

16 NOVEMBER
± Apostle Matthew (Matthéos)

VESPERS

Lord I have cried

Tone 4

O Lord, I have cried to you, listen to me;
O Lord, listen to me.

O Lord, I have cried to you, listen to me;
Note the voice of my plea when I cry to you.
O Lord, listen to me.

² Let my prayer be directed before you like incense,
the raising of my hands be an evening sacrifice.
O Lord, listen to me.

S6: O Lord, if you mark offences, who will stand?
But there is forgiveness with you.

S5: O Lord, I have waited for you for your name's sake;
my soul has waited for your word,
my soul has hoped in the Lord.

O apostle, the Searcher of the hearts of men inspired your mind with his divine knowledge. He called you to himself and ransomed you from the deceit of the world, for he is the light whose rays shine to the ends of the earth. He commanded you to proclaim his word and made you worthy to write his holy Gospel. Plead with him to enlighten and save our souls. *X2*

S4: Let Israel hope in the Lord
from morning watch until night,
from morning watch.

Once a tax collector, now a disciple, you accepted the urgent call of the eternal Word. You abandoned the collection of the taxes, *because you were* eager for the promise of participation in his Kingdom. You cast away the raging tumult of this life. Now you see his glory face to face. Plead with him to enlighten and save our souls

S3: For there is mercy with the Lord
and abundant redemption with *him*.
He will redeem Israel from all his offences.

The penetrating gaze of a prophet saw you as a holy stone which rolled over the earth to crush the ways of the wicked. O blessed *apostle*, the Incarnate Word made you a beacon for the world. You are a messenger of justice and truth, and are radiant with the splendour which flows from the triple Sun. Plead with him to enlighten and save our souls.

S2: Every nation, praise the Lord;
every people, acclaim him!

When the unapproachable Light determined to come in the flesh in order to disperse the darkness of ignorance and error, you followed him as a servant of the divine Wisdom when he called and gave his life-giving command. O Matthew, you observed God's Law. You were an ineffable light for the Church and a home for Christ. Plead with him to enlighten and save our souls.

S1: For his mercy is strengthened over us
and the truth of the Lord remains for ever.

O apostle worthy of all praise, O all-wise Matthew, you received the visitation of the Advocate when he enlightened your entire being and so you consumed every error with your fiery words. Therefore when you proclaimed the splendour of almighty God, you filled with wonder the spirits of those who heard you speak.

Glory:

O chosen *apostle* of God, you were called by Christ to heavenly discipleship and followed him eagerly; he rescued you from slavery to earthly cares. O Matthew, through obedience you took an attitude in keeping with the Kingdom above, and abandoned all the pride and greed of a tax collector. You became an evangelist and a light for those who live in darkness. You led straying sheep to salvation, for

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you are a constant fervent intercessor for the world before God and a saving protector of the faithful who glorify you.

Both now:

All-blessed *Lady*, the Creator and moulder of men took flesh from your womb. He healed us who had fallen and were deceived by the Serpent. O pure *Lady*, you marvellously gave birth to God the Word. Your Child set us free from corruption, for we had grown old in sin. Therefore we bless you, O unwedded Bride, shelter of all those who faithfully glorify you.

Phos Ilarón

P/D: Wisdom! Stand upright!

O Jesus Christ, joyful light of the holy glory
of the immortal, heavenly, holy, blessed Father,
when we come to the setting of the sun
and see the light of evening,
we praise God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

For it is right at all times to worship you
with voices of praise,
O Son of God *and* Giver of life.
Therefore the world glorifies you.

Prokeímenon

Of the Day

Ektení

Prayer

O Lord, allow us this night to be guarded from sin. Blessed are you, O Lord, God of our fathers! Praised and glorified be your name for ever. Amen. O Lord, let your mercy be on us, for we have hoped in you. Blessed are you, O Lord; teach me your statutes. Blessed are you, O Master; make me understand your statutes. Blessed are you, O Holy *One*; enlighten me with your statutes. O Lord, your mercy lasts for ever; do not overlook the work of your hands. To you belongs worship, to you belongs praise, to you belongs glory, to the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, both now and ever, and to ages of ages. Amen.

