

SEPTEMBER 21, ST. MATTHEW, APOSTLE & EVANGELIST

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St. Matthew was a Galilean by birth. In the Gospel he humbly relates the story of his own conversion. To the glory of an apostle he adds that of an evangelist. He wrote his Gospel in Aramaic, and it was afterwards translated into Greek. The Aramaic text has perished. This Gospel is a divinely inspired work included in Sacred Scripture. He gives the line of ancestors from whom Jesus descended as a man, and on this account is represented by the animal with a human face in the symbolical vision of Ezekiel.

Little is known of his life; the Fathers in general say that he died in Persia. St. Paulinus of Nola asserts that he died amongst the Parthians. When his remains were discovered at Vella and brought to the Cathedral of Salerno, Pope Gregory VII began his journey there, but died on the way, and was buried near the tomb of St. Matthew.

INTROIT Psalms 36: 30-31

Os justi meditabitur sapiéntiam, et lingua ejus loquétur judícium: lex Dei ejus in corde ipsius. (Ps. 36: 1) Noli æmulári in malignántibus: neque zeláveris faciéntes iniquitátem. Glória Patri et Filio et Spirítui Sancto, sicut erat in princípío, et nunc, et semper, et in sæcula sæculórum. Amen. Os justi meditabitur sapiéntiam, et lingua ejus loquétur judícium: lex Dei ejus in corde ipsius.

COLLECT

Beáti Apóstoli et Evangelístæ Matthæi, Dómine, précibus adjuvémur: ut, quod possibilítas nostra non óbtinet, ejus nobis intercessióne donétur. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spirítus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

LESSON Ezekiel 1: 10-14

Similitúdo vultus quátuor animálium: fácies hóminis, et fácies leónis a dextris ipsórum quátuor: fácies autem bovis a sinístris ipsórum quátuor, et fácies áquilæ désuper ipsórum quátuor. Fácies eórum et pénnæ 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 revertebántur cum ambularent. Et similitúdo animálium, aspéctus eórum quasi carbónum ignis ardéntium et quasi aspéctus lampadárum. Hæc erat visio discurrens in médio animálium, splendor ignis, et de igne fulgur egrédiens. Et animália ibant et revertebántur in similitúdinem fúlguris coruscántis.

GRADUAL Psalms 111: 1-2

Beátus vir, qui timet Dóminum: in mandátis ejus cupit nimis. Potens in terra erit semen ejus: generatio rectórum benedicétur.

LESSER ALLELUIA

Allelúja, allelúja. Te gloriosus Apostolórum chorus laudat, Dómine. Allelúja.

GOSPEL Matthew 9: 9-13

In illo témpore: Vidit Jesus hóminem sedéntem in telónio, Matthæum 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 discipulis ejus. Et vidéntes pharisæi, dicébant discipulis ejus: Quare cum publicánis et peccatóribus mánducat Magíster vester? At Jesus áudiens,ait: Non est opus valéntibus médicus, sed male habéntibus. Eúntes autem díscite, quid est: Misericórdiam volo, et non sacrificium. Non enim veni vocáre justos, sed peccatóres.

OFFERTORY Psalms 20: 4-5

Posuísti, Dómine, in cápíte ejus corónam de lápide pretióso: vitam pétiit a te, et tribuísti ei, allelúja.

SECRET

Supplicatióibus beáti Matthæi Apóstoli et Evangelístæ, quæsumus, Dómine, Ecclésiæ tuæ commendétur oblátio: cujus magníficis prædicatióibus erúditur. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spirítus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

PREFACE OF THE APOSTLES

Vere dignum et justum est, æquum et salutáre, Te Dómine supplicíter exoráre, ut gregem Tuum pastor ætérne, non déseras: sed per beátos Apóstolos tuos continúa protectióne custódiás. Ut iisdem rectóribus gubernétur, quos óperis Tui vicários eidem contulísti præesse pastóres. Et ideo cum Ángelis et Archángelis, cum Thronis et Dominatióibus, cumque omni milítia cæléstis exércitus, hymnum glóriæ Tuæ cánimus sine fine dicéntes:

COMMUNION Psalms 20: 6

Magna est glória ejus in salutári tuo: glóriam et magnum del córem ímpones super eum, Dómine.

POSTCOMMUNION

Percéptis, Dómine, sacraméntis, beáto Matthæo Apóstolo tuo et Evangelísta interveniénte, deprecámur: ut, quæ pro ejus celebráta sunt glória, nobis proficiant ad medélam. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spirítus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

The mouth of the just shall meditate wisdom, and his tongue shall speak judgment: the law of his God is in his heart. (Ps. 36: 1) Be not emulous of evil-doers; nor envy them that work iniquity. 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 shall meditate wisdom, and his tongue shall speak judgment: the law of his God is in his heart.

May we be assisted, O Lord, by the prayers of the blessed apostle and evangelist, Matthew, that what our effort obtaineth not, may be granted us by his intercession. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

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.

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.

Alleluia, alleluia. Thee, the glorious choir of apostles doth praise, O Lord. Alleluia.

At that time, Jesus saw a man sitting in the custom-house, 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? 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.

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

May the oblation of Thy Church, we pray Thee, O Lord, be commended by the supplications of Thy blessed apostle and evangelist Matthew, by whose glorious preaching it is instructed. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

It is truly meet and just, right and for our salvation, to entreat Thee humbly, O Lord, that Thou wouldst not desert Thy flock, O everlasting Shepherd, but, through Thy blessed Apostles, wouldst keep it under Thy constant protection; that it may be governed by those same rulers, whom as vicars of Thy work, Thou didst set over it to be its pastors. And therefore with Angels and Archangels, with Thrones and Dominations, and with all the hosts of the heavenly army, we sing the hymn of Thy glory, evermore saying:

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

Having received the sacraments, O Lord, we pray Thee, by the intercession of blessed Matthew, Thine apostle and evangelist, that what has been celebrated for his glory may profit for the healing of our souls. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.