

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2025

TONE 6

23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost (8<sup>th</sup> of Luke)/Holy Apostle and Evangelist Matthew

"Lord I Call..." Tone 6

Lord, I call upon You, hear me!  
Hear me, O Lord!  
Lord, I call upon You, hear me!  
Receive the voice of my prayer,  
when I call upon You!//  
Hear me, O Lord!

Let my prayer arise  
in Your sight as incense,  
and let the lifting up of my hands  
be an evening sacrifice!//  
Hear me, O Lord!

Reader reads the rest of Psalm 140 & Psalm 141 on pgs 31 & 32 in the pew book, then STICHERA

*v. (10) Bring my soul out of prison, that I may give thanks to Your Name! Tone 6*

Possessing victory over hell, O Christ,  
since You are free among the dead,  
You ascended the Cross  
raising with Yourself those who sat in the shades of death.//  
Drawing life from Your light, O almighty Savior, have mercy on us!

*v. (9) The righteous will surround me, for You will deal bountifully with me.*

Today Christ tramples on death,  
for He is risen as He said!  
Let us all sing this song,  
for He has granted joy to the world:  
O Light unapproachable, O Fountain of life!//  
O Savior almighty, have mercy on us!

*v. (8) Out of the depths I cry to You, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice!*

Where shall we sinners flee from You, Who are in all creation?  
In heaven You dwell!  
In hell You trampled on death!  
In the depths of the sea?  
Even there is Your hand, O Master!  
To You we flee, and falling before You, we pray://  
O You Who rose from the dead, have mercy on us!

*v. (7) Let Your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!*

In Your Cross, we glory, O Christ.  
We sing and glorify Your Resurrection,  
for You are our God,//  
and we know no other than You.

*v. (6) If You, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with You. **Tone 4** (for St. Matthew) (Called from on high)*

The Searcher of the hearts of men  
inspired your mind, O Apostle, with His divine knowledge.  
He called you to Himself, ransoming you from the world's deceit,  
for He is the Light whose rays shine to the ends of the earth.  
He commanded you to proclaim His word.  
He made you worthy to write His holy Gospel;//  
pray that He may save and enlighten our souls!

*v. (5) For Your Name's sake I wait for You, O Lord. My soul has waited for Your word; my soul has hoped on the Lord.*

The Searcher of the hearts of men  
inspired your mind, O Apostle, with His divine knowledge.  
He called you to Himself, ransoming you from the world's deceit,  
for He is the Light whose rays shine to the ends of the earth.  
He commanded you to proclaim His word.  
He made you worthy to write His holy Gospel;//  
pray that He may save and enlighten our souls!

*v. (4) From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch, let Israel hope on the Lord!*

Once a publican, now a disciple,  
you accepted the urgent call of the Eternal Word,  
and abandoned the collection of the taxes,  
eager for the promise of communion in His Kingdom;  
you cast away the raging tumult of this life,  
and now you behold His glory face to face;//  
pray that He may save and enlighten our souls!

*v. (3) For with the Lord there is mercy and with Him is plenteous redemption, and He will deliver Israel from all his iniquities.*

In days of old, as the earth lay waste in evil,  
the prophet Daniel was endowed with clearness of sight.  
He beheld a stone, cut without human hands from a mountain:  
a stone that ground the riches of earthly kingdoms to dust.  
In the fullness of time this all-wise Lord came down to earth.  
Passing by the customs-house, He chose you to be His herald;  
He called you, who once served an earthly kingdom,  
to serve Him, the Light of the world.  
Pray to Him, O blessed Matthew,//  
that He may save and enlighten our souls!

**V. (2)** *Praise the Lord, all nations! Praise Him, all peoples!*

When the sinless Light came in the flesh, as He Himself willed,  
scattering the darkness of ignorance,  
then you, O servant of the most divine will,  
followed in response to His life-giving command.  
As a most divine keeper of His will in a manner beyond understanding,  
you, O Matthew, became a beacon of the Church  
and a dwelling-place of Christ.//  
Entreat Him to save and enlighten our souls!

**V. (1)** *For His mercy is confirmed on us, and the truth of the Lord endures forever.*

Burning up deception with a fiery tongue,  
you, O most wise Matthew, were highly exalted.  
After receiving the Comforter, Whose coming enlightened you,  
you spoke to the people of the majesty of the Almighty One,  
bringing amazement to the minds of those who heard your words.  
Now your proclamation has gone out into all the earth, O divinely inspired Apostle.//  
Pray to God that He will be gracious to all who sing your praises!

