

November 16

Commemoration of the Holy and Illustrious Apostle

Matthew the Evangelist

(4th Class)

VESPERS

At "O Lord, to You I call..."

Stichera for Matthew (Tone 4)

6. He who knows the heart of man, in His divine foreknowledge, saw your sentiments toward Him, O holy Apostle, and separated you from the world, delivering you from iniquity, O Matthew. Then He made you a lamp to enlighten the ends of the earth, and at His command, you shone forth. Thus, you were worthy to write His divine Gospel. Pray to Him to save and enlighten our souls.
5. He who knows... (*repeat*)
4. The Word who had no beginning called you from the ranks of publicans to be His disciple, O Matthew, and urged you to follow Him in order to share in the kingdom He promised. Then, O blessed one, you left all things, renouncing trouble and confusion, and you followed Him with a sure step. Now, O eyewitness of our God, you are filled with the ineffable vision of Him. Pray to Him to save and enlighten our souls.
3. The penetrating gaze of a prophet once saw you as a holy stone, rolling over the earth to crush the ways of the wicked. O blessed one, the Incarnate Word has made you a light for the world, a herald of justice and truth,



radiant with the splendor flowing from the triple Sun. Pray to Him to save and enlighten our souls.

2. When the Unapproachable Light willed to come in the flesh to scatter the darkness of ignorance and error, at His call, His life-giving command, you followed Him as a servant of the divine Wisdom. You kept the law of God and were an ineffable light, a dwelling-place of Christ, for the Church, O Matthew. Pray to Him to save and enlighten our souls.
1. With your words of fire, you consumed all error, O Apostle worthy of all praise, all-wise Matthew, who received the visit of the Paraclete when He illumined Your whole being. Thus you filled with wonder the spirits of those who heard you speak when you announced to the people the magnificence of the Almighty One. Your message, inspired by God, has gone out through all the world. Pray to Him to save and enlighten our souls.
- v. Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,

Doxastikon

Christ called you to the school of heaven, and by divine inspiration, you followed Him with your whole heart, instantly leaving all earthly occupations. Taking by obedience the dispositions in keeping with the Kingdom on high, you renounced all the vainglory and greed of a publican, O Matthew, and became an evangelist, a light for darkened hearts. You lead erring sheep to salvation as an always fervent intercessor for the world before God, and a saving protector of the faithful who glorify you.

- now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Theotokion

O blessed one, the Creator of all dwelt bodily in your womb in order to refashion mankind, fallen and misled by the serpent. You have ineffably given birth to God the Word, and by your childbearing, you have delivered human nature, grown old, from corruption. Thus we celebrate your grace, O pure, unwedded Virgin. By it, protect and save the faithful who glorify you.

"O Joyful Light..." Prokimenon of Wednesday evening.

APOSTICHA (*Tone 4*)

1. The trumpet-call of your words has gathered all mankind together to know God. You have banished from the earth the assemblies of evil, O disciple all-worthy of our praise, and have directed the hearts of the faithful toward unity. You intercede forever that the believers who celebrate your venerable memory may be delivered from deadly danger.

All: Their voice has gone forth over the whole world, and their words to the limits of the universe.

2. O holy Apostle Matthew, you have been made a powerful warrior against error by Him who armed you with the tongue of fire of the Spirit, Christ our God, from whom you received grace as a radiant prize. Intercede before Him that the believers who celebrate your venerable memory may be delivered from deadly danger.

All: The heavens proclaim the glory of God and the firmament shows forth the work of His hands.

3. Immersing yourself in the depths of the Spirit, O holy Apostle Matthew, you have known the inexhaustible treasures, from which you draw the abundant grace which you distribute to all through your Gospel. Now you intercede that the believers who celebrate your venerable memory may be delivered from deadly danger.

All: Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,

Doxastikon (Tone 6)

Soaring like an eagle on high, you have wondrously ascended from the depths of infamy to the heights of the virtues, O illustrious Apostle Matthew. You have followed in the footsteps of Christ who covered the heavens with His praise, and who covered the earth with His knowledge. In all things you showed yourself to be His imitator, announcing the Gospel of peace, life, and salvation to the faithful open to His divine precepts. Guide us along the way that we may be acceptable to the Creator and call you blessed.

All: now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Theotokion

Christ the Lord, my Maker and Savior, came out of your pure womb in the likeness of me, O Woman without stain, and He delivered Adam from the original curse. Therefore, O Woman all pure, since you are the Mother of God and a true Virgin, we never tire of calling to you with the salutation of the angel: "Hail, O Lady, O our intercessor, our shield and the redemptrix of our souls!"

TROPARION OF MATTHEW (*Tone 3*)

O holy Apostle and Evangelist Matthew, intercede with the merciful God that He may grant our souls the forgiveness of sins.

v. Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

RESURRECTIONAL THEOTOKION (*Tone 3*)

We praise you, O Virgin Theotokos, mediatrix of our salvation, for your Son, our God, who suffered on the Cross in the flesh which was taken from you, redeemed us from corruption, for He is the Lover of Mankind!