

# Vespers for Saint Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist

Commemoration of Proper 20 The Sunday closest to September 21

## Opening Sentence

Let my prayer be set forth in your sight as incense, the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice. *Psalm 141:2*

The Invitatory and Psalter

V: O God, make speed to save us.

R: O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \*  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Alleluia

## O Gracious Light *Phos hilaron*

O gracious Light,  
pure brightness of the everliving Father in heaven,  
O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed!

Now as we come to the setting of the sun,  
and our eyes behold the vesper light,  
we sing your praises, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

You are worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices,  
O Son of God, O Giver of life,  
and to be glorified through all the worlds.

## The Psalm or Psalms Appointed

### Psalm 2 *Quare fremuerunt gentes?*

*I myself have set my king upon my holy hill of Zion.*

<sup>1</sup> Why are the nations in an uproar? \*

Why do the peoples mutter empty threats?

<sup>2</sup> Why do the kings of the earth rise up in revolt, and the princes plot together, \*  
against the LORD and against his Anointed?

<sup>3</sup> Let us break their yoke, they say; \*

let us cast off their bonds from us.

<sup>4</sup> He whose throne is in heaven is laughing; \*  
the Lord has them in derision.  
<sup>5</sup> Then he speaks to them in his wrath, \*  
and his rage fills them with terror.  
<sup>6</sup> I myself have set my king \*  
.upon my holy hill of Zion  
<sup>7</sup> Let me announce the decree of the LORD: \*  
he said to me, "You are my Son; this day have I begotten you.  
<sup>8</sup> Ask of me, and I will give you the nations for your inheritance \*  
and the ends of the earth for your possession.  
<sup>9</sup> You shall crush them with an iron rod \*  
and shatter them like a piece of pottery."  
<sup>10</sup> And now, you kings, be wise; \*  
be warned, you rulers of the earth.  
<sup>11</sup> Submit to the LORD with fear, \*  
and with trembling bow before him;  
<sup>12</sup> Lest he be angry and you perish; \*  
for his wrath is quickly kindled.  
<sup>13</sup> Blessed are they all \*  
who take refuge in him!

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \*  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

*I myself have set my king upon my holy hill of Zion.*

## **Psalm 49 *Audite haec, omnes***

*Lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, says the Lord.*

<sup>1</sup> Hear this, all you peoples; hearken, all you who dwell in the world, \*  
you of high degree and low, rich and poor together.  
<sup>2</sup> My mouth shall speak of wisdom, \*  
and my heart shall meditate on understanding.  
<sup>3</sup> I will incline my ear to a proverb \*  
and set forth my riddle upon the harp.  
<sup>4</sup> Why should I be afraid in evil days, \*  
when the wickedness of those at my heels surrounds me,  
<sup>5</sup> The wickedness of those who put their trust in their goods, \*  
and boast of their great riches?  
<sup>6</sup> We can never ransom ourselves, \*  
or deliver to God the price of our life;  
<sup>7</sup> For the ransom of our life is so great, \*  
that we should never have enough to pay it,  
<sup>8</sup> In order to live for ever and ever, \*  
and never see the grave.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \*  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

*Lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, says the Lord.*

## Psalm 49 (cont.)

*Such is the way of those who foolishly trust in themselves, and the end of those who delight in their own words.*

<sup>9</sup> For we see that the wise die also; like the dull and stupid they perish \*  
and leave their wealth to those who come after them.

<sup>10</sup> Their graves shall be their homes for ever, their dwelling places from generation to generation, \*  
though they call the lands after their own names.

<sup>11</sup> Even though honored, they cannot live for ever; \*  
they are like the beasts that perish.

<sup>12</sup> Such is the way of those who foolishly trust in themselves, \*  
and the end of those who delight in their own words.

<sup>13</sup> Like a flock of sheep they are destined to die; Death is their shepherd; \*  
they go down straightway to the grave.

<sup>14</sup> Their form shall waste away, \*  
and the land of the dead shall be their home.