Plirotiká

Prayer

P: Peace be with you all. R: And with your spirit
D: Bow down your heads to the Lord. R: To you, O Lord.

P: For blessed and glorified is the power of your Kingdom, of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages. *Amen*.

Apósticha

Tone 4

All-praised Matthew, your words are a trumpet which draw men to the knowledge of God. They have rescued the inhabitants of the earth from enslavement to evil and led us into the true faith, the unity of justice. Pray to Christ our God that to save us from corruption and danger.

S1: His sound has gone out into all the earth
and his words to the ends of the world. Ps 18
O apostle, you were powerfully armed by the Spirit with a fiery tongue; your words overthrew the deceitful enemy. Christ our God, whom you proclaimed as the fulfilment of the prophets, adorned you with the resplendent crown of his love: pray to him to save us from corruption and danger.

S2: The heavens declare God's glory
and the firmament speaks about his handiwork.
The tax collector becomes an apostle in a single moment, seizes riches from the Fountain of joy and is abundantly blessed with the fullness of the Spirit. Christ our God made you the bearer of joyful news for us; pray to him to save us from corruption and danger.

Glory: Tone 6

O blessed Matthew, the full height of goodness is revealed in you. In the fullness of time you abandoned the occupation of an evil age and soared like an eagle to the heights of justice. You have filled the earth with the wisdom hidden from all eternity and followed fervently in the footsteps of Christ. You have carried the Gospel of peace, life and salvation to men and have filled those who hunger for justice with divine commandments. O blessed guide, well-pleasing to the Creator, pray for us who bless your memory.

Both now:

O blameless Woman, Christ the Lord, my Maker and Saviour, came from your pure womb in my likeness and rescued Adam from the ancient curse. Therefore, all-pure Woman, since you are the Theotokos and a true virgin, we never tire of addressing you with the salutation of the angel, "Hail, O Lady, our intercessor, shield and redeemer of our souls!"

Song of Simeon

B/P: O Master, now let your servant depart in peace according to your word,
² for my eyes have seen your salvation,
 which you have prepared before all peoples,
³ a light of revelation for the nations
 and the glory of your people Israel.

Triságon Prayers

Apolytikia

Tone 3

O holy apostle Matthew, pray to the merciful God to grant our souls forgiveness for their failings.

Tone 3

O Virgin Theotokos, we praise you for mediating the Salvation of our race, for your Son and our God accepted suffering on the cross in the flesh which he took from you. He has freed us from corruption, for he is the Lover of the human race.

Dismissal

ORTHROS

God is the Lord Ps 117

R: God is the Lord and has appeared to us.
 Blessed is the one who comes in the Lord's name. *Ps 117*
 S1: Thank the Lord, for he is good,
 for his mercy lasts for ever.
 S2: All the nations surrounded me,
 but I opposed them in the Lord's name.
 S3: This is the Lord's doing
 and it is wonderful in our eyes.

Apolytikia

Tone 3

O holy apostle Matthew, pray to the merciful God to grant our souls forgiveness for their failings.

Tone 3

O Virgin Theotokos, we praise you for mediating the Salvation of our race, for your Son and our God accepted suffering on the cross in the flesh which he took from you. He has freed us from corruption, for he is the Lover of the human race.

Small Litany

P: For yours is the might, and yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory of the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages. *Amen*

Kathisma 1

Tone 1

The all-wise Matthew, the excellent initiate of the mysteries of Christ, the first to record the Gospel of Christ, illuminated the whole

creation beneath the sun. We now honour him with sacred hymns, for he pleads forgiveness of sins for those who lovingly honour him.

Glory: Both now:

O Theotokos, we all confess that you remained a virgin after giving birth and seek shelter under your goodness, for you continually offer your help to sinners. Most pure Virgin, in you we find salvation in the midst of dangers.

Kathisma 2

Tone 3

You were resplendent with works of the true faith and extinguished all false religion. O apostle Matthew, you proclaimed the Gospel to all as an invincible victor; you richly embellished all the churches. Plead with Christ our God to grant us great mercy.