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; **Tone 4** Idiomelon (for St. Matthew)*

You were called by Christ to heavenly discipleship,  
and you followed Him eagerly, O chosen of God.  
forsaking overnight all enslavement to the cares of this life.  
Obediently you accepted wisdom worthy of the Kingdom on high,  
and abandoned the passing glory of your former life in the world,  
becoming an evangelist instead of a publican:  
a light for those living in darkness  
and a guide to salvation for those gone astray.  
Now, O Matthew, you are a fervent intercessor for the world//  
and guardian of those who honor you.

*now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. **Tone 6** (Theotokion – Dogmatikon)*

Who will not bless you, O most holy Virgin?  
Who will not sing of your most pure childbearing?  
The only-begotten Son shone timelessly from the Father,  
but from you He was ineffably incarnate.  
God by nature, yet Man for our sake,  
not two persons, but one known in two natures.  
Entreat Him, O pure and all-blessed Lady,//  
to have mercy on our souls!

## **SCRIPTURE READINGS**

### **The reading from the first universal epistle of the apostle Peter (1 Peter 1:3-9)**

Brethren, Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith — being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire--may be found to result in praise and glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed. Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

### **The reading from the first universal epistle of the apostle Peter (1 Peter 1:13-15)**

Beloved, prepare your minds for action; discipline yourselves; set all your hope on the grace that Jesus Christ will bring you when he is revealed. Like obedient children, do not be conformed to the desires that you formerly had in ignorance. Instead, as he who called you is holy, be holy yourselves in all your conduct; for it is written, 'You shall be holy, for I am holy.' If you invoke as Father the one who judges all people impartially according to their deeds, live in reverent fear during the time of your exile. You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish.

### **The reading from the first universal epistle of the apostle Peter (1 Peter 2:11-24)**

Beloved, I urge you as aliens and exiles to abstain from the desires of the flesh that wage war against the soul. Conduct yourselves honourably among the Gentiles, so that, though they malign you as evildoers, they may see your honourable deeds and glorify God when he comes to judge. For the Lord's sake accept the authority of every human institution, whether of the emperor as supreme, or of governors, as sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to praise those who do right. For it is God's will that by doing right you should silence the ignorance of the foolish. As servants of God, live as free people, yet do not use your freedom as a pretext for evil. Honour everyone. Love the family of believers. Fear God. Honour the emperor. Slaves, accept the authority of your masters with all deference, not only those who are kind and gentle but also those who are harsh. For it is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps. 'He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.' When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness.

## **AUGMENTED LITANY and the rest**

## LITY

**Tone 4** With the rod of grace, O admirable Matthew,  
you drew the human race from the depths of vanity,  
and yielded them to the practice of the Master's commands.  
Since you were His apostle, He enlightened your understanding;//  
since you were His preacher, He revealed to you His incomprehensible Divinity, O most blessed  
one.

In the form of fire,  
the radiance of the Spirit descended on you.  
He made you His chosen vessel.  
Zealously you drove away the mist of godlessness  
and enlightened the world with the mystery of faith by the wisdom of your words,//  
O most honorable Apostle Matthew, eyewitness of Christ.

With the lightning bolts of your preaching,  
you enlightened those who sat in the darkness of ignorance, O glorious Matthew.  
Through faith, you revealed them to be the children of God the Master.  
You loved Him through suffering and death  
and became an heir to His glory,//  
O wise, faithful, and inspired disciple.

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.* **Tone 2** *(for St. Matthew)*  
You forsook earthly things and followed after Christ.  
You were signed with the inspiration of the Holy Spirit  
and sent by Him to the nations, which were perishing,  
to turn men to the light of the knowledge of God.  
Having completed the struggles, O Apostle Matthew,  
of your divine suffering and many torments,  
you surrendered your soul into the hands of Christ.  
Entreat Him, O most blessed one,//  
that He may grant us great mercy!

*now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.* **Tone 2 Theotokion**  
I place all my hope in you, O Theotokos;//  
keep me beneath your protecting veil!

