

Daily Prayer

St Matthias the Apostle

Wednesday, 14 May, 2025

We enter into a time of quiet. We offer to God our selves and in the silence know that God embraces us as God's very own. We offer our hopes and our concerns through our prayers and in the silence listen for God. Today we hold in our prayers the ordinary moments in life—the trials and the joys. We begin by saying

O Lord, open our lips.

And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

In your resurrection, O Christ

let heaven and earth rejoice. Alleluia.

The First Reading

In those days Peter stood up among the brothers and sisters (together the crowd numbered about one hundred twenty persons) and said, "Brothers and sisters, the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit through David foretold concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus, for he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry." (Now this man acquired a field with the reward of his wickedness, and falling headlong, he burst open in the middle, and all his bowels gushed out. This became known to all the residents of Jerusalem, so that the field was called in their language Hakeldama, that is, Field of Blood.) "For it is written in the book of Psalms,

'Let his house become desolate,

and let there be no one to live in it';

and

'Let another take his position of overseer.'

“So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning 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.” So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. Then they prayed and said, “Lord, you know everyone’s heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.” And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias, and he was added to the eleven apostles.

Acts 1.15-26

The Psalm

Lord, who may dwell in your tabernacle? ♦

Who may rest upon your holy hill?

Whoever leads an uncorrupt life ♦

and does the thing that is right;

Who speaks the truth from the heart ♦

and bears no deceit on the tongue;

Who does no evil to a friend ♦

and pours no scorn on a neighbour;

In whose sight the wicked are not esteemed, ♦

but who honours those who fear the Lord.

Whoever has sworn to a neighbour ♦

and never goes back on that word;

Who does not lend money in hope of gain, ♦

nor takes a bribe against the innocent;

Whoever does these things ♦

shall never fall.

Psalm 15

The Gospel Reading

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower.

Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples. As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. 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. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.

“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. 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. 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.

John 15.1,6-16

In silence, we ask what the readings have to say to us today. Is there something that draws us more deeply into the reading? What does God have to say to us? What do we have to ask God?

When the time is right, we conclude our time of silence with the canticle

The Canticle ~ A Song of Manasseh

Full of compassion and mercy and love
is God, the Most High, the Almighty.

Lord almighty and God of our ancestors, ♦
you who made heaven and earth in all their glory:

All things tremble with awe at your presence, ♦
before your great and mighty power.

Immeasurable and unsearchable is your promised mercy, ♦
for you are God, Most High.

You are full of compassion, long-suffering and very merciful, ♦
and you relent at human suffering.

O God, according to your great goodness, ♦
you have promised forgiveness for repentance
to those who have sinned against you.

The sins I have committed against you ♦
are more in number than the sands of the sea.

I am not worthy to look up to the height of heaven, ♦
because of the multitude of my iniquities.

And now I bend the knee of my heart before you, ♦
imploping your kindness upon me.

I have sinned, O God, I have sinned, ♦
and I acknowledge my transgressions.

Unworthy as I am, you will save me, ♦
according to your great mercy.

For all the host of heaven sings your praise, ♦
and your glory is for ever and ever.

Manasseh 1a,2,4,6,7a,b,9a,c,11,12,14b,15b

Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.

Full of compassion and mercy and love
is God, the Most High, the Almighty.

*We continue in prayer for those people and situations that we hold up before God and
continue with the concluding collect, the Lord's prayer and the closing sentences.*

The Intercessions

We pray to Jesus who is present with us to eternity.
Jesus, light of the world,
bring the light and peace of your gospel to the nations ...
Jesus, Lord of life,
in your mercy, hear us.

Jesus, bread of life,
give food to the hungry ...
and nourish us all with your word.
Jesus, Lord of life,
in your mercy, hear us.

Jesus, our way, our truth, our life,
be with us and all who follow you in the way ...
Deepen our appreciation of your truth
and fill us with your life.
Jesus, Lord of life,
in your mercy, hear us.

Jesus, Good Shepherd who gave your life for the sheep,
recover the straggler,
bind up the injured,
strengthen the sick
and lead the healthy and strong to new pastures.

Jesus, Lord of life,
in your mercy, hear us.

Jesus, the resurrection and the life,
we give you thanks for all who have lived and believed in you ...
Raise us with them to eternal life.

Jesus, Lord of life,
in your mercy, hear us,
accept our prayers, and be with us always.
Amen.

Our prayers conclude

Almighty God,
who in the place of Judas
chose Matthias to be numbered in the twelve,
preserve your Church from false apostles,
and by the ministry of faithful pastors and teachers
keep us steadfast in your truth;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

[let us pray as our Saviour taught us,]

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen

We conclude

May the risen Christ grant us the joys of eternal life.
Amen.

St Matthias the Apostle

May 14

Holy Day

Today we commemorate Matthias, who was chosen to take the place of Judas Iscariot in the company of the twelve apostles. We know nothing about his life and ministry beyond the first chapter of the Book of Acts. The eleven apostles wanted a twelfth to complete their number, and the lot fell to Matthias.

We never find out what made him the better candidate, nor do we ever hear of him again in all the New Testament. We are left with the impression that he was important only because there needed to be *twelve* apostles.

According to the Book of Acts, the Apostles were appointed for the sake of proclaiming Jesus to the children of Israel. "Israel" was originally the name of a person, and that person was Jacob, the grandson of Abraham. He had twelve sons, and they became the patriarchs of the twelve Hebrew tribes that Moses led out of Egypt into freedom. That was the reason for having twelve apostles. They were meant to be the twelve patriarchs of the new Israel, who would lead all Jews out of this present age into the glorious liberty of the kingdom of heaven.

Matthias was chosen to fill up the ancient number of twelve and thus fulfill Israel's heritage by helping to beget the new Israel "in the Spirit." By honouring him today, we commit ourselves to a similar task, by enabling others to become children of the new Israel, begotten in the Spirit through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

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