

ST. MATTHEW THE EVANGELIST

September 21

The Collect

Traditional

We thank thee, heavenly Father, for the witness of thine apostle and evangelist Matthew to the Gospel of thy Son our Savior; and we pray that, after his example, we may with ready wills and hearts obey the calling of our Lord to follow him; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Contemporary

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The Old Testament Lesson

Proverbs 3:1-6

My son, do not forget my teaching, but let your heart keep my commandments; for length of days and years of life and abundant welfare will they give you. Let not loyalty and faithfulness forsake you; bind them about your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart. So you will find favor and good repute in the sight of God and man. Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

Psalm 119:33-40

³³ Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statutes, *
and I shall keep it to the end.

³⁴ Give me understanding, and I shall keep your law; *
I shall keep it with all my heart.

³⁵ Make me go in the path of your commandments, *
for that is my desire.

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³⁶ Incline my heart to your decrees *
and not to unjust gain.

³⁷ Turn my eyes from watching what is worthless; *
give me life in your ways.

³⁸ Fulfill your promise to your servant, *
which you make to those who fear you.

³⁹ Turn away the reproach which I dread, *
because your judgments are good.

⁴⁰ Behold, I long for your commandments; *
in your righteousness preserve my life.

The Epistle

2 Timothy 3:14-17

But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings which are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

The Gospel

Matthew 9:9-13

As 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. And as he sat at table in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and sat down with Jesus and his disciples. And when the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" But when he heard it, he said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means, 'I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.' For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners."

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