

WORSHIP - EVE OF THE FEAST OF ST MATTHEW, 20 SEP 2020



Welcome and notices

This order is similar to the one we are using at St Matthew's at 10 am as we celebrate their Patronal Festival. This carving of Matthew is at the Chapel of National Memorial Arboretum - all twelve apostles are carved in the pillars. The wood carver was an ex Royal Marine named Jim Heath. You can see the other apostles on my blog - <http://www.northernvicar.co.uk/2020/08/20/national-memorial-arboretum-staffordshire-millennium-chapel/>

Music: Prelude on 'For all the Saints' by Ralph Vaughan Williams, arranged by Cheyne, played by Mason Gross Brass Band conducted by David Crosby 11-28-18 in Voorhees Chapel at Rutgers
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rP_BRBW6Y6k

Please pray for those of us worshipping in one of our churches, as we pray for you. Light a candle and prepare to worship.

Grace, mercy and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, be with you.
And also with you.

**Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son Jesus Christ to save us from our sins,
to be our advocate in heaven, and to bring us to eternal life.
Let us confess our sins, in penitence and faith, firmly resolved to keep God's commandments,
and to live in love and peace with all.

Lord Jesus, in your love you invite us to be your friends:
Lord, have mercy, **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, in your joy you us to go out and bear fruit:
Christ, have mercy, **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, in your power you send us to be your faithful witnesses:
Lord, have mercy, **Lord, have mercy.**

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon us,
pardon and deliver us from all our sins,
confirm and strengthen us in all goodness,
and keep you in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Gloria in excelsis - say this, as those of us in church will be saying it, or (as it's a Festival Day) join the choir of St Alban's Cathedral to enjoy the setting by C.V. Stanford in B flat
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=inDwNcbGj0A>

**Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,**

we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

The Collect for Mathew, Apostle and Evangelist

O Almighty God, whose blessed Son
called Matthew the tax collector
to be an apostle and evangelist:
give us grace to forsake the selfish pursuit of gain
and the possessive love of riches
that we may follow in the way
of your Son Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Bible readings - these are the readings for the Feast of St Matthew,
which is why they are not on the printed blue noticesheet.

1 Corinthians 4.1-6

Think of us in this way, as servants of Christ and stewards of God's mysteries. Moreover, it is required of stewards that they should be found trustworthy. But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by any human court. I do not even judge myself. I am not aware of anything against myself, but I am not thereby acquitted. It is the Lord who judges me. Therefore do not pronounce judgement before the time, before the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Then each one will receive commendation from God.

I have applied all this to Apollos and myself for your benefit, brothers and sisters, so that you may learn through us the meaning of the saying, 'Nothing beyond what is written', so that none of you will be puffed up in favour of one against another.

Psalm 145.1-8 is the psalm set for this Sunday, but it fits well with Matthew. It is printed on the noticesheet and we will be saying it in church.

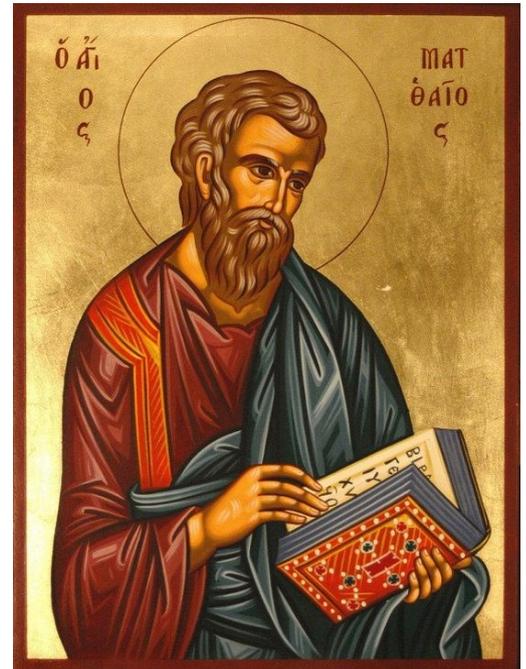
Matthew 9.9-13

As 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. And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax-collectors and sinners came and were sitting with him and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, 'Why does your teacher eat with tax-collectors and sinners?' But when he heard this, 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, not sacrifice." For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners.'

