

THE 16th DAY OF THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER
COMMEMORATION OF THE HOLY APOSTLE & EVANGELIST MATHEW
AT GREAT VESPERS

After the Introductory Psalm, we chant "Blessed is the man ...", the first antiphon.

On "Lord, I have cried ...", 8 Stichera, in Tone IV:

Spec. Mel.: "Called from on high ...":

When He who trieth our hearts * perceived thy godly mind, O apostle, * with His divine foreknowledge, * He delivered thee from injustice and the world; * then, making thee a universal light, * and commanding thee to illumine and shine upon * the ends of the whole world, * He manifestly deemed thee worthy * to write His divine Gospel. * Him do thou entreat, ** that He save and enlighten our souls. (Twice)

When the beginningless Word * Called thee away from thy tax-booth * to be His disciple, * He cried out to thee, * commanding thee to follow Him * and promising thee a share in His kingdom; * then, O all-blessed one, forsaking all things * and abandoning the tumult of the crowd, * thou didst steadfastly follow after him. * And now, O God-seer, * thou art manifestly full of the ineffable vision of Him. * Him do thou beseech, ** that He save and enlighten our souls. (Twice)

Of old the prophets' clear vision * perceived thee to be a holy stone, * rolling upon the earth * and crushing the snares of the deceiver; * and the hypostatic Wisdom, O all-wise one, * made thee a light unto the world * and a preacher of righteousness and truth, * radiant with the beams * of the three-sunned Light, O all-honored one. * Him do thou entreat, ** that He save and enlighten our souls. (Twice)

O servant of the supremely divine Wisdom, * when the unapproachable Light came in the flesh * as was His will, * dispelling the gloom of ignorance, * He summoned thee, and thou didst follow * His life-bearing commands, * observing them in a manner transcending understanding, * O Matthew, thou beacon of the Church, * and dwelling-place of Christ. * Him do thou beseech, ** that He save and enlighten our souls.

Thou wast revealed * burning up delusion * with a tongue of fire, * O Matthew all-praised and most wise, * receiving the advent of the Comforter, * Who made thee radiant by His essence; * hence, thou hast astonished every thought * of those who listen to thy words, * relating to mankind the mighty works of the Almighty One. * And now thy sound hath gone forth into all the earth, * O divinely inspired one. * Him do thou entreat, ** that He take pity on all who hymn thee.

Glory ..., in Tone IV:

When Christ called thee to heavenly discipleship, thou didst diligently follow Him, O God-pleaser, casting aside without hesitation every exercise of earthly care; for, receiving with goodly submission an understanding worthy of the heavenly kingdom, thou didst put aside a base life and vain glory. And having been made an evangelist from that of a publican, thou wast revealed to be a light to those in darkness and a guide to salvation for the lost. And now thou art a most fervent intercessor for the whole world and the saving protector of those who honor thee, O Matthew.

Now & ever ..., Dogmaticon, in the same tone:

Prophet David, the ancestor of God, * spoke of thee in psalmody unto Him who hath accomplished great things in thee. * For God was well pleased without father to become a man from thee, * the Queen who standeth at His right hand, * and He - the source of life - showed thee to be His mother, * that he might renew his own image, corrupted by the passions. * Having found the lost sheep wandering on the mountain * He hath laid it upon his shoulders, * that he may bring it to his Father; * and in accordance with his own will * unite it to the heavenly Powers * and thus, O Theotokos, save the world, ** Christ, who is richly and abundantly merciful.

Entrance. Prokeimenon of the day. Three Readings:

A READING FROM THE GENERAL EPISTLE OF JOHN [I JN. 3: 21-4: 6]

Beloved: if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God. And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight. And this is his commandment, that we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as he gave us commandment. And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us. Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world. Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world. They are of the world: therefore speak they of the world, and the world heareth them. We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us.

A READING FROM THE GENERAL EPISTLE OF JOHN [I JN. 4: 11-16]

Beloved: if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another. No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us. Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he

hath given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Savior of the world. Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God. And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.

