36 Incline my heart to your decrees *
   and not to unjust gain.

37 Turn my eyes from watching what is worthless; *
   give me life in your ways.

38 Fulfill your promise to your servant, *
   which you make to those who fear you.

39 Turn away the reproach which I dread, *
   because your judgments are good.

40 Behold, I long for your commandments; *
   in your righteousness preserve my life.

The First Lesson A reading from the book of **Proverbs 3:1-6**
My child, do not forget my teaching,
    but let your heart keep my commandments;

for length of days and years of life
    and abundant welfare they will give you.

Do not let loyalty and faithfulness forsake you;
    bind them round your neck,
    write them on the tablet of your heart.

So you will find favour and good repute
    in the sight of God and of people.

Trust in the Lord with all your heart,
    and do not rely on your own insight.

In all your ways acknowledge him,
    and he will make straight your paths.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

The second Lesson A reading from the book of **2 Tomothy 3:14-17**

As for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it, and how from childhood you have known the sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Gospel Lesson: John 12:31-36a

Reader   The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John
People: **Glory to you Lord Christ**

As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth; and he said to him, "Follow me." And he got up and followed him. And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax collectors and sinners came and were sitting with him and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" But when he heard this, he said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners."

Reader   The Gospel of the Lord
People   **Praise to you Lord Christ**

The Collect of the Day:

We thank you, heavenly Father, for the witness of your apostle and evangelist Matthew to the Gospel of your Son our Savior; and we pray that, after his example, we may with ready wills and hearts obey the calling of our Lord to follow him; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.   Amen

Little is known about St. Matthew, except that he was the son of Alpheus, and he was likely born in Galilee. He worked as a tax collector, which was a hated profession during the time of Christ.

According to the Gospel, Matthew was working at a collection booth in Capernaum when Christ came to him and asked, "Follow me." With this simple call, Matthew became a disciple of Christ.

From Matthew we know of the many doings of Christ and the message Christ spread of salvation for all people who come to God through Him. The Gospel account of Matthew tells the same story as that found in the other three Gospels, so scholars are certain of its authenticity. His book is the first of the four Gospels in the New Testament.

Many years following the death of Christ, around 41 and 50 AD, Matthew wrote his gospel account. He wrote the book in Aramaic in the hope that his account would convince his fellow people that Jesus was the Messiah and that His kingdom had been fulfilled in a spiritual way. It was an important message at a time when almost everyone was expecting the return of a militant messiah brandishing a sword.

It is thought he departed for other lands to escape persecution sometime after 42 AD. According to various legends he fled to Parthia and Persia, or Ethiopia. Nothing is recorded of Matthew's passing. We do not know how he died, if his death was natural or if he was martyred.

Saint Matthew is often depicted with one of the four living creatures of Revelation 4:7, which reads, "The first living creature was like a lion, the second like a bull, the third living creature had a human face, and the fourth living creature was like a flying eagle."

Matthew was a tax collector and is therefore the patron saint of bankers. The Church established St. Matthew's feast day as September 21.

St. Matthew Prayer

O Glorious St. Matthew, in your Gospel you portray Jesus as the longed-for Messiah who fulfilled the Prophets of the Old Covenant and as the new Lawgiver who founded a Church of the New Covenant.
Obtain for us the grace to see Jesus living in his Church and to follow his teachings in our lives on earth so that we may live forever with him in heaven.

Matthew the Apostle,[a] also known as Saint Matthew and possibly as Levi, was, according to the New Testament, one of the twelve apostles of Jesus. According to Christian traditions, he was also one of the four Evangelists as author of the Gospel of Matthew, and thus is also known as Matthew the Evangelist, a claim rejected by the majority of modern biblical scholars, though the "traditional authorship still has its defenders."[3]

The New Testament records that as a disciple, he followed Jesus, and was one of the witnesses of the Ascension of Jesus. Later Church fathers such as Irenaeus and Clement of Alexandria claim that Matthew preached the Gospel to the Jewish community in Judea, before going to other countries….

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