Glory: Both now:

O Mother, the Lord was never separated from the divine nature when he assumed flesh in your womb. After he had become man he remained the God and Lord who preserved your blameless virginity both before and after childbirth. Continually plead with him to grant us great mercy.

Small Litany

P: For blessed is your name, and glorified is your kingdom, of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages. *Amen*

Anaváthmi Ps 128 Tone 4

- 1: Many passions have fought against me from my youth,
 but help me and save me, O my Saviour. *X2*
- 2: Those who hate Zion will be shamed by the Lord;
 they will be withered like grass by the fire. *X2*
 Glory:
- 3: Every soul lives through the Holy Spirit, is exalted in purity
 and illuminated by the Triune Unity in a sacred mystery.
 Both now:
- 4: The streams of grace pour out through the Holy Spirit;
 they water all creation and produce life.

Prokeímenon Ps 18 Tone 4

R: His sound has gone out into all the earth. *Ps 18*
 S: The heavens declare God's glory.

Gospel Dialogue

P/D: Let us pray to the Lord. *Lord have mercy*
 P: For you, O God, are holy and rest in the Holy Place. We send up glory to you, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages. *Amen*.
 R: Let everything with breath praise the Lord. *X3*
 Praise God in his saints;
 praise him in the firmament of his power. *Ps 50*
 P/D: And that we may be counted worthy to listen to the Holy Gospel, let us pray to the Lord our God. *Lord have mercy X3*
 P/D: Wisdom. Stand up. Let us listen to the Holy Gospel.
 P: Peace be with you all. *And with your spirit*
 P: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.
 P/D: Let us attend
 R: Glory to you, O Lord, glory to you.

Gospel

From the Holy Gospel according to John (21:15-25)
 At that time Jesus appeared to his disciples after he was raised from the dead. When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you truly love me more than these?" "Yes, Lord," he said, "you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my lambs." Again Jesus said, "Simon son of John, do you truly love me?" He answered, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Take care of my sheep." The third time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my sheep. I tell you the truth, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your

hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go." Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. Then he said to him, "Follow me!" Peter turned and saw that the disciple whom Jesus loved was following them. (This was the one who had leaned back against Jesus at the supper and had said, "Lord, who is going to betray you?") When Peter saw him, he asked, "Lord, what about him?" Jesus answered, "If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you? You must follow me." Because of this, the rumour spread among the brothers that this disciple would not die. But Jesus did not say that he would not die; he only said, "If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you?" This is the disciple who testifies to these things and who wrote them down. We know that his testimony is true. Jesus did many other things as well. If every one of them were written down, I suppose that even the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written. Amen.

R: Glory to you, O Lord, glory to you.

Psalm 50

O God, have mercy on me in your abundant mercy
and wipe out my offence through your great compassion.
⁴ Wash me thoroughly from my lawless act
and cleanse me from my sin.
⁵ For I know my lawlessness
and my sin is always before me.
⁶ I have sinned against you alone
and done this evil before you
^{6b} so that you might be justified in your words
and overcome when you are judged.
⁷ For see, I was conceived in lawlessness
and my mother gave birth to me in sin.
⁸ For see, you have loved truth
and revealed to me the hidden and secret *things* of your wisdom.
⁹ You will sprinkle me with hyssop and I will be clean;
you will wash me and I will become whiter than snow.
¹⁰ You will make me hear about joy and gladness;
the humbled bones will rejoice.
¹¹ Turn your face from my sins
and wipe out all my lawlessness.
¹² O God, create a pure heart within me
and renew an upright spirit within me.
¹³ Do not banish me from your presence
or remove your Holy Spirit from me.
¹⁴ Restore the joy of your salvation to me
and make me firm with your directing Spirit.
¹⁵ I will teach the lawless your ways
and the ungodly will return to you.
¹⁶ O God, set me free from the guilt of blood;
O God of my salvation,
my tongue will rejoice in your justice.
¹⁷ O Lord, you will open my lips
and my mouth will proclaim your praise.
¹⁸ For if you had wanted sacrifice, I would have given it;
you will not be pleased with burnt offerings.
¹⁹ Sacrifice for God is a broken spirit;
God will not despise a broken and humbled heart.
²⁰ O Lord, be good to Zion in your pleasure
and let the walls of Jerusalem be built.
²¹ Then you will be pleased with a sacrifice of justice,
with an offering and burnt sacrifices;
then they will offer calves on your altar.

