

Matthew, Apostle, Evangelist and Martyr

Year A

21st September 2020

Red

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God,
who through your Son Jesus Christ
called Matthew from the selfish pursuit of gain
to become an apostle and evangelist:
free us from all greed and love of riches
so that we may follow the steps of our Lord Jesus Christ
in the way of self-giving love;
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

A reading from the Book of Proverbs,

Chapter 3 beginning at Verse 1

¹My child, do not forget my teaching, but let your heart keep my commandments; ²for length of days and years of life and abundant welfare they will give you. ³Do not let loyalty and faithfulness forsake you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart. ⁴So you will find favor and good repute in the sight of God and of people. ⁵Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. ⁶In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

[NRSV Proverbs 3:1-6]

Hear the word of the Lord, ***thanks be to God***

Psalm 19:1-6

- ¹ The heavens declare the glory of God:
and the firmament proclaims his handiwork;
- ² One day tells it to another:
and night to night communicates knowledge.
- ³ There is no speech or language:
nor are their voices heard;
- ⁴ Yet their sound has gone out through all the world:
and their words to the ends of the earth.
- ⁵ There he has pitched a tent for the sun:
which comes out as a bridegroom from his chamber,
and rejoices like a strong man to run his course.
- ⁶ Its rising is at one end of the heavens,
and its circuit to their farthest bound:
and nothing is hidden from its heat.

**A reading from letter of Paul to Ephesians,
Chapter 4 beginning at Verse 1**

¹I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, ²with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, ⁵one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

⁷But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift. ⁸Therefore it is said, "When he ascended on high he made captivity itself a captive; he gave gifts to his people."

⁹(When it says, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? ¹⁰He who descended is the same one who ascended far above all the heavens, so that he might fill all things.) ¹¹The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, ¹²to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. ¹⁴We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming.

[NRSV Ephesians 4:1-14]

Hear the word of the Lord, ***thanks be to God.***

**The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew,
Chapter 9 beginning at verse 9**

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

⁹As 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.

¹⁰And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax collectors and sinners came and were sitting with him and his disciples. ¹¹When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" ¹²But when he heard this, he said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. ¹³Go and learn what this means, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners." [NRSV Matthew 9:9-13]

This is the Gospel of the Lord, ***praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.***

Sentence

Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I have come not to call the righteous, but sinners.