

Postcommunion

WE WHO have received the Sacraments, entreat Thee, O Lord, by the intercession of blessed Matthew, Thine Apostle and Evangelist: that what we have celebrated for his glory, may profit us unto healing. Through our Lord Jesus Christ ...

PERCÉPTIS, Dómine, sacraméntis, beáto Mattæo Apóstolo tuo et Evangelista interveniēte, deprecámur; ut, quæ pro ejus celebrata sunt glória, nobis proficiant ad medélam. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum ...

CLEMENT of Alexandria bears witness to the Apostle Matthew's subsequent austerity; assuring us that he lived on nothing but vegetables and wild fruits. The legend will tell us moreover of his zeal for the Master who had so sweetly touched his heart, and of his fidelity in preserving for Him souls inebriated with the "wine springing forth virgins" [Zach. 9:17]. This fidelity, indeed, cost him his life: his martyrdom was in defense and confirmation of the duties and rights of holy virginity. To the end of time the Church, in consecrating her virgins, will make use of the beautiful blessing pronounced by him over the Ethiopian princess, which the blood of the apostle and evangelist has imbued with a peculiar virtue.

The Church gives us this short account of a life better known to God than to men:

"Matthew, also named Levi, was an apostle and evangelist. He was sitting in the custom house at Capharnaum when called by Christ, whom he immediately followed; and then made a feast for Him and His disciples. After the resurrection of Christ, and before setting out for the province which it was his lot to evangelize, Matthew was the first to write the Gospel of Jesus Christ. He wrote it in Hebrew, for the sake of those of the circumcision, who had

been converted. Soon after he went into Ethiopia, where he preached the Gospel, and confirmed his teaching by many miracles.

"One of the greatest of these was his raising to life the king's daughter, whereby he converted the king and his wife, and the whole country. After the king's death, his daughter Iphigenia was demanded in marriage by his successor Hirtacus, who, finding that through Matthew's exhortation she had vowed her virginity to God and now persevered in her holy resolution, ordered the apostle to be put to death, as he was celebrating the holy mysteries at the altar. Thus on the Kalends of October, he crowned his apostolate with the glory of martyrdom. His body was translated to Salerno; and in the time of Pope Gregory VII it was laid in a church dedicated in his name, where it is piously honored by a great concourse of people."

How pleasing, Matthew, must thy humility have been to our Lord; that humility which has raised thee so high in the kingdom of heaven, and which made thee, on earth, the confidant of Incarnate Wisdom. The Son of God, who hides His secrets from the wise and prudent and reveals them to little ones, renovated thy soul by intimacy with Himself, and filled it with the new wine of His heavenly doctrine.

Commentary from The Liturgical Year by Dom Prosper Guéranger, OSB (1805-1875).

Illustration: St. Matthew and the Angel, 1635-40, by Guido Reni (1575-1642).



Proper Prayers of the Mass in the Extraordinary Form

SEPTEMBER 21

**St. Matthew,
Apostle
and Evangelist**

Prayers at the Foot of the Altar
(see red Missal, pp. 10-13)

Introit (Psalm 36:30–31)

OS JUSTI meditabitur sapiéntiam, et língua ejus loquétur júdicium: lex Dei ejus in corde ípsius. *Ps. ibid. 1.* Noli æmulári in malignántibus: neque zeláveris faciéntes iniquitátem. *V.* Glória Patri, et Fílio, et Spiritui Sancto. Sicut erat in princípío, et nunc, et semper, et in sæcula sæculórum. Amen. — Os justí meditabitur ...

THE MOUTH of the just shall meditate wisdom, and his tongue shall speak judgment: the law of his God is in his heart. *Psalm.* Be not emulous of evildoers: nor envy them that work iniquity. *V.* Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. — The mouth of the just ...

Collect

BEÁTI APÓSTOLI et Evangelístæ Matthæi, Dómine, précibus adjuvémur: ut, quod possibiilitas nostra non óbtinet, ejus nobis intercessióne donétur. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum ...

MAY WE be helped, O Lord, by the prayers of the blessed Apostle and Evangelist Matthew, that what we cannot obtain by our own efforts, may be given to us by his intercession. Through our Lord ...

Lesson (Ezekiel 1:10–14)

SIMILITÚDE vultus quátuor animálium fácies hóminis, et fácies leónis a dextris ípsórum

AS FOR the likeness of the faces of the four living creatures, there was the face of a man, and the face of a lion on the right

side of all the four: and the face of an ox on the left side of all the four; and the face of an eagle over all the four. And their faces and their wings were stretched upward; two wings of every one were joined, and two covered their bodies; and every one of them went straight forward; whither the impulse of the spirit was to go, thither they went, and they turned not when they went. And as for the likeness of the living creatures, their appearance was like that of burning coals of fire, and like the appearance of lamps. This was the vision running to and fro in the midst of the living creatures, a bright fire, and lightning going forth from the fire. And the living creatures ran and returned like flashes of lightning.

