

The 16th Day of November

✠ Holy Apostle and Evangelist Matthew.

Vespers

After the Introductory Psalm, “Blessèd is the man...,” the first Kathisma.

At “Lord, I call...,” 8 stichera, in Tone 4: *To the melody, “Called from on high...”*

When He who searches the hearts of men, O Apostle, /
Saw, through divine foreknowledge, thy godly reasoning and understanding, /
He delivered thee from unrighteous things of this world, /
And fashioning thee into a beacon of light for the universe /
He commanded thee to shine upon and enlighten the ends of the earth; /
And vouchsafed thee to write down His divine Gospel. ///
Beseech Him to save and enlighten our souls. *(twice)*

Called from the collection of taxes to be His Disciple /
When the Eternal Word spoke to thee; /
He commanded thee to follow Him /
Promising in return, a share in the heavenly kingdom, /
Then, O blessèd one, thou didst abandon the rebellious cares of the world /
And with a steadfast purpose Thou didst follow Him. /
Now, having beheld God in the fullness of His ineffable presence, ///
Beseech Him to save and enlighten our souls. *(twice)*

The prophet Daniel of old, clearly beheld a vision /
Foretelling thee as a stone cut without human hands from a mountain /
Going to-and-fro upon the earth grinding to dust the craftiness of vanity. /
And the Triune Wisdom, O most honored one, /
Crafted thee as a beacon of light scouring the enire earth /
Revealing truth and righteousness, /
Enlightening all with the bright rays of the Three-fold Sun. ///
Beseech Him now to save and enlighten our souls. *(twice)*

When the Giver of Life and the Light Unapproachable /
Came down of His Own Will in the flesh, to the earth /
He dispelled the darkness of unbelief. /
Then, being called by His command, O Matthew, /
Thou didst follow after Him, O servant of divine Wisdom, /
Becoming thyself, beyond reason, a receptacle of divinity, /
A beacon of the Church and habitation of Christ. ///
Beseech Him now to save and enlighten our souls.

Thou didst burn away deception and vanity /
With thy fiery tongue, O wise and all-praised Matthew, /
Receiving the coming of the Comforter, /
Who illumined thee by His Essence. /
Hence, thou didst astonish the thoughts of all who had heard thy words /
Relating to them the majesty of the Almighty, /
And now thy words have gone out into all the earth, O divinely-inspired one. ///
Beseech Him now to give bountifully to us who praise thee.

Glory..., in the same Tone: *To the usual melody*

When Christ called thee to heavenly discipleship /
Zealously didst thou follow Him, O pleasing to God, /
And having rejected at once all the things of the earth, /
Thou didst put aside vainglory and corruption, /
For wisely and worthily thou hast accepted the kingdom on high. /
And having become a herald of Good tidings instead of a publican /
Thou wast revealed as a light to those sitting in darkness, /
And those who had lost their way were guided back onto the path of salvation. /
Now thou art the fervent intercessor for all the world ///
And a saving defender of those who honor thee, O Apostle Matthew.

Now and ever..., Dogmatic Theotokion, in the same Tone:

The prophet David was a father of the Lord /
Through thee, O Virgin; /
He foretold in songs the One who worked wonders in thee: /
“At Thy right hand stood the Queen, Thy Mother,” /
The Mediatrix of Life, /
Since God was freely born of her without a father, /
He wanted to renew His fallen image, made corrupt in passion, /
So He took the lost sheep upon His shoulder /
And brought it to His Father, /
Joining it to the heavenly powers /
Christ Who hath great and rich mercy ///
Hath saved the world, O Theotokos.

Or, on Friday or Saturday Evening, the Dogmatic Theotokion in the Tone of the Week.

The Entrance and the Prokeimenon of the Day.