Glory: Tone 6

O merciful *Lord*, blot out the abundance of our offences through the prayers of your apostle.

Both now:

O merciful *Lord*, blot out the abundance of our offences through the prayers of the Theotokos.

Have mercy: Tone 2

O apostle worthy of all praise, O all-wise Matthew, you received the visitation of the Advocate when he enlightened your entire being and so you consumed every error with your fiery words. Therefore when you proclaimed the splendour of almighty God, you filled with wonder the spirits of those who heard you speak.

Intercession

P/D: O God, save your people and bless your inheritance. Visit your world with mercy and compassion; exalt the horn of Orthodox Christians and send down on them your rich mercy, through the prayers of our all-pure Lady, Theotokos and Ever-virgin Mary, by the power of the honourable and life-giving cross, through the protection of the honourable bodiless powers of heaven, through the prayers of the honourable, glorious, prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John, of the holy, glorious, all-praised apostles, of the holy, all-praised and victorious martyrs, of our holy and God-bearing fathers, of the holy and just forebears of God, Ioachim and Anna, of the apostle and evangelist Matthew, and of all the saints. We ask you, only merciful Lord, "Listen to us sinners as we pray to you, and have mercy on us."

Lord have mercy. XI2

Through the mercy, compassion and love for the human race of your uniquely-fathered Son, with whom you are blessed, together with the all-holy, good and life-giving Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages. *Amen.*

Kontácion

Tone 4

When you renounced the occupation of a tax collector, you became a merchant rich with divine wisdom. Because you preach the word of truth as a teacher of justice, you command us to wait for the King of glory in vigilance. You have given us a faithful account of the final judgement.

Íkos

O Matthew, friend of Christ, the tyranny of the enemy constantly oppresses me and seizes all the seed of my soul. Yet because you grant me the seed of your prayers, make me fruitful to serve you. Reveal me as the least of those who sing to you and recount your many and great warnings, for without hesitation you forsook everything for the love of Christ and zealously followed the *Lord* who called you. You were the first evangelist in the world and have given us a faithful account of the final judgment.

Synaxáron

Today we remember the holy apostle and evangelist Matthew. He accepted the call of the Saviour and renounced his job as a tax collector. His Gospel has many Old Testament references which show how Jesus is the promised Messiah. On the Sixteenth the tireless apostle was burnt.

Together with him we remember:

Prince Fulvianós of Ethiopia C1

Bishop Efhérios of Lyons C5

O God, have mercy on us through their holy prayers. Amen.

Katavasías

1: I will open my mouth and be filled with the spirit. I will sing a song to the Queen and Mother. I will come, rejoice in the feast and praise her entrance.

3: O Theotokos, living and inexhaustible fountain, strengthen those who are united in spiritual fellowship and who sing your praises. Make them worthy *to receive* crowns of glory at the time of your solemn entrance.

4: The counsel of God cannot be scrutinised. The Most High was incarnate from a Virgin. The prophet Habakkuk foresaw this and cried, "Glory to your power, O God!"

5: O Virgin, all creation was fearful at the sight of your solemn entrance, for although you knew no man, you entered the temple of

God, as a most pure temple yourself. You order salvation for all who praise you.

6: O devout people, come and clap hands while we observe this divine and most precious feast of the Mother of God. Let us glorify God who was born from her.

7: The devout youths worshipped the Creator rather than created things. They courageously trampled on the threatening fire and joyfully sang, "Blessed are you, most praised Lord, the God of our fathers."

8: Let us praise, bless and worship the Lord.

The *Lord* who was born from the Theotokos saved the holy children in the furnace. The one who was then prefigured has now been born on earth and gathers the whole inhabited earth to sing, "All you works of the Lord, bless the Lord and exalt him above all for ever.

Ode 9

My soul glorifies the Lord
and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Saviour. R:

R: *You are* more honourable than the Cherubim
and beyond compare more glorious than the Seraphim.
You gave birth to God the Word without defilement;
O true Theotokos, we glorify you.