A READING FROM THE GENERAL EPISTLE OF JOHN [I JN. 4: 20-5: 5]

Beloved: If a man saith: "I Love God," and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God Whom he hath not seen? And this commandment have we from Him, That he who loveth God love his brother also. Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep His commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments: and His commandments are not grievous. For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?

If the pastor so desire, a Litiya may be chanted: the Sticheron of the temple, and these Stichera of the apostle, in Tone IV:

Spec. Mel.: "As one valiant among the martyrs ...":

With the rod of grace, * O right wondrous one, * thou didst draw all from the abyss of vanity, * submitting to the order of thy Teacher, * Who wholly enlightened thine understanding * and showed thee to be an honored apostle * and a divine proclaimer * of His unapproachable Divinity, ** O all-blessed Mathew.

The radiance of the Spirit * descended upon thee in the guise of fire, * and made of thee a divine dwelling, O blessed one, * who quickly drivest off the gloom of godlessness, * and enlightenest the world * with the splendor of thine all-wise words, * O proclaimer of the mysteries of God, * adornment of the apostles ** and beholder of Christ, O blessed one.

Having illumined with the lightning flashes of thy preaching * those who sit in the darkness of unbelief, * O glorious one, * thou didst show them to be sons of our God and Master * through their faith. * Thou didst emulate His sufferings and death * and didst become an heir to His glory, * in that thou art a wise proclaimer of God, ** a disciple of Truth.

Glory ..., in Tone II:

Having forsaken earthly things, thou didst follow after Christ, signed with the inspiration of the Holy Spirit and sent by Him to the Gentiles which were perishing, to turn mankind to the light of the knowledge of God, O apostle Mathew. And, having completed the struggles of thy divine suffering and divers torments, thou didst commit thy soul to Christ. Him do thou entreat, O all-blessed one, that He grant us great mercy.

Now & ever ..., Theotokion in Tone II:

All my hope do I place in thee, O Mother of God; keep me under thy protection.

At the Aposticha, these Stichera, in Tone IV:

Spec. Mel.: "Thou hast given a sign ...":

With the trumpet of thy words * thou didst summon all * to the knowledge of God, O ever-praised one; * and, having driven the assemblies of the deceived from the earth, * thou didst guide the faithful to one unity of mind. * and prayest now * that those who ever celebrate * thine honored memory with faith ** may be delivered from corruption and misfortunes.

Verse: Their sound hath gone forth into all the earth, * and their words unto the ends of the world.

Christ our God, * Who armed thee with the fiery tongue * of the Holy Spirit * showed thee forth, O apostle, * as a mighty opponent of delusion, * wherewith thou hast received the splendid honors of grace. * Him do thou entreat, * that those who with faith ever celebrate thine honored memory ** may be delivered from corruption and misfortunes.

Verse: The heavens declare the glory of God, * and the firmament proclaimeth the work of His hands.

Penetrating the depths of the Spirit, O apostle, * thou didst grasp inexhaustible riches, * and drawing forth abundant grace therefrom, * thou hast evangelically bestowed it upon all of us. * And now thou prayest, * that those who with faith ever celebrate * thine honored memory ** may be delivered from corruption and misfortune.

Glory ..., in Tone VI:

Like a high-flying eagle thou didst most gloriously soar from the depths of evil to the uttermost heights, O all-praised Matthew; for thou didst follow in the steps of Christ Who hath covered the heavens with virtue and filled the whole earth with His knowledge. Thou didst show thyself to be an ardent emulator of Him, proclaiming His glad tidings that peace, life and salvation be granted to those who piously submit to the precepts of God. Do thou likewise guide thereto us who please the Creator and call thee blessed.