Three Readings:

The Reading from the First General Epistle of Peter: (1 Peter 1:1-2:6)

^{1:1} **P**eter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the pilgrims scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, elect ²according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the Blood of Jesus Christ: grace unto you and peace be multiplied. ³Blessèd be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who according to His abundant mercy hath begotten us again to a living hope through the Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled that cannot fade, reserved in heaven for you, ⁵who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation, ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶In this ye greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, ye have been grieved by various trials, ⁷that the trial of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found unto praise and honor and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, ⁸Whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, ⁹receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls. ¹⁰Of this salvation the prophets have inquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you, ¹¹searching what, or what manner of time, the Spirit of Christ Which was in them did signify, when It testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow.

¹²Unto them it was revealed that, not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things which now have been reported unto you through those who have preached the Gospel unto you by the Holy Spirit sent down from heaven; things into which the angels desire to look. ¹³Therefore, gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; ¹⁴as obedient children, not conform- ing yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance; ¹⁵but as He Who called you is Holy, so be ye also holy in all your conduct, ¹⁶because it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am Holy.” ¹⁷And if ye call on the Father, Who without partiality judges according to each one’s work, pass the time of your sojourning here in fear; ¹⁸knowing that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your vain conduct received by tradition from your fathers, ¹⁹but with the precious Blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. ²⁰Who truly was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you, ²¹who through Him do believe in God, Who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope might be in God. ²²Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, see that ye love one another fervently with a pure heart, ²³being born again, not of corruptible seed but of incorruptible, by the Word of God

which lives and abides forever, ²⁴for “all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withers, and its flower falls away, ²⁵but the Word of the Lord endureth forever.” And this is the Word which by the Gospel is preached unto you. ^{2:1}Therefore, laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisy, and envy, and all detractions, ²as newborn babes, desire the rational milk of the word, that you may grow thereby, ³if indeed

you have tasted that the Lord is good. ⁴Coming unto Him as unto a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious, ⁵ye also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God by Jesus Christ. ⁶Therefore it is also said in the Scripture, “Behold, I lay in Zion a chief cornerstone, elect, precious: and he that believeth in Him shall not be put to shame.

The Reading from the First General Epistle of Peter: (1 Peter 2:21-3:9)

^{2:21}**M**y beloved, Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow His steps: ²²“Who did not sin, neither was guile found in His mouth”; ²³Who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him that judges righteously; ²⁴Who Himself bore our sins in His own Body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live unto righteousness, by Whose stripes you were healed. ²⁵For you were like sheep going astray, but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Guardian of your souls. ^{3:1}Wives, likewise, be subject to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives, ²when they observe your chaste conduct accompanied by fear. ³Do not let your beauty be merely the outward adorning of arranging the hair, and of wearing gold, or of putting on fine apparel; ⁴but rather

let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible ornament of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God. ⁵For in this manner, in former times, the holy women who trusted in God also adorned themselves, being submissive to their own husbands, ⁶even as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, whose daughters you are if you do good and are not afraid with any terror. ⁷Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered. ⁸Finally, all of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, be kind-hearted, be courteous; ⁹not rendering evil for evil, or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary blessing, knowing that you were called unto this, that you may inherit a blessing.

The Reading from the First General Epistle of Peter: (1 Peter 4:1-11)

^{4:1}**M**y beloved, forasmuch as Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind, for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin, ²that he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the desires of men, but to the will of God. ³For we have spent enough of our past life in doing the will of the Gentiles — when we walked in lewdness, lusts, drunkenness, revelries, banquetings, and abominable idolatries. ⁴In regard to these, they think it strange that you do not run with them in the same flood of dissipation, speaking evil of you. ⁵They will give an account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead. ⁶For this reason the Gospel was preached also to them that are dead, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the spirit. ⁷But the end of all things is at hand; be ye therefore sober and watchful in your prayers. ⁸And above all things have fervent love for one another, for “love shall cover a multitude of sins.” ⁹Be hospitable to one another without grumbling. ¹⁰As each one hath received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. ¹¹If anyone speaks, let him speak as the words of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, so that God may in all things be glorified through Jesus Christ, to Whom belong glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

Note: If the Superior wishes to serve the Litya: then, the sticheron of the Temple, and these of the Apostle, in Tone 4: *To the melody, “As one valiant among the martyrs....”*

Submitting to the call of the Teacher /
Who wholly enlightened thine understanding /
And revealed thee as an honored ap^ostle /
And a divine herald of His unapproachable Divinity, /
With the rod of grace, thou didst draw out men from the depths of vanity ///
O most blessed Matthew.

