

Matthias, Apostle and Martyr

Year B

24th February 2021

Red

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God,
who chose your faithful servant Matthias
to be numbered among the twelve apostles
in the place of Judas:
preserve your Church always from false apostles,
so that it may be guided by true and faithful pastors;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles,

Chapter 1 beginning at Verse 14

¹⁴All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

¹⁵In those days Peter stood up among the believers (together the crowd numbered about one hundred twenty persons) and said, ¹⁶“Friends, the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit through David foretold concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus - ¹⁷for he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry.” ²⁰“For it is written in the book of Psalms, ‘Let his homestead become desolate, and let there be no one to live in it’; and ‘Let another take his position of overseer.’

²¹So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, ²²beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us - one of these must become a witness with us to his resurrection.” ²³So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. ²⁴Then they prayed and said, “Lord, you know everyone’s heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen ²⁵to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.” ²⁶And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.

[NRSV Acts 1:14-17, 20-26]

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

Psalm 113

- ¹ Praise the Lord, O sing praises, you that are his servants:
O praise the name of the Lord.
- ² Let the name of the Lord be blessed:
from this time forward and for ever.
- ³ From the rising of the sun to its going down:
let the name of the Lord be praised.
- ⁴ The Lord is exalted over all the nations:
and his glory is above the heavens.
- ⁵ Who can be likened to the Lord our God:
in heaven or upon the earth,
- ⁶ Who has his dwelling so high:
yet condescends to look on things beneath?
- ⁷ He raises the lowly from the dust:
and lifts the poor from out of the dungheap;
- ⁸ He gives them a place among the princes:
even among the princes of his people.
- ⁹ He causes the barren woman to keep house:
and makes her a joyful mother of children.
Praise the Lord.

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Philippians,

Chapter 3 beginning at Verse 13

¹³ Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵ Let those of us then who are mature be of the same mind; and if you think differently about anything, this too God will reveal to you. ¹⁶ Only let us hold fast to what we have attained.

¹⁷ Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. ¹⁸ For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. ¹⁹ Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. ²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. ²¹ He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself.

[NRSV Philippians 3:13-21]

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

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John,

Chapter 15 beginning at Verse 9

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

⁹ As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹ I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

¹² "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³ No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵ I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. ¹⁶ You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. ¹⁷ I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

[NRSV John 15:9-17]

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

Sentence

Jesus said, 'You did not choose me, but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should abide.'