**Deacon:** God, save your people and bless your inheritance, watch over your world in mercy and compassions, lift up the horn of right-glorifying Christians and send down upon us your rich mercies, through the intercessions of our all-pure lady the Birthgiver of God and ever-virgin Mary by the power of the precious and life-creating Cross, by the protections of the honorable bodiless powers of heaven, through the supplications of the honorable, glorious prophet, forerunner and baptist John, of the holy, glorious, and all-laudable apostles, of our fathers among the saints, great hierarchs and teachers of the world Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian and John the Golden-mouth; Athanasius, Cyril, and John the Merciful, patriarchs of Alexandria, Nicholas of Myra and Spyridon the bishop of Trimythous, the wonderworkers; of the holy glorious and right-victorious martyrs, of the holy glorious great martyrs George the trophy-bearer, Demetrios the myrrh-streamer, Theodore the Recruit and Theodore the Commander, of our venerable and God-bearing Fathers, of the holy and righteous ancestors of God Joachim and Anna, of the holy glorious and all laudable apostle and evangelist Matthew whose remembrance we also fulfill, and of all your saints, we implore you, only Lord full of mercy, hear us the sinners who pray to you and have mercy on us.

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy. (x3)

**Deacon:** Again we pray for our rulers, that the Lord our God works together with them and makes them prosper in all.

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy. (x3)

**Deacon:** Again we pray for our Archbishop and father (name).

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy. (x3)

**Deacon:** Again we pray for every Christian soul distressed and weary, in need of God's mercy and help, for the protection of this holy house and those who dwell in it, for the peace and stillness of the whole world, for the stability of the holy Churches of God, for the salvation and help of our fathers and brothers who with diligence and fear of God labor and serve, for those who are absent and those who are abroad, for the healing of those who lie in infirmity, for the repose, blessed memory and remission of sins of all our right-glorifying fathers and brethren gone before us, who piously lie asleep here and everywhere, for deliverance of the imprisoned, and for our brethren who are in ministries, and for all who serve and have served in this holy house, let us say:

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy. (x3)

**Deacon:** Again we pray that this holy house, and every monastery, city, and countryside be kept from pestilence, famine, earthquake, flood, fire, sword, invasion of enemies, civil war, and sudden death; that our good God who loves mankind be gracious, favorable, and conciliatory, and turn away and dispel all the wrath and illness stirred up against us, and deliver us from his looming righteous threat, and have mercy on us.

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy. (x3)

**Deacon:** Again we pray that the Lord God will hear the voice of our supplication, of the sinners, and have mercy on us. **Choir:** Lord, have mercy. (x3)

**Priest:** Hear us, God, our Savior, the hope of all the ends of the earth and of those who are far off upon the sea; and be gracious, Master, be gracious to us, upon our sins, and have mercy on us. For you are a merciful God and love mankind, and to you we send up glory, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages. **Choir:** Amen.

**Priest:** Peace to all.

**Choir:** And to your spirit.

**Deacon:** Let us bow our heads to the Lord.

**Choir:** To You, O Lord.

*All bow their heads as the priest says the following prayer aloud:*

Master full of mercy, Lord Jesus Christ our God, through the intercessions of our all-pure Lady the Birthgiver of God and ever-virgin Mary, by the power of the precious and life-creating Cross whose universal lifting up we fulfill, by the protections of the honorable bodiless powers of heaven, through the supplications of the honorable, glorious prophet, forerunner and baptist John, of the holy, glorious, and all-laudable apostles, of our fathers among the saints, great hierarchs and teachers of the world Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian and John the Golden-mouth; Athanasius, Cyril, and John the Merciful, patriarchs of Alexandria, Nicholas of Myra and Spyridon the bishop of Trimythous, the wonderworkers; of the holy glorious and right-victorious martyrs, of the holy glorious great martyrs George the trophy-bearer, Demetrios the myrrh-streamer, Theodore the Recruit and Theodore the Commander, of our venerable and God-bearing Fathers, of the holy and righteous ancestors of God Joachim and Anna, of the holy glorious and all laudable apostle and evangelist Matthew whose remembrance we also fulfill, and of all your saints, make our supplication acceptable, grant us remission of our trespasses, shelter us in the shelter of your wings, drive away from us every enemy and adversary, make our life peaceful, Lord, have mercy on us and on your world and save our souls, for you are good and love mankind.

**Choir:** Amen.

**Priest:** Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, Mary full of grace, the Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb, for you have borne the Savior of our souls. (x1)

**Choir:** Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, Mary full of grace, the Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb, for you have borne the Savior of our souls. (*twice*)

*The priest takes one of the loaves from the five loaves and with it makes the sign of the cross over the loaves.*

**Deacon:** Let us pray to the Lord.

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy.

**Priest:** Lord Jesus Christ our God, who blessed the five loaves in the wilderness and with them fed the five thousand, yourself also bless these loaves, the wheat, the wine and the oil, and multiply them in this city and in the whole world; and sanctify your faithful servants who will partake of them. For it is you who bless and sanctify all things, Christ our God, and to you we send up glory, together with your unoriginate Father and your all-holy, and good, and life-creating Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages.