The radiance of the Holy Spirit /
Descended upon thee taking the form of fire, /
And made of thee a divine habitation, O blessed one. /
Quickly thou dispersed the gloom of ungodliness /
And enlightened the world with brilliance of thy divine words, /
O proclamation of divine mysteries, ///
Adornment of the apostles, and eye-witness of Christ.

Having illumined those sitting in darkness of ignorance /

With the lightning bolts of thy preaching /
 Thou didst reveal them, by their faith, O glorious one, /
 To be the children of our God and Master; /
 And thou didst emulate His suffering and death /
 Thus becoming an heir to His glory, ///
 O wise herald of God and disciple of Truth.

Glory..., in Tone 2:

Forsaking all the cares of the world /
 Thou didst follow after Christ /
 And being inspired by the Holy Spirit /
 Thou didst go unto the gentiles perishing in darkness /
 And brought them to the light of the knowledge of God. /
 And completing thy divine struggles and suffering /
 Thou didst commend thy soul to Christ, /
 Entreat Him now, O most blessed Apostle Matthew, ///
 That He may grant our souls great mercy.

Now and ever..., Theotokion, in the same Tone:

In thee I place my whole trust, /
 O Mother of God, ///
 Keep me under thy protection! /

At the Aposticha, these stichera, in Tone 4: To the melody, "Thou hast given a sign...."

By the trumpet of thy words, O praised Apostle, /
 All mankind was summoned to the knowledge of God. /
 And having driven away the deception of idolatry from the world, /
 Thou dost gather mankind to one harmony of faith. /
 And now, earnestly, dost thou beseech the Lord /
 That all who celebrate thy precious memory with faith ///
 Be delivered from corruption and misfortune.

Verse: Their proclamation is gone out into all the earth, and their words to the ends of the universe!

Having been armed with the fiery tongue of the Holy Spirit /
 Thou hast been revealed by Christ God /
 As an ardent warrior against spiritual self-deception, O Apostle. /
 From Him thou didst receive bright honors and blessings
 And now, earnestly, dost thou beseech the Lord /

THE HOLY APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST MATTHEW

That all who celebrate thy precious memory with faith ///
Be delivered from corruption and misfortune.

Verse: The heavens are telling the glory of God, and the firmament proclaims His handiwork!

Perceiving the depths of the Spirit, O Apostle /
Thou didst discern incomprehensible riches /
And drawing forth from there abundant grace /
By it thou didst distribute the Holy Gospel to us all. /
And now, earnestly, dost thou beseech the Lord /
That all who celebrate thy precious memory with faith ///
Be delivered from corruption and misfortune.

Glory..., Tone 6:

Like a soaring eagle, O Matthew, /
Thou didst gloriously ascend to the heights of virtue /
From the depths of utmost wickedness,
For having covered the heavens with thy virtuous deeds /
And having filled the earth with thine understanding, /
Thou didst follow in the footsteps of Christ /
And didst fervently emulate His example, /
Announcing peace, life and salvation /
To those who piously obey His divine commandments. /
So we implore thee, O Apostle and Evangelist Matthew: ///
Teach us, as we bless thee, that we may be pleasing to the Creator of all.

Now and ever..., Theotokion, in the same Tone:

Christ, the Maker, Redeemer, and Lord proceeded from thy womb /
O all-pure Virgin, /
And putting on my nature, set man free from the ancestral curse. /
So we sing to thee without ceasing, O all-pure Virgin, as Mother of God /
With the angelic salutation: /
Rejoice, O Sovereign Lady ///
Protection, refuge, and salvation of our souls

The Troparion of Saint Matthew, in Tone 3:

O holy Apostle and Evangelist Matthew /
Intercede with our merciful God, /
That He may grant to our souls ///

The forgiveness of our transgressions.