Now & ever ..., Theotokion, in Tone VI:

Christ the Lord, my Creator and Redeemer, * Who came forth from thy womb, O all-pure one, * and clothed Himself in my nature, * hath freed Adam from the primal curse. * Wherefore, like the angel we unceasingly cry out to thee, * O most pure one, * who art truly the Mother of God and Virgin: * Rejoice!, O Lady, ** the intercession, protection and salvation of our souls!

Troparion, in Tone III:

O holy Apostle and evangelist Matthew, * entreat the Merciful God * that He grant remission of sins ** unto our souls

Or this Troparion, in the same tone:

Zealously following Christ the Master, * Who in His goodness appeared to mankind on the earth, * and called thee from thy tax-booth, * thou wast shown to be a chosen apostle * and a trumpet-voiced proclaimer of the Gospel to the whole world. * Wherefore, we honor thy precious memory, O divinely eloquent Matthew. * Entreat the merciful God, ** that He granteth remission of sins unto our souls.

If a vigil be not served, Glory ..., Now & ever ..., Theotokion:

We hymn thee who hast mediated the salvation of our race, * O Virgin Theotokos; * for thy Son and our God, * accepting suffering on the Cross in the flesh * He had received of thee, * hath delivered us from corruption, ** in that He is the Lover of mankind.

AT MATINS

At "God is the Lord ...", the Troparion of the evangelist in Tone III:

O holy Apostle and evangelist Matthew, * entreat the Merciful God * that He grant remission of sins ** unto our souls. (Twice)

Glory ..., Now & ever ..., the Theotokion.

We hymn thee who hast mediated the salvation of our race, * O Virgin Theotokos; * for thy Son and our God, * accepting suffering on the Cross in the flesh * He had received of thee, * hath delivered us from corruption, ** in that He is the Lover of mankind.

After the first chanting of the Psalter, this Sedalion, in Tone I:

Spec. Mel.: "Thy tomb, O Savior ...":

The exceedingly wise Matthew, who was first to record the Gospel of Christ illumining all creation under the heavens, the excellent initiate of the mysteries of Christ, who is now honored with sacred hymns, doth beg forgiveness of sins on behalf of those who honor him with love. (Twice)

Glory ..., Now & ever ..., Theotokion in Tone I:

All we who with love flee for refuge to thy goodness * know thee to be the Mother of God * and after childbirth still truly Virgin; * for we sinners have thee as our protection; * we have thee as our salvation in misfortunes, ** as the only All-blameless one.

After the second chanting of the Psalter, this Sedalion, in Tone III:

Spec. Mel.: "Of the divine Faith ...":

Resplendent with works of the right Faith, thou didst extinguish all false religion; and as an insuperable victor thou hast proclaimed the Gospel unto all, richly adorning all the Churches, O Apostle Matthew, entreat Christ God, that He grant us great mercy. (Twice)

Glory ..., Now & ever ..., Theotokion in Tone III:

Without separating Himself from the divine Essence when He took flesh in thy womb, the one Lord remained God though He had become a man; and even after thy birthgiving He preserved thee, His Virgin Mother, as immaculate as thou wast before giving birth. Him do thou earnestly beseech, that He grant us great mercy.

After the Polyeleos, this magnification: We magnify thee, O Mathew, apostle of Christ, and we honor the pains and labors wherewith thou didst struggle in the proclamation of the Gospel of Christ.

Selected verse:

A: The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament proclaimeth the work of His hands.

Glory ..., Now & ever ...Alleluia ..., Glory to Thee, O God. (Thrice)

After the Polyeleos, this Sedalion, in Tone VIII:

Spec. Mel.: "Of the Wisdom ...":

Truly the sound of thy wise words hath gone forth to all the ends of the earth, O all-praised apostle of the Lord, for thou didst manifestly preach to all the vision of God, bringing the nations from ignorance to understanding. Wherefore, having dispelled the darkness of idolatry, thou hast shone forth the light of knowledge upon those who sit in darkness, O all-praised Matthew. Entreat Christ God, that He grant remission of sins unto those who honor thy holy memory with love. (Twice)

Glory ..., Now & ever ..., Theotokion in Tone VIII:

All we, the generations of mankind, * call thee blessed, * in that thou art the Virgin who alone among women * hast given birth without seed unto God in the flesh; * for the fire of the Godhead made its abode within thee, * and thou didst feed the Creator and Lord * with milk as an infant. * Wherefore, we, the race of mankind and of angels, * glorify thy birthgiving, * and together we cry out to thee: * Entreat Christ God to grant forgiveness of sins ** unto those who with faith worship thy most holy Offspring.