Gradual (Psalm 111: 1,2)

BLESSED is the man that feareth the Lord: he delights exceedingly in His commandments. His seed shall be mighty upon earth; the generation of the righteous shall be blessed. *Ÿ. Alleluia, alleluia.* Thee the glorious choir of Apostles doth praise, O Lord. Alleluia.

Gospel (Matthew 9: 9–13)

AT THAT TIME, Jesus saw a man sitting in the customhouse, named Matthew, and He said to him, Follow Me. And he rose up, and followed Him. And it came to pass, as He was sitting at meat in the house, behold many publicans and sinners came and sat down with Jesus and His disciples. And the Pharisees seeing it, said to His disciples: Why doth your Master eat with publicans and sinners?

quátuor: fácies autem bovis a sinistris ipsórum quátuor, et fácies áquilæ désuper ipsórum quátuor. Fácies eórum, et pennæ eórum exténtæ désuper: duæ pennæ singulórum jungebántur, et duæ tegébant córpora eórum: et unumquódque eórum coram fácie sua ambulábat; ubi erat ímpetus spíritus, illuc gradiebántur nec revertébántur cum ambulárent. Et similitúdo animálium, aspéctus eórum quasi carbónum ignis ardéntium, et quasi aspéctus lampadárum. Hæc erat vísió discúrrens in médio animálium, splendor ignis, et de igne fulgur egrédiens. Et animália ibant, et revertébántur in similitúdinem fúlgoris coruscántis.

BEATUS VIR qui timet Dóminum: in mandátis ejus cupit nimis. Potens in terra erit semen ejus generatio rectórum benedicétur. *Alleluia, alleluia.* *Ÿ. Te gloriósus Apostolórum chorus laudat, Dómine. Alleluia.*

IN ILLO TÉMPORE: Vidit Jesus hóminem sedentem in telónio, Mattæum nómine. Et ait illi: Séquere me. Et surgens, secútus est eum. Et factum est, discumbénte eo in domo, ecce multi publicáni, et peccatóres veniéntes, discumbébant cum Jesu, et discíplis ejus. Et vidéntes pharisæi, dicébant discíplis ejus: Quare cum publicánis, et peccatóribus mandúcat Magíster vester? At Jesus áudiens,

ait: Non est opus valéntibus médicus, sed male habéntibus. Eúntes autem discite quid est: Misericórdiam volo, et non sacrificium. Non enim veni vocare justos, set peccatóres. — *Credo.*

Offertory (Psalm 20: 4–5)

POSUISTI, Dómine, in cápíte ejus corónam de lápide pretiósio: vitam pétiit a te, et tribuisti ei, alleluia.

SUPPLICATIONIBUS beáti Mattæi Apóstoli et Evangelístæ, quæsumus, Dómine, Ecclesiæ tuæ commendétur oblátio: cujus magníficis prædicatióibus eruditur. Per Dóminum nostrum ...

But Jesus hearing it, said: They that are in health need not a physician; but they that are ill. Go then, and learn what this meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice. For I am not come to call the just, but sinners. — *Creed.*

O LORD, Thou has set on his head a crown of precious stones: he asked life of Thee, and Thou hast given it to him, alleluia.

Secret

MAY THE offering of Thy Church, we beseech Thee, O Lord, be commended to Thee by the prayers of the blessed Apostle and Evangelist Matthew; by whose glorious preaching she is instructed. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son ...

Preface of the Apostles

VERE DIGNUM et justum est, æquum et salutáre, Te, Dómine, supplicíte exoráre, ut gregem tuum pastor ætérne non déseras: sed per beátos Apóstolos tuos, continúa protectiône custódiás. Ut iisdem rectóribus gubernétur, quos óperis tui vicários eidem contulisti præesse pastóres. Et ideo cum Ángelis et Archángelis, cum Thronis et Dominatióibus, cumque omni militiá cœléstis exércitus, hymnum glóriæ tuæ cánimus, sine fine dicéntes: — *Sanctus.*

IT IS TRULY meet and just, right and for our salvation, humbly to entreat Thee, Lord, that Thou wilt not desert Thy flock, eternal Shepherd: but through Thy blessed Apostles wilt keep it under Thy protection: that it may be governed by those same vicars of Thy work whom Thou didst put in charge as its pastors. And therefore with Angels and Archangels, with Thrones and Dominations, and with all the hosts of the heavenly army, we sing a hymn to Thy glory, evermore saying: — *Sanctus.*

Communion (Psalm 20:6)

MAGNA EST glória ejus in salutári tuo: glóriam et magnum decórem impónes super eum, Dómine.

HIS GLORY is great in Thy salvation; glory and great beauty shalt Thou lay upon him, O Lord.