² For he has regarded his servant's humility;
see, from now all generations will call me blessed. R:

³ For the Almighty has accomplished great *things* for me
and his name is holy.

His mercy is from generation to generation
on those who fear him. R:

⁴ He has accomplished strength with his arm
and scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. R:

⁵ He has put down the mighty from *their* thrones
and exalted the humble.

He has satisfied the hungry with good *things*
and dismissed the rich with nothing. R:

⁶ He has helped his servant Israel
in remembering his mercy,
as he spoke to our fathers,
to Abraham and his seed for ever. R:

9: Let every earthborn mortal spiritually rejoice and carry lamps. be radiant and spiritually leap for joy. Let the ranks of angelic powers celebrate as they honour the holy entrance of the Theotokos and cry, "Hail, O pure and blessed Ever-virgin who gave birth to God!"

Small Litany

P: For all the powers of heaven praise you, and to you we send up glory, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages. *Amen.*

Exaposteilárium

Tone 3

O divinely-wise Matthew, you wisely set aside the yoke of your tax collector's office in order to follow Christ. You marvellously followed his steps. Through your fellowship with him you obtained a share of his kingdom and glory. You were an initiate of ineffable mysteries.

Praises

Tone 4

Let everything with breath
praise the Lord.

Praise the Lord from the heavens;
praise him in the heights.
To you, O God, is due a song.

Praise him, all his angels;
praise him, all his powers.
To you, O God, is due a song.

S4: Praise him with cymbal and dance;
praise him with strings and flute.

S3: Praise him with tuneful cymbals;
praise him with joyful cymbals.
Let everything with breath praise the Lord.

O apostle, you shone as brightly as the sun with the rays of the Spirit. O blessed *evangelist*, you enlightened the whole world with the knowledge of God and dispelled the gloom of idolatry. Therefore, most wise Matthew, we celebrate today your all-radiant and truly marvellous feast as a spring of sanctification. X2

S2: His sound has gone out into all the earth
and his words to the ends of the world. Ps 18

O apostle, you were seated on the heights of divine knowledge and received the outpouring of the Spirit who appeared to you in the form of a tongue of fire. You plainly burnt up the dry wood of ungodly evil. Therefore we honour you as an apostle and herald of God as we celebrate your holy festival today.

S1: The heavens declare God's glory
and the firmament speaks about his handiwork.

O most wise Matthew, you thundered out sacred and saving teaching to the whole world. You cleansed all creation from the madness of idolatry and enlightened the people with the brilliance of the Gospel. You destroyed pagan temples by means of grace and raised up churches to the glory of God.

Glory: Tone 8

O faithful, clap your hands today and sing hymns in memory of the holy apostle and evangelist Matthew. He has thrown off the yoke and renounced the wealth of a tax collector in order to follow Christ and preach the divine gospel. Therefore his message has gone out over the entire world; he always prays that our souls may be saved.

Both now

O Lady, receive the prayers of your servants; save us from every danger and affliction.

Great Doxology

Glory to you who have shown us the light!
glory to God in the highest!
Peace on earth and goodwill to men!

² We praise you, we bless you, we worship you,
we glorify you, we thank you for your great glory,

³ O Lord King, heavenly God, almighty Father,
O Lord, only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ,
and you, O Holy Spirit!

⁴ O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us,

for you take away the sin of the world.

⁵ Receive our prayer,
for you sit on the right of the Father,
and have mercy on us.

⁶ For only you are holy, only you are Lord,
O Jesus Christ, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

⁷ I will bless you every day
and always praise your name for ever and ever. Ps 144

⁸ O Lord, allow us this day
to be guarded from sin.

⁹ Blessed are you, O Lord God of our fathers!
Praised and glorified be your name for ever. Amen. Daniel 3

¹⁰ O Lord, let your mercy *be* on us,
for we have hoped in you. Ps 32.