Address - there is a sermon from me on the front page of the website

The Nicene Creed - we affirm our faith, and the faith of the whole church (hence 'we' not 'I')

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.



We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

Encouraged by our fellowship with Matthew and all the saints, let us make our prayers to the Father through our Lord Jesus Christ. Let us pray.

Father, your Son called men and women to leave the past behind them and to follow him as his disciples in the way of the cross. Look with mercy upon us, and upon all those whom he calls today, marks with the cross and makes his disciples within the Church. We pray for Libby, our bishop, for the life of our diocese, our friends in Allestree Churches Together. For our corporate life in these strange times, Lord, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Your Son told his disciples not to be afraid and at Easter breathed on them his gift of peace. Look with mercy upon the world into which he sent them out, and give it that peace for which it longs. We know that creation is under stress, that society is under stress, that our leaders seem stressed and confused. Lord, peace seems a very long way off - so help us to be men and women of faith, faith to know you are our Lord and God. Help us to care and pray, to work for your Kingdom. Lord, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Your Son formed around him a company who were no longer servants but friends, and he called all those who obeyed him his brother and sister and mother. Look with mercy upon our families and our friends and upon the communities in which we share. We pray for Pete and Sophie, married yesterday at St Edmund's, and ask your blessing on them. In the peace of this place we also name before you Lord, people for whom we are concerned. For families who are stressed, people who are trapped, relationships that have broken down. Lord, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Your Son sent out disciples to preach and heal the sick. Look with mercy on all those who yearn to hear the good news of salvation, and renew among your people the gifts of healing. We pray for our NHS, for those working in track and trace, for those gearing up again for whatever the future holds. We pray for individuals for whom we have been asked to pray.

From St Edmund's we pray for Baby Jess, Simon Hamerton, Ron & Pauline McKeown, Enid Clarke, Paul Dunham, Julie Diane, Julia Wardrop, Hazel Thorpe, Kate Belfield, Kevin and Pam Ekins.

From St Matthew's for Philip Eades and David Roberts.

Lord, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Your Son promised to those who followed him that they would sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel and would share the banquet of the kingdom. According to your promise, look with mercy on those who have walked with Christ in this life and now have passed through death. From St Matthew's we pray for Andrew Robinson.

Lord, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

So we pray together:
Almighty God,
Grant that your Church
may faithfully hold and make known
the faith that has come to us through the apostles,
that with them and all your saints
we may inherit the glories of eternal life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The Peace - even if you are physically alone, remember you are part of God's Church across the world. We can share the peace with a phone call later today - who are you going to phone?

We are fellow-citizens with the saints and of the household of God,
through Christ our Lord, who came and preached peace
to those who were far off and those who were near.
The peace of the Lord be always with you. **And also with you.**

Hymn - For all thy saints, O Lord

This is a recording by Durham Cathedral Choir - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kvAXr3uxYzM>
The words are not quite the same as the ones I have on my computer - so if you sing along, you won't quite be singing what they are singing (but they won't mind!)

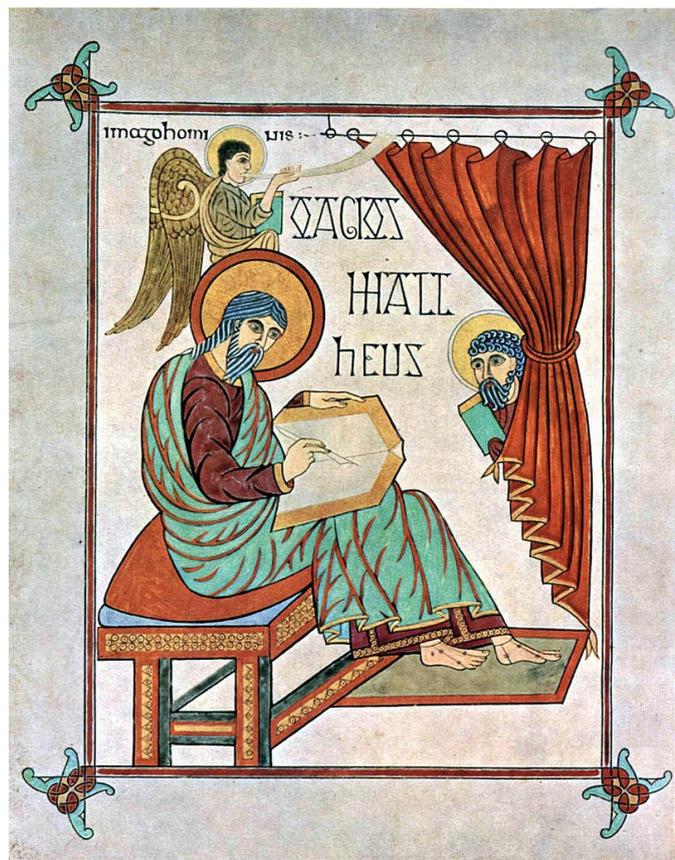
For all thy saints, O Lord,
Who strove in thee to live,
Who followed thee, obeyed, adored,
Our grateful hymn receive.