Song of Ascents, the first Antiphon of Tone IV:

Prokeimenon, in Tone IV: Their sound hath gone forth into all the earth, * and their words unto the ends of the world.

Verse: The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament proclaimeth the work of His hands.

"Let every breath praise the Lord!"

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ST. JOHN [21:15-25]

At that time, Jesus appeared unto His disciples, having risen from the dead, and said to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jona, lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs. He saith to him again the second time, Simon, son of Jona, lovest thou me? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my sheep. He saith unto him the third time, Simon, son of Jona, lovest thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep. Verily, verily, I say unto thee, when thou wast young, thou girdest thyself, and walkedst whither thou wouldest: but when thou shalt be old, thou shalt stretch forth thy hands, and another shall gird thee, and carry thee whither thou wouldest not. This spake he, signifying by what death he should glorify God. And when he had spoken this, he saith unto him, follow me. Then Peter, turning about, seeth the disciple whom Jesus loved following; which also leaned on his breast

at supper, and said, Lord, which is he that betrayeth thee? Peter seeing him saith to Jesus, Lord, and what shall this man do? Jesus saith unto him, if I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee? follow thou me. Then went this saying abroad among the brethren, that that disciple should not die: yet Jesus said not unto him, He shall not die; but, If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee? This is the disciple which testifieth of these things, and wrote these things: and we know that his testimony is true. And there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written. Amen.

After Psalm 50, this Sticheron, in Tone VI:

Let us clap our hands in hymnody, O ye faithful, in memory of the honored Apostle and Evangelist Matthew; for, casting away the yoke and gold of his publican's booth, he followed after Christ and becometh a preacher of the divine Gospel. Hence, as the prophet saith, his sound hath gone forth into all the world, and he prayeth that our souls be saved.

Canon of Supplication to the Theotokos [the Paraklisis], with 6 Troparia; and that of the apostle, with 8 Troparia, the composition of Theophanes, in Tone IV

ODE I

Irmos: I shall open my mouth, * and the Spirit will inspire it, * and I shall utter the words of my song to the Queen and Mother: * I shall be seen radiantly keeping feast * and joyfully praising her wonders.

O all-glorious Matthew, servant of Christ, richly bestow upon me the grace which abideth within thee, that I may cry aloud, splendidly proclaiming, and, rejoicing hymn thy wonders.

Thou didst utterly abandon the tumult of earthly things; for, having hearkened to the voice of the incarnate Word, thou wast revealed to be a steward and God-pleasing herald of His grace.

As an eye-witness and servant of the radiant Word of the pre-eternal Father, O apostle, thou didst go forth, proclaiming the glad tidings of His coming unto all the nations.

Theotokion: Thou didst announce the glad tidings of the destruction of death, the abolishment of corruption and the manifestation of life, O wise one; for, having conceived the Unapproachable One in her womb, the Virgin hath restored the world.

Katavasia: I shall open my mouth ...

ODE III

Irmos: O Theotokos, thou living and plentiful fount, * grant strength to those united in spiritual fellowship, * who sing hymns of praise to thee: * and in thy divine glory * grant unto them crowns of glory.

O Word of God, thou hast shown forth Thine apostles as beacons of life which drive away the gloom of ungodliness, illumining the whole world with Thy divine glory, O Master.

Having armed the most valiant Matthew with Thine armor, O Savior, thou hast made him mightier than the tormenters and revealed him to be the destroyer of the deception of idolatry, O Master and Lover of mankind.