**Choir:** Amen.

*The priest takes one of the loaves and sings in Tone 7:*

**Priest:** Rich men have turned poor \* and gone hungry; \* but they that seek the Lord \* shall not

be deprived of any good thing. (*once*)

*Choir:* Rich men have turned poor \* and gone hungry; \* but they that seek the Lord \* shall not be deprived of any good thing. (*twice*)

### APOSTICHA

**Tone 6** Your Resurrection, O Christ our Savior,  
the Angels in heaven sing!  
Enable us on earth//  
to glorify You in purity of heart!

*V. The Lord is King; He is robed in majesty!*

Destroying the gates of hell,  
breaking the chains of death,  
You resurrected the fallen human race as almighty God!//  
O Lord, Who rose from the dead, glory to You!

*V. For He has established the world, so that it shall never be moved.*

Desiring to return us to Paradise,  
Christ was nailed to the Cross and placed in a tomb.  
The Myrrhbearing Women sought Him with tears, crying,  
“Woe to us, O Savior!  
How do You deign to descend to death?  
What place can hold Your life bearing body?  
Come to us as You promised!  
Take away our wailing and tears!”  
Then the Angel appeared to them:  
“Stop your lamentations!  
Go, proclaim to the Apostles:  
‘The Lord is risen,//  
granting us purification and great mercy!’”

*V. Holiness befits Your house, O Lord, forevermore!*

Having been crucified as You willed,  
by Your burial You captured death, O Christ,  
rising on the third day as God in glory,//  
granting the world unending life and great mercy!

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; **Tone 6** (for St. Matthew)*

The full stature of goodness is made manifest in you, O blessed Matthew:  
in the fullness of time you abandoned the occupation of an evil age,  
soaring as an eagle to the heights of righteousness;  
you have filled the earth with the wisdom hidden from all eternity,  
following fervently in the footsteps of Christ;  
you have borne the Gospel of peace, life, and salvation to men,

filling with divine commandments those who hunger after righteousness.  
O blessed guide, well-pleasing to the Creator,//  
pray for us who bless your memory!

*now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. **Tone 6** (Theotokion)*  
My Maker and Redeemer, Christ the Lord,  
was born of you, O most pure Virgin.  
By accepting my nature, He freed Adam from his ancient curse.  
Unceasingly we magnify you as the Mother of God!  
"Rejoice, O celestial Joy!  
Rejoice, O Lady://  
the Protection, Intercession and Salvation of our souls!"

### TROPARIA

**Tone 6** The Angelic Powers were at Your tomb;  
the guards became as dead men.  
Mary stood by Your grave,  
seeking Your most pure body.  
You captured hell, not being tempted by it.  
You came to the Virgin, granting life.  
O Lord, Who rose from the dead,//  
glory to You.

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, **Tone 3** Troparion (St. Matthew)*  
O holy Apostle and Evangelist Matthew,  
entreat the merciful God//  
to grant our souls forgiveness of transgressions!

*now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. **Tone 3** Resurrectional Dismissal Theotokion*  
We praise you as the mediatrix of our salvation,  
O Virgin Theotokos.  
For your Son, our God, Who took flesh from you,  
accepted the Passion on the Cross,//  
delivering us from corruption as the Lover of Man.

### APOLYSIS

**Deacon:** Let us pray to the Lord.

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy.

**Priest:** The blessing and mercy of the Lord come upon you with his grace and love for mankind, always, now and ever and to the ages of ages.

**Choir:** Amen.

**Priest:** Glory to You, Christ God our Hope, glory to you.

**Choir:** Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen. Lord, have mercy; Lord, have mercy; Lord, have mercy. Father, bless!

**Priest:** He who is risen from the dead Christ our true God, through the intercessions of his all-pure and all-blameless holy Mother, by the power of the precious and life-creating Cross; by the protections of the honorable bodiless powers of heaven; through the supplications of the honorable, glorious prophet, forerunner and baptist John, of the holy, glorious and all-laudable Apostles, of the holy, glorious and right-victorious martyrs, of our venerable and God-bearing Fathers, of our father among the saints Nicholas, archbishop of Myra in Lycia, of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna, of the holy glorious all-laudable apostle and evangelist Matthew whose remembrance we also fulfill and of all the saints, have mercy on us and save us, as one who is good and loves mankind.

**Choir:** Amen.

**Priest:** Through the prayers of our holy fathers, Lord Jesus Christ God, have mercy on us.

**Choir:** Amen.