

The Alleluia and Verse

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations.

And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

The Holy Gospel

Matthew 9:9-13

⁹As Jesus passed on from there, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, "Follow me." And he rose and followed him.

¹⁰And as Jesus reclined at table in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and were reclining with Jesus and his disciples. ¹¹And when the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" ¹²But when he heard it, he said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. ¹³Go and learn what this means, 'I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.' For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners."

The Apostles' Creed (p. 192)

The Hymn of the Day: 611 "Chief of Sinners Though I Be"

The Homily

Offerings are not gathered during Service today. While Pastor Messer prepares the Table for the Holy Supper, you may spend time prayerfully preparing to receive the Blessed Sacrament (you may wish to read through Luther's "Christian Questions . . ." on pp. 329-330). If you wish to leave an offering, you may do so by placing it in the plate by the door as you depart after Service.

The Prayer of the Church

☐ Lord, in Your mercy, ☑ **hear our prayer.**

The Service of the Sacrament

(Communicants are to be in full confessional fellowship with the LCMS)

The Preface - Agnus Dei (pp. 194-198)

The Distribution

The Nunc Dimittis - Benediction (pp. 199-202)

Soli Deo Gloria!

The Feast of St. Matthew, Apostle & Evangelist



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The Service of Preparation

(Upon entering the nave, *silence* should be observed to allow all the opportunity to prayerfully prepare for the presence of the Lord and the reception of His gifts)

The Confession and Absolution (pp. 184-185)

The Service of the Word

The Introit

Ps. 92:1-5; antiphon: Matt. 9:13b, c

I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.

For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.

It is good to give thanks to the LORD,

to sing praises to your name, O Most High;

to declare your steadfast love in the morning,

and your faithfulness by night,

to the music of the lute and the harp,

to the melody of the lyre.

For you, O LORD, have made me glad by your work;

at the works of your hands I sing for joy.

How great are your works, O LORD!

Your thoughts are very deep!

Glory be to the Father and to the Son

and to the Holy Spirit;

as it was in the beginning,

is now, and will be forever. Amen.

I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.

For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.

The Kyrie (p. 186)

The Gloria in Excelsis (pp. 187-189)

The Salutation and Collect of the Day (p. 189)

O Son of God, our blessed Savior Jesus Christ, You called Matthew the tax collector to be an apostle and evangelist. Through his faithful and inspired witness, grant that we also may follow You, leaving behind all covetous desires and love of riches; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

The Old Testament Reading

Ezekiel 2:8-3:11

⁸“But you, son of man, hear what I say to you. Be not rebellious like that rebellious house; open your mouth and eat what I give you.” ⁹And when I looked, behold, a hand was stretched out to me, and behold, a scroll of a book was in it.

¹⁰And he spread it before me. And it had writing on the front and on the back, and there were written on it words of lamentation and mourning and woe.

^{3:1}And he said to me, “Son of man, eat whatever you find here. Eat this scroll, and go, speak to the house of Israel.” ²So I opened my mouth, and he gave me this scroll to eat. ³And he said to me, “Son of man, feed your belly with this scroll that I give you and fill your stomach with it.” Then I ate it, and it was in my mouth as sweet as honey.

⁴And he said to me, “Son of man, go to the house of Israel and speak with my words to them. ⁵For you are not sent to a people of foreign speech and a hard language, but to the house of Israel— ⁶not to many peoples of foreign speech and a hard language, whose words you cannot understand. Surely, if I sent you to such, they would listen to you. ⁷But the house of Israel will not be willing to listen to you, for they are not willing to listen to me. Because all the house of Israel have a hard forehead and a stubborn heart. ⁸Behold, I have made your face as hard as their faces, and your forehead as hard as their foreheads. ⁹Like emery harder than flint have I made your forehead. Fear them not, nor be dismayed at their looks, for they are a rebellious house.” ¹⁰Moreover, he said to me, “Son of man, all my words that I shall speak to you receive in your heart, and hear with your ears. ¹¹And go to the exiles, to your people, and speak to them and say to them, ‘Thus says the LORD God,’ whether they hear or refuse to hear.”

The Gradual

Ps. 119:105, 103; 45:1a, c

Your word is a lamp to my feet

and a light to my path.

**How sweet are your words to my taste,
sweeter than honey to my mouth!**

My heart overflows with a pleasing theme;

my tongue is like the pen of a ready scribe.

The Epistle

Ephesians 4:7-16

⁷But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ’s gift. ⁸Therefore it says, “When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men.”

⁹(In saying, “He ascended,” what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? ¹⁰He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.) ¹¹And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, ¹²to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, ¹⁴so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. ¹⁵Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.