The sound of thy fiery tongue consumed the temples of the demons, O divinely inspired Matthew, thou instrument of the Comforter, through whom Christ, the hypostatic Life of all, hath been proclaimed.

Theotokion: **T**he trumpet of theology which soundeth forth mightily hath illumined the divinely wise Matthew to proclaim to the peoples, the Effulgence of the Trinity and the incarnation of the Word from thee, O most pure one, in a manner transcending understanding.

Sedalion, in Tone VIII: Spec. Mel.: "Of the Wisdom ...":

Truly the sound of thy wise words hath gone forth to all the ends of the earth, O all-praised apostle of the Lord, for thou, manifestly preaching to all the vision of God, didst draw the nations from ignorance unto understanding. Wherefore, having dispelled the darkness of idolatry, thou hast shone forth the light of knowledge upon those who sit in darkness, O all-praised Matthew. Entreat Christ God, that He grant remission of sins unto those who honor thy holy memory with love.

Glory ..., in Tone VIII & same melody:

O apostle of the Lord, we all praise thee as the lamp and disciple of the Light, an eyewitness of the divine Word; for, spreading thy nets of grace, by thy command thou didst ensnare reason-endowed souls like fish. Wherefore having entrapped the nations through the power of the Spirit, they are now manifestly guided by faith, O all-praised initiate of the mysteries of heaven. Entreat Christ God, that He grant remission of sins unto those who honor thy holy memory with love.

Now & ever ..., Theotokion in Tone VIII:

In that thou art the most immaculate Bride of the Creator, the Mother of the Redeemer who knewest not wedlock, the receptacle of the Comforter, O all-hymned one, haste thou to deliver me, who am the vile abode of iniquity and in mind am the plaything of the demons, from their wickedness, and make of me a radiant dwelling-place of the virtues, O luminous and incorrupt one. Drive from me the cloud of the passions and grant that I may partake of the never-waning light of the Most High, through thy supplications.

ODE IV

Irmos: **P**erceiving the profound counsel of God, * that from the Virgin, * Thee the Most High will assume flesh, * the Prophet Habbakuk cried aloud: * Glory to Thy power, O Lord!

Taught by Thy hypostatic Word, O God, the God-seeing disciple destroyed worldly wisdom, crying aloud unto Thee: Glory to Thy power, O Lord!

What manner of praise can we offer unto thee who wast blessed by Christ, O divinely eloquent one? For no man is able to describe in words, the grace which hath blossomed forth in thee, O right wondrous one.

Looking upon thine undefiled and pure mind as a lamp placed on a lofty stand, shining upon those in darkness, O divinely manifest one, the Most High hath set thee before all.

Theotokion: **O** blessed and all-praised Maiden, thou hast elevated slain human nature, in that, in a manner surpassing nature, thou hast given birth to the might of the Most High, as Matthew hath taught.

ODE V

Irmos: **All creation stands in awe of thy divine glory; * for thou, O Virgin who hast not known wedlock, * didst contain within thy womb Him Who is the God of all; * and giving birth to the timeless Son, * thou grantest peace unto all who hymn thee.**

Receiving the grace of the all-holy Spirit, thou wast shown to be a divine habitation, having taught the light of divine knowledge in a godly manner, wherefore thou wast entrusted with the task of committing to writing the dogmas of Christ, as a chosen eye-witness of God.

Thy tongue was the pen of the Paraclete, Who grants speedy deliverance unto those who acknowledge His dominion and breathes heavenly understanding into the souls of the wise, O most honored Matthew.

Christ sent thee unto the world shining with miracles and the grace of healing, trampling upon the might of the demons and enlightening the souls of all the faithful who hymn thee, the preacher of the world.

Theotokion: **O** Virgin, thou hast given birth to the pre-eternal son Who clothed Himself in human nature and saved it from corruption in His absolute goodness, as the divinely eloquent one said in his teaching; thou didst remain a Virgin.

