

**November 16**

**The Holy Apostle and Evangelist Matthew**

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POLYELEOS GREAT VESPERS

**At Psalm 140**

*In Tone 4*

6. The searcher of the hearts of men  
inspired your mind, 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 enlighten and save our souls.

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

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2. 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 which 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, blessed Matthew, that He may enlighten and save our souls.

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*Glory...*

You were called by Christ to heavenly discipleship;  
you followed Him eagerly, chosen one of God.  
He delivered you from subjection to earthly cares;  
abandoning the vain collection of tribute,  
you faithfully kept the accounts of the heavenly King.  
Blessed evangelist, you are a light for those who dwell in darkness,  
a guide to salvation for those who wander astray,  
Matthew, the herald of glad tidings, pray for those who honour you!

*Now...*

O Mother of God, because of You David the Prophet  
became an ancestor of God;  
he foretold and sang a joyous hymn of praise  
and cried out to Him who worked wonders in you:  
"The Queen stood at your right hand."  
God revealed you as a life-giving mother,  
when He chose to be incarnate of you without a father.  
He renewed in man His image which the passions had corrupted.  
He found the lost sheep in the mountains, carried it on His shoulders,  
offered it to the Father, generously numbered it among the powers of heaven,  
and saved the whole world, since He is Christ of great and rich mercy.

### **Readings**

1 Peter 1:1-2:6

1 Peter 2:21-3:9

1 Peter 4:1-11

## **Aposticha**

### *In Tone 4*

All-praised Matthew, your words are a trumpet  
drawing men to the knowledge of God.  
They have delivered the inhabitants of the earth from enslavement to evil,  
leading us into the true faith, the unity of righteousness:  
Pray to Christ our God to deliver us from corruption and danger.

*Their proclamation has gone out into all the earth, and their words to the ends of the universe!*

By a fiery tongue you were armed mightily with the spirit;  
apostle, your words overthrew the deceitful enemy.  
Christ our God whom you proclaimed to be the fulfillment of the prophets,  
adorned you with the resplendent crown of His love:  
Pray to Christ our God to deliver us from corruption and danger.

*The heavens are telling the glory of God and the firmament proclaims His handiwork.*

The publican in a single moment becomes an apostle,  
the tax collector seizes riches from the fount of joy;  
abundantly blessed with the fullness of the Spirit,  
He made you to be the bearer of glad tidings for us.  
Pray to Christ our God to deliver us from corruption and danger.

### *In Tone 6, Glory...*

The full stature of goodness is made manifest in you, 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,  
blessed guide, well-pleasing to the Creator,  
pray for us who bless your memory.

### *Now...*

Christ the Lord, our Creator and Redeemer,  
came forth from your womb, O most pure Virgin.  
He clothed Himself in our human flesh  
to set us free from the original curse of Adam.  
Therefore, O Mary, we praise you, without ceasing,  
as the true Virgin Mother of God,  
and we sing with the angels:  
Rejoice, O Lady, advocate, protector, and salvation of our souls.

## **Troparia**

### *In Tone 3*

O Matthew, proclaimer of God's word,\* you earnestly turned from the tax collector's booth\* and followed the Master, who our His love\* appeared to us on earth and summoned you.\* You shone to the world as chosen apostle and loud herald of the Good News.\* Because of this we feast your memory;\* pray to God all-merciful\* for the forgiveness of sins.

### *Glory... Now...*

We sing your praises, O Virgin;\* for, as the Mother of God, you always intercede for the salvation of the human race.\* It is from you that our God and Your Son took flesh. \* Then, by suffering the passion on the Cross,\*\* and out of love for mankind, He delivered us from corruption.