Another Troparion of Saint Matthew, in the same Tone:

Having zealously followed Christ the Master, /
Who in His goodness appeared on earth to mankind, /
And summoned thee from the customs house, /
By grace, revealing thee as His chosen apostle /
And a mighty-voiced herald of Gospel to the universe. /
Therefore we honor thy precious memory, O divinely-eloquent Matthew, /
And we beseech thee, O speaker of the Word of God: ///
Entreat the merciful God that He may grant our souls the remission of our sins.

Glory ..., now and ever..., Theotokion, in the same Tone:

We hymn thee who hast mediated the salvation of our race, /
O Virgin Mother of God;
For thy Son and our God, accepting suffering on the Cross in the flesh He had
 received of thee,
Hath delivered us from corruption, ///
In that He is the Lover of mankind.

Matins

After “God is the Lord,” the Troparion of the Evangelist (twice), Glory..., now and ever..., and the Resurrectional Theotokion, in Tone 3:

We sing thy praises, O Virgin Theotokos /
Who dost intercede for the salvation of our race; /
For thy Son and our God, /
Taking flesh from thee and accepting to suffer through the Cross ///
Hath delivered us from corruption in His love for mankind. (once)

After the 1st Kathisma, the Sessional Hymn, in Tone 1: To the melody, “Thy tomb, O Savior....”

Being the first to write down the Gospel of Christ /
And illumine with it all creation, /
The great initiate into the mysteries of Christ, /
The most wise Apostle Matthew, /
Who now is honored with these sacred hymns, /
Now prays for the forgiveness of sins ///
Of those who honor him with faith and love. (twice)

Glory ... now and ever..., Theotokion, in the same Tone:

All who flee with love to thy goodness, /
Know thee truly to be the Mother of God /
Who after giving birth was shown to be Virgin; /
For we sinners have thee as our intercessor, /
And our salvation amidst all perils, ///
O only pure one!

After the 2nd Kathisma, the Sessional Hymn, in Tone 3: To the melody, “The faith divine....”

Having displayed the glory of the True Faith /
Thou didst extinguish the flame of pagan worship /
And as an undefeated champion /
Thou hast proclaimed the Gospel to all, /
Richly adorning all the Churches. /
O Apostle and Evangelist Matthew /
Pray Christ God that He grant us great mercy. (twice)

Glory ... now and ever..., Theotokion, in the same Tone:

The Lord became incarnate within thy womb /
Not separating Himself from His Divine Nature; /
Through thee He became man yet remained God /
Preserving thee, His Mother /
A most pure Virgin after birthgiving as before giving birth. /
Earnestly entreat Him, O Lady Theotokos ///
That He grant our souls great mercy.

Polyeley and Magnification:

We magnify thee, O Apostle of Christ and Evangelist Matthew, and we honor thy labors and sufferings which thou didst endure in proclaiming Christ.

Selected Psalm verses:

The heavens are telling the glory of God, and the firmament proclaims His handiwork!
The heavens shall confess Thy wonders, O Lord, and Thy truth in the congregation of the saints!

After the Polyeley, the Sessional Hymn, in Tone 8: To the melody, “Of Wisdom....”

Truly thy wise teachings have gone out to the ends of the earth, /
O praised Apostle of the Lord, /
Clearly preaching the appearance of God to all /
Bringing nations to knowledge from ignorance /

By shining the light of understanding to those in darkness /
Thus destroying the gloom of idolatry. /
O most praised Apostle Matthew /
Entreat Christ that He grants the remission of sins ///
To those who lovingly honor thy memory. (twice)

Glory ... now and ever..., Theotokion, in the same Tone:

All generations bless thee, O Virgin, /
As she who alone amongst women /
Gavest birth to God in the flesh without seed; /
For the fire of the Godhead came to dwell in thee /
And with thy milk thou didst feed thy Creator and Lord. /
So, together with the angels we worthily glorify thee, /
And we praise thine all-holy birthgiving, and cry to thee: /
Entreat Christ God that He grants the remission of sins ///
To those who faithfully honor His All-holy Nativity.

1st Antiphon of the 4th Tone (The Song of Ascents), “From my youth...”