ODE VI

Irmos: **I have reached the depths of the sea * and the tempest of my many sins hath engulfed me; * but do Thou raise up my life from the abyss * O Greatly-merciful One.**

By Thine omnipotent might, O Maker of all, the divinely eloquent and most excellent Matthew was transformed from a publican into an evangelist, in that he followed Thee.

By the spiritually nourishing words of thy glad tidings, O all-blessed Matthew, a multitude of the gentiles have been lifted up and directed to the lofty summit of the virtues.

With the divinely woven nets of the disciple Matthew the assemblies of the faithful are ever drawn up, guided to the knowledge of Thee, O our Benefactor.

Theotokion: O all-immaculate one, the most excellent Matthew announceth glad tidings, describing thee as the Virgin who gaveth birth without seed and corruption unto Him Who fashioned all things.

Kontakion, in Tone IV: Spec. Mel.: "Having been lifted up ...":

Casting off the yoke of the office of a publican, * thou didst shoulder the yoke of righteousness * and wast shown to be a most excellent merchant, * bringing in the wisdom from on high as riches. * Wherefore, thou didst preach the Word of truth * uplifting the souls of the despondent, ** describing the hour of judgment.

Ikos: The tyranny of the enemy oppresseth me constantly and seizeth all the seed of my soul, O Matthew, friend of Christ; yet, providing me with the seed of thy prayers, render me fruitful to serve thee, and show me to be the least of those who hymn thee and a recounter of thy many and great corrections, for without hesitation, forsaking all things for the love of Christ, thou didst ardently follow after Him Who called thee, being the first evangelist in the world, describing the hour of judgment.

ODE VII

Irmos: The holy children bravely trampled upon the threatening fire, * refusing to worship created things in place of the Creator, * and they sang in joy: * 'Blessed art Thou and praised above all, * O Lord God of our Fathers.'

Thou wast a divine image of the primal effulgence, as a disciple set afire by His splendors; and, chanting to Him, thou didst say: Blessed art Thou and praised above all, O Lord God of our Fathers!

As servant of the Word, O all-blessed one, thou hast made thine abode in the divine mansions where Christ abideth, as the one supremely divine Lord and God of all the fathers promised thee.

Infirmities are banished and a multitude of demons are forced to flee by the gifts of the divine Spirit which are in thee, wherein thou didst chant: Blessed art Thou and praised above all, O Lord God of our Fathers!

Theotokion: With thy divine words, O apostle, thou didst describe the all-hymned Virgin who hath given birth to the Creator. To Him do we all chant: Blessed art Thou and praised above all, O Lord God of our Fathers!

ODE VIII

Irmos: The Offspring of the Theotokos * saved the holy children in the furnace. * He who was then prefigured hath since been born on earth, * and he gathers all creation to sing: * O all ye works of the Lord, praise ye the Lord and supremely exalt Him throughout all ages.

Deified by the mighty forces within Thee and by Thine ordination and nature, O Master, the most sacred Matthew prevailed upon the whole world to chant to Thee: Hymn the Lord, O ye works, and supremely exalt Him throughout all ages!

The Word sent the theologian forth like lightning to the whole world, driving away the darkness and enlightening the nations with the dogmas of theology. Wherefore, he chanted: Hymn the Lord, O ye works, and supremely exalt Him throughout all ages!

With pure discourse and mind God conversed with thee; for having rid thyself of mire, thou didst draw nigh and associate with Him, O glorious one. Wherefore, thou dost chant: Hymn the Lord, O ye works, and supremely exalt Him throughout all ages!

Theotokion: **T**he Word willed to become incarnate for the good of mankind; for the Lord passed through the portal of virginity and showed her forth as the Theotokos. Wherefore, we cry aloud: Hymn the Lord, O ye works, and supremely exalt Him throughout all ages!