For all thy saints, O Lord,
Who strove in thee to die,
And found in thee a full reward,
Accept our thankful cry.

Thine earthly members fit
To join thy saints above,
In one communion ever knit,
One fellowship of love.

Jesu, thy name we bless,
And humbly pray that we
May follow them in holiness,
Who lived and died for thee.

All might, all praise, be thine,
Father, co-equal Son,
And Spirit, bond of love divine,
While endless ages run.



Words: Richard Mant
Music: Mount Ephraim, Benjamin Milngrove - HON 179

At St Matthew's we are celebrating Holy Communion, but I am aware that if you are remaining at home, the fact that we are sharing the sacrament and you are not, might well be very difficult. I have printed the Eucharistic Prayer, but quite understand if you prefer not to use it until you are able to come to church or I can bring Communion to you. I can't tell you that you are welcome to use this prayer and have some of your own bread and wine, as that introduces all sort of legal and theological complications, but I'm sure God has no problems if that's what you want to do.

**Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the splendour, and the majesty;
for everything in heaven and on earth is yours.
All things come from you, and of your own do we give you.**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right and good
that we should give you thanks, praise and glory,
almighty and everlasting God,
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.
For after his resurrection he sent out his apostles and evangelists
to preach the gospel to all nations and lead us in the way of truth.
Himself the chief cornerstone,
he founded his Church upon the apostles
firmly to stand for ever
as a sign of your holiness upon earth
and a living witness to all
of the way that leads to heaven.
And so with angels and archangels
and with all the company of heaven
we lift our voices
and join in their unending hymn of praise:
**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

We praise and bless you, loving Father, through Jesus Christ, our Lord;
and as we obey his command, send your Holy Spirit,
that broken bread and wine outpoured may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends and, taking bread, he praised you.
He broke the bread, gave it to them, and said:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.
Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:
Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did, in him we plead with confidence
his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross.

Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,
we proclaim his death and resurrection until he comes in glory.

Great is the mystery of faith:
Christ has died: Christ is risen: Christ will come again.

Lord of all life, help us to work together for that day
when your kingdom comes and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people, gather us in your loving arms
and bring us with St Matthew, St Edmund and all the saints to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray.

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

Though we are many, we are one body, because we all share in one bread.

Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.

Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.

Jesus, redeemer of the world, grant us peace.

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word, and I shall be healed.

In church I will walk round the church giving people communion in one kind (bread only). Here is an anthem:

Christ has no body now but yours
No hands, no feet on earth, but yours.
Yours are the eyes with which he sees,
Yours are the feet with which he walks,
Yours are the hands with which he blesses all the world.

Words from Teresa of Avila, Music: David Ogden

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uJfmuVWMVnQ> the choir of Washington National Cathedral (a little slower than we normally sing it!)

**Lord God, the source of truth and love,
keep us faithful to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, united in prayer and the breaking of bread,
and one in joy and simplicity of heart, in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.

Through him we offer you our souls and bodies to be a living sacrifice.

Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.

The Blessing - *Enriching the Christian Year, page 130*

God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
Give us the spirit of wisdom and revelation,
To know the hope to which he has called you. **Amen.**

God, who has shown you a pattern of holy living and holy dying in the lives of the saints,
Bring you to share their glorious inheritance. **Amen.**

God, who calls you no longer strangers, but fellow citizens with the saints,
Set your hearts and minds on things above, where Christ is seated at God's right hand. **Amen.**

Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord; **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

Final music - for a major Feast it has to be *Widor's Toccata* - enjoy!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dRbRu2DPx-Y>

Peter Barham, 15 September 2020