¹⁶ Blessed are you, O Lord!
Teach me your statutes. X3 Ps 118

¹² O Lord, you have been our refuge
from generation to generation. Ps 89

I said, "O Lord, have mercy on me;
heal my soul, for I have sinned against you." Ps 40

¹⁴ O Lord, I have fled to you;
teach me to do your will, for you are my God. Ps 142

¹⁵ For with you is the source of life
and in your light we will see light. Ps 35

¹⁶ Stretch out your mercy
to those who know you. Ps 35

Triságion

Apolytícion

Tone 3

O holy apostle Matthew, pray to the merciful God to grant our souls forgiveness for their failings.

LITURGY

Antiphon 1 Ps 91 Tone 5

S1: It is good to thank the Lord
and make melody to your name, O Most High.

R: At the prayers of the Theotokos, Saviour, save us!

S2: To announce your mercy in the morning
and your truth by night,

S3: For the Lord our God is upright
and there is no injustice in him.

S4: Glory: Both now:

Antiphon 2 Ps 92 Tone 2

S1: The Lord reigns *and* is clothed with majesty;
the Lord has put on power and clothed himself.

R: Save us, O Son of God. You are wonderful in your saints.
We sing to you, "Alleluia!"

S2: For he founded the world which will not be moved.

S3: O Lord, holiness is right for your house
to length of days.

S4: Glory: Both now:

Monogenes

Antiphon 3 Ps 94 Tone 2

S1: Come, let us rejoice in the Lord,
and shout with joy to God our Saviour.

R: O apostle and evangelist of Christ, John the Theologian, you penetrated ineffable theology and thundered your teaching to us. You plainly announced it as a dear friend and companion of Christ, like Moses and Elias who saw God. Pray fervently to God for us in your boldness.

S2: Let us enter his presence with thanksgiving
and gladly cry to him with psalms,
For the Lord is a great God
and a high king over all the earth.

Entrance Ps 94

Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ.
Save us, O Son of God.
You are wonderful in your saints.
We sing to you, "Alleluia!"

Apolytíkia

Tone 2

O beloved apostle of Christ our God, come quickly to rescue your helpless people. He on whose breast you leaned will accept you as intercessor. O theologian, implore him to disperse the clouds of darkness and grant us peace and great mercy.

Of the Church

Kontákion

O unfailing protection of Christians and unchanging mediator before the Creator, do not despise the prayers of us sinners, but in your goodness extend your help to those of us who faithfully cry to you, "O Theotokos, you always protect those who honour you, so hurry to intercede for us and hasten to plead for us."

Triságion

Prokéimenon Ps 18 Tone 8

R: His sound has gone out into all the earth.

S: The heavens proclaim God's glory.

Apóstolos

From the Letter of Paul to the Romans (10:11-11:2)

Brothers, the scripture says, "No one who believes in him will be put to shame." ¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and bestows his riches upon all who call upon him. ¹³ For, "every one who calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved." ¹⁴ But how are men to call upon him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without a preacher? ¹⁵ And how can men preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach good news!" ¹⁶ But they have not all obeyed the gospel; for Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?" ¹⁷ So faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes by the preaching of Christ. ¹⁸ But I ask, have they not heard? Indeed they have; for "Their voice has gone out to all the earth, and their words to the ends of the world." ¹⁹ Again I ask, did Israel not understand? First Moses says, "I will make you jealous of those who are not a nation; with a foolish nation I will make you angry." ²⁰ Then Isaiah is so bold as to say, "I have been found by those who did not seek me; I have shown myself to those who did not ask for me." ²¹ But of Israel he says, "All day long I have held out my hands to a disobedient and contrary people." ¹ I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. ² God has not rejected his people whom he knew beforehand. Do you not know what the scripture says of Elijah, how he pleads with God against Israel?

Alleluia Ps 88 Tone 1

S1: O Lord, the heavens will acknowledge your wonders.

S2: God is glorified in a council of saints.

Gospel

From the Holy Gospel according to Matthew (9:9-13)

At that time when Jesus passed on from there, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax office; and he said to him, "Follow me." And he rose and followed him. ¹⁰ And as he sat at table in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and sat down with Jesus and his disciples. ¹¹ And when the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" ¹² But when he heard it, he said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. ¹³ Go and learn what this means, 'I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.' For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners."

Communion Ps 18

The heavens declare the glory of God

and the firmament proclaims his handiwork. Alleluia!