ODE IX

Irmos: **L**et every mortal born on earth, * radiant with light, in spirit leap for joy; * and let the host of the angelic powers * celebrate and honor the holy feast of the Mother of God, * and let them cry: Rejoice! * Pure and blessed Ever-Virgin, * who hast given birth to God.

Thou didst receive the divine diadem of noetic beauty, O apostle, and wast adorned with the most magnificent crown of the kingdom by the right hand of the Almighty, O wise one. And thou dost shine, standing with the angels before the throne of Christ the Master, O all-blessed one.

Thou didst receive the tree of life as is meet, O preacher of the living God, having spread the glad tidings of life, the visitation of God to the world; for thou didst not permit thy mind to become corrupt through the tree of knowledge, remaining an unshaken and immovable foundation of the Church, O all-blessed one.

In a godly manner thou didst adorn the Church, the Bride of Christ, with thy Gospel as with a diadem, O divinely blessed one, and now it splendidly celebrateth thy divine memory, pray thou, O Apostle Matthew, that it be delivered from every evil circumstance and cruel misfortune.

Theotokion: **W**ithout leaving the bosom of the beginningless Father, the beginningless Word became incarnate from thee, O pure and all-praised one, wholly clothing Himself in human nature and accepting its traits, as Matthew writeth, proclaiming the glad tidings.

Exapostilarion: Spec. Mel.: "He hath visited us ...":

The God-pleasing Matthew, the glorious recorder of the Gospel of Christ, hath related divine wonders unto us. Honoring him with love, let us chant unto him with godly melodies.

Glory ..., another Exapostilarion:

Having wisely cast off the yoke of thy publican's office, thou didst follow Christ, O divinely wise Matthew; and following wondrously in His steps, thou didst obtain a share of His kingdom and glory through communion with Him, being an initiate of ineffable mysteries.

Now & ever ..., Theotokion:

O Virgin Theotokos, lift up thine all-holy hands, wherewith thou didst hold the Creator, in supplication to Him for us, that He deliver us from all the temptations of the evil one and grant that we may receive His good things in the world to come, O all-hymned one.

On the Praises; 4 Stichera, in Tone IV:

Spec. Mel.: "Thou hast given a sign ...":

Thou didst shine forth, O apostle, * as luminous as the sun, with the rays of the Spirit, * and hast illumined the whole world * with the knowledge of God, O blessed one. * And thou hast dispelled the gloom of polytheism, * O all-wise Matthew." * Wherefore, we celebrate today * thy most radiant and right wondrous solemnity ** as a well-spring of sanctification. Twice

Seated on the heights of divine knowledge, O apostle, * thou didst receive the effulgence of the Spirit, * which appeared to thee * in the guise of a tongue of fire; * and thou didst manifestly consume * all the tinder of the impiety of ungodliness. * Wherefore, we honor thee * as an apostle and herald of God, ** celebrating thy holy festival today.

Thou didst thunder forth * sacred and saving teachings * unto the whole world, O all-wise Matthew, * cleansing all creation of the madness of idolatry, * and illumining the people * with the splendors of the Gospel. * and, having destroyed the pagan temples * by means of grace, ** thou didst. raise up churches to the glory of God.

Glory ..., the composition of Byzantium, in Tone II:

Abandoning the yoke of injustice and casting away the gold of usury, thou didst make haste to the yoke of righteousness and dost grasp inexhaustible wealth like an able merchant, trading transitory things for what is everlasting and corruptible things for what abideth. For, having acquired the divinely lustrous pearl of great price, thou didst wisely leave to Caesar the things which keep men below; and having obediently followed after Christ, the King of all, thou didst enrich all creation with the divine words of the Gospel, O wise one. O all-excellent Matthew, ask thou now that salvation and great mercy be granted to those who honor thee.

Now & ever ..., Theotokion in Tone II:

Save from misfortunes, * thy servants O Virgin Theotokos, * for after God * it is to thee that we flee, ** as to an impregnable rampart and protection.

Great Doxology. Litanies. Dismissal.

