

# Readings + St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist + Sun., 21 Sept. 2025

## Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, your Son our Savior called a despised tax collector to become one of his apostles. Help us, like Matthew, to respond to the transforming call of Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

## First Reading Ezekiel 2:8 – 3:11

¶The LORD said to me,<sup>7</sup> <sup>8</sup>“You, mortal, hear what I say to you; do not be rebellious like that rebellious house; open your mouth and eat what I give you.” <sup>9</sup>I looked, and a hand was stretched out to me, and a written scroll was in it. <sup>10</sup>The LORD spread it before me; it had writing on the front and on the back, and written on it were words of lamentation and mourning and woe.

<sup>3:1</sup>The LORD said to me, “O mortal, eat what is offered to you; eat this scroll, and go, speak to the house of Israel.” <sup>2</sup>So I opened my mouth, and the LORD gave me the scroll to eat. <sup>3</sup>The LORD said to me, “Mortal, eat this scroll that I give you and fill your stomach with it.” Then I ate it, and in my mouth it was as sweet as honey.

<sup>4</sup>The LORD said to me, “Mortal, go to the house of Israel and speak my very words to them. <sup>5</sup>For you are not sent to a people of obscure speech and difficult language but to the house of Israel, <sup>6</sup>not to many peoples of obscure speech and difficult language whose words you cannot understand. Surely, if I sent you to them, they would listen to you. <sup>7</sup>But 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. <sup>8</sup>See, I have made your face hard against their faces and your forehead hard against their foreheads. <sup>9</sup>Like the hardest stone, harder than flint, I have made your forehead; do not fear them or be dismayed at their looks, for they are a rebellious house.”

<sup>10</sup>The LORD said to me, “Mortal, all my words that I shall speak to you receive in your heart and hear with your ears; <sup>11</sup>then go to the

exiles, to your people, and speak to them. Say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD,’ whether they hear or refuse to hear.”

## Psalmody Psalm 119:33-40

Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statutes, and I shall keep it to the end.

**Give me understanding, and I shall keep your teaching; I shall keep it with all my heart.**

Lead me in the path of your commandments, for that is my desire.

**Incline my heart to your decrees and not to unjust gain.**

Turn my eyes from beholding falsehood; give me life in your way.

**Fulfill your promise to your servant, which is for those who fear you.**

Turn away the reproach that I dread, because your judgments are good.

**Behold, I long for your commandments; by your righteousness enliven me.**

## Second Reading Ephesians 2:4-10

<sup>4</sup>God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which God loved us <sup>5</sup>even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ— by grace you have been saved. With Christ <sup>6</sup>God raised us up and seated us in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup>so that in the ages to come the immeasurable riches of God’s grace in kindness might be shown toward us in Christ Jesus.

<sup>8</sup>For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not you own doing; it is the gift of God—<sup>9</sup>not the result of works, so that no one may boast. <sup>10</sup>For we are what God has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we may walk in them.

## Holy Gospel Matthew 9:9-13

<sup>9</sup>As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax collection station,

and Jesus said to him, “Follow me.” And Matthew got up and followed him.

<sup>10</sup> And as Jesus sat at dinner in the house, many tax collectors and sinners came and were sitting with Jesus and his disciples. <sup>11</sup> When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors

and sinners?” <sup>12</sup> But when Jesus heard this, he said, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. <sup>13</sup> Go and learn what this means, ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice.’ For I have not come to call the righteous but sinners.”