<sup>15</sup> But God will ransom my life; \*  
he will snatch me from the grasp of death.

<sup>16</sup> Do not be envious when some become rich, \*  
or when the grandeur of their house increases;

<sup>17</sup> For they will carry nothing away at their death, \*  
nor will their grandeur follow them.

<sup>18</sup> Though they thought highly of themselves while they lived, \*  
and were praised for their success,

<sup>19</sup> They shall join the company of their forebears, \*  
who will never see the light again.

<sup>20</sup> Those who are honored, but have no understanding, \*  
are like the beasts that perish.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \*  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

*Such is the way of those who foolishly trust in themselves, and the end of those who delight in their own words.*

## The Lessons

A reading from Matthew 13:44-52 (NRSV)

"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it. "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. "Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes." And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

Here ends the Reading.

*God has come to the help of his servant Israel, ever mindful of his merciful promise.*

## **The Song of Mary *Magnificat*** ***Luke 1:46-55***

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; \*  
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.  
From this day all generations will call me blessed: \*  
the Almighty has done great things for me,  
and holy is his Name.  
He has mercy on those who fear him \*  
in every generation.  
He has shown the strength of his arm, \*  
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.  
He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, \*  
and has lifted up the lowly.  
He has filled the hungry with good things, \*  
and the rich he has sent away empty.  
He has come to the help of his servant Israel, \*  
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,  
The promise he made to our fathers, \*  
to Abraham and his children for ever.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \*  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

*God has come to the help of his servant Israel, ever mindful of his merciful promise.*

## **The Prayers**

V: The Lord be with you.

R: *And also with you.*

Let us pray.

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.

## **Suffrages A**

V. Show us your mercy, O Lord;

R. And grant us your salvation.

V. Clothe your ministers with righteousness;

R. Let your people sing with joy.

V. Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;

R. For only in you can we live in safety.

V. Lord, keep this nation under your care;  
R. And guide us in the way of justice and truth.  
V. Let your way be known upon earth;  
R. Your saving health among all nations.  
V. Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;  
R. Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.  
V. Create in us clean hearts, O God;  
R. And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.

## *Collect of the Day*

We thank you, heavenly Father, for the witness of your apostle and evangelist Matthew to the Gospel of your Son our Savior; and we pray that, after his example, we may with ready wills and hearts obey the calling of our Lord to follow him; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

## *Commemoration of Proper 20 The Sunday closest to September 21*

In the kingdom of heaven the last will be first, and the first will be last.

V. Let my prayer, O Lord, be set forth.  
R. In your sight as incense.

Grant us, Lord, not to be anxious about earthly things, but to love things heavenly; and even now, while we are placed among things that are passing away, to hold fast to those that shall endure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

## *A Collect for Peace*

Most holy God, the source of all good desires, all right judgements, and all just works: Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, so that our minds may be fixed on the doing of your will, and that we, being delivered from the fear of all enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through the mercies of Christ Jesus our Savior. Amen.

## *Prayer for Mission*

O God and Father of all, whom the whole heavens adore: Let the whole earth also worship you, all nations obey you, all tongues confess and bless you, and men and women everywhere love you and serve you in peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

[\[Include authorized intercessions or thanksgivings--opens new window\]](#)

## *A Prayer of St. Chrysostom*

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. *Amen.*

Let us bless the Lord.

*Thanks be to God.*

Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. *Amen. Ephesians 3:20*

## *The Angelus*

V: The Angel of the Lord announced to Mary

R: *And she conceived by the Holy Spirit.*

V: Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus

R: *Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.*

V: Behold the handmaid of the Lord

R: *Be it unto me according to your word*

V: Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus

R: *Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners,  
now and at the hour of our death. Amen.*

V: And the Word was made flesh.

R: *And dwelled among us.*

V: Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus

R: *Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.*

V: Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.

R: *That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.*

Let us pray:

Pour your grace into our hearts, O Lord, that we who have known the incarnation of your Son Jesus Christ, announced by an angel to the Virgin Mary, may by his cross and passion be brought to the glory of his resurrection; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*