AT LITURGY

On the Beatitudes, 8 Troparia: 4 from Ode III and 4 from Ode VI of the canon of the evangelist.

O Word of God, thou hast shown forth Thine apostles as beacons of life which drive away the gloom of ungodliness, illumining the whole world with Thy divine glory, O Master. (Twice)

Having armed the most valiant Matthew with Thine armor, O Savior, thou hast made him mightier than the tormenters and revealed him to be the destroyer of the deception of idolatry, O Master and Lover of mankind.

The sound of thy fiery tongue consumed the temples of the demons, O divinely inspired Matthew, thou instrument of the Comforter, through whom Christ, the hypostatic Life of all, hath been proclaimed.

By Thine omnipotent might, O Maker of all, the divinely eloquent and most excellent Matthew was transformed from a publican into an evangelist, in that he followed Thee.

By the spiritually nourishing words of thy glad tidings, O all-blessed Matthew, a multitude of the gentiles have been lifted up and directed to the lofty summit of the virtues.

With the divinely woven nets of the disciple Matthew the assemblies of the faithful are ever drawn up, guided to the knowledge of Thee, O our Benefactor.

Theotokion: O all-immaculate one, the most excellent Matthew announceth glad tidings, describing thee as the Virgin who gaveth birth without seed and corruption unto Him Who fashioned all things.

Troparion, in Tone III:

O holy Apostle and evangelist Matthew, * entreat the Merciful God * that He grant remission of sins ** unto our souls

Or this Troparion, in the same tone:

Zealously following Christ the Master, * Who in His goodness appeared to mankind on the earth, * and called thee from thy tax-booth, * thou wast shown to be a chosen apostle * and a trumpet-voiced proclaimer of the Gospel to the whole world. * Wherefore, we honor thy precious memory, O divinely eloquent Matthew. * Entreat the merciful God, ** that He granteth remission of sins unto our souls.

Kontakion, in Tone IV:

Casting off the yoke of the office of a publican, * thou didst shoulder the yoke of righteousness * and wast shown to be a most excellent merchant, * bringing in the wisdom from on high as riches. * Wherefore, thou didst preach the Word of truth * uplifting the souls of the despondent, ** describing the hour of judgment.

Prokeimenon, in Tone VIII: Their sound hath gone forth into all the earth, * and their words unto the ends of the world.

Verse: The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament proclaimeth the work of His hands.

EPISTLE TO THE CORINTHIANS, §111 [I COR. 4: 9-16]

Brethren: God hath set forth us the apostles last, as it were appointed to death: for we are made a spectacle unto the world, and to angels, and to men. We are fools for Christ's sake, but ye are wise in Christ; we are weak, but ye are strong; ye are honorable, but we are despised. Even unto this present hour we both hunger, and thirst, and are naked, and are buffeted, and have no certain dwelling place; and labor, working with our own hands: being reviled, we bless; being persecuted, we suffer it: being defamed, we entreat: we are made as the filth of the world, and are the off scouring of all things unto this day. I-write not these things to shame you, but as my beloved sons I warn you. For though ye have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet have ye not many fathers: for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel. Wherefore I beseech you, be ye followers of me as I am of Christ.

Alleluia, in Tone I: The heavens shall confess Thy wonders, O Lord, and Thy truth in the congregation of saints.

Verse: God is glorified in the council of the saints.

GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATHEW, §30 [9: 9-13]

At that time, Jesus passed forth and saw a man, named Matthew, sitting at the receipt of custom: and he saith unto him, Follow me. And he arose, and followed him. And it came to pass, as Jesus sat at meat in the house, behold, many publicans and sinners came and sat down with him and his disciples. And when the Pharisees saw it, they said unto his disciples, Why eateth your Master with publicans and sinners? But when Jesus heard that, he said unto them, They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick. But go ye and learn what that meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.

Communion Verse: Their sound hath gone forth into all the earth, and their words unto the ends of the world.