The Prokeimenon, in Tone 4:

Their proclamation is gone out into all the earth / and their words to the ends of the universe! *Verse:* The heavens are telling the glory of God, and the firmament proclaims His handiwork!

Let every breath praise the Lord!...

Gospel: (67) John 21:15-25

After Psalm 50 (51), the post-Gospel sticheron of St. Matthew, in Tone 6:

O come all ye faithful, /
And let us rejoice and clap our hands /
In memory of the honored Apostle and Evangelist Matthew, /
For he cast away the publican's yoke and his burden of gold /
And followed after Christ /
Becoming a preacher of the Divine Gospel; /
And his proclamation has gone out into all the earth, as the prophet foretold, ///
And he ceaselessly prays for the salvation of our souls.

The Canon

The Supplicatory Canon to the Theotokos (*the Paraklesis*), with 6 troparia,
including the irmos, and the Canon of the Saint, with 8 troparia.

Ode 1

The Supplicatory Canon to the Theotokos, Tone 8

***Irmos:** Having crossed the water as though it were dry land and escaped from the wickedness of the Egyptians, the children of Israel cried aloud: Let us sing to our Redeemer and our God.*

***Refrain:** Most Holy Theotokos, save us!*

Distressed by many temptations, I flee to thee, seeking salvation. O Virgin and Mother of the Word, deliver me from my burdens and afflictions.

The increase of passions troubles me and fills me with great distress. Calm my soul, O Maiden, by the peace of thy Son and God, O all-blameless one.

I implore thee who gavest birth to our Savior and God, O Virgin: deliver me from perils, for, fleeing now unto thee for refuge, I lift up both my soul and my thoughts before thee.

Ailing am I in body and soul; do thou vouchsafe me the divine visitation and thy care, O thou who alone art the Mother of God, for thou art good and the Mother of the Good One.

The Canon of the Saint, Tone 4,

the composition of Theophanes.

***Irmos:** I shall open my mouth, and it shall be filled with the Spirit, I shall utter a word to the Queen and Mother. I shall be seen radiantly keeping festival, and with rejoicing I shall sing of her wonders.*

***Refrain:** Holy Apostle and Evangelist Matthew, pray to God for us!*

O most glorious Matthew, servant of Christ, grant me an abundance of the grace that dwelleth within thee that I may celebrate thy splendid festival and joyfully praise thy wonders.

Thou didst completely abandon the tumult of earthly life when thou didst hear the voice of the incarnate Word; and thou didst become a steward and a God-pleasing herald of His grace.

Glory...,

Being an eye-witness and servant of the resplendent Word of the pre-eternal Father, O Apostle Matthew, thou didst go forth into the world proclaiming to all peoples the glad tidings of His coming.

Now and ever..., Amen.

***Theotokion:** Thou didst announce the good news of the death of death, the abolition*

of corruption, and the manifestation of Life, O wise Apostle; for having conceived the Unapproachable One by dwelling within her womb, the Virgin has restored the world anew.

Katavasia: “I shall open my mouth...”

Ode 3

The Supplicatory Canon to the Theotokos

Irmos: **O** Lord, Creator of the vault of heaven and Founder of the Church, strengthen me in Thy love, for Thou art our supreme desire and the support of the faithful, O Thou who lovest mankind.

I have thee as the protection and intercession of my life, O Virgin, Mother of God. Pilot me to thy haven, O giver of blessings, O support of the faithful, O thou only all-praised one.

I pray thee, O Virgin, to dispel the tumult of my soul and the storm of my grief; for thou, O Bride of God, hast given birth to Christ, the Prince of Peace, O only immaculate one.

Pour forth on us from the wealth of thy generosity, O thou who hast brought forth the Benefactor and Cause of all good; for thou canst do all things, O blessed one of God, since thou didst bear Christ, the One mighty in power.

I am tortured by grievous sicknesses and morbid passions. Help thou me, O Virgin, for I know thee, O all-blameless one, to be an inexhaustible treasury of unfailing healing.

The Canon of the Saint

Irmos: O Theotokos, living and abundant fