

Holy Apostle and Evangelist Matthew (60 A.D.)

Troparion (Tone 3) **(St. Matthew)**

You heard the divine voice of The Word, and received the light of faith, and abandoned the office of publican.

Then you proclaimed the Good News of the inexpressible condescension of Christ.

Now intercede that those who praise you,

O Apostle Matthew, may be granted forgiveness of sins and great mercy.

Glory . . .

Kontakion (Tone 4) **(St. Matthew)**

In casting off the tax collector's yoke to shoulder the yoke of justice,

you became a truly able merchant rich in the wisdom of heaven itself.

In preaching the word of truth, you vividly described the final judgment, urging us to be ready at all times.

Now and ever . . .

(In Tone 6) **Steadfast Protectress** of Christians, constant advocate before the Creator,

despise not the entreating cries of us sinners,

but in your goodness come speedily to help us who call on you in faith,

hasten to hear our petition and to intercede for us, O Theotokos,

for you always protect those who honor you.

Prokeimenon (Tone 8) *(Ps 18/19:1 & 4)*

Their proclamation has gone out into all the earth, and their words to the ends of the universe!

v: The heavens are telling the glory of God, and the firmament proclaims His handiwork.

Epistle (1 Corinthians 4:9-16) (Apostle Matthew)

God has exhibited us apostles as last of all, like men sentenced to death; because we have become a spectacle to the world, to angels and to men. We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are wise in Christ. We are weak, but you are strong. You are held in honor, but we in disrepute. To the present hour we hunger and thirst, we are ill-clad and buffeted and homeless, and we labor, working with our own hands. When reviled, we bless; when persecuted, we endure; when slandered, we try to conciliate; we have become, and are now, as the refuse of the world, the off-scouring of all things. I do not write this to make you ashamed, but to admonish you as my beloved children. For though you have countless guides in Christ, you do not have many fathers. For I became your father in Christ Jesus through the gospel. I urge you, then be imitators of me.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia! *(Ps 88/89:5 & 7)*

v. The heavens will praise Your wonders, O Lord; and Your truth in the congregation of the saints.

v. God is glorified in the council of the saint; great and awesome toward all who are around Him.

Gospel (Matthew 9:9-13)**(Apostle Matthew)**

As Jesus passed on from there, He saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax office. And He said to him, "Follow Me." So he arose and followed Him. Now it happened, as Jesus sat at the table in the house, that behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and sat down with Him and His disciples. And when the Pharisees saw it, they said to His disciples, "Why does your Teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" When Jesus heard that, He said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy and not sacrifice.' For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance."

Communion Hymn *(Ps 18/19:4)*

Their proclamation has gone out into all the earth, and their words to the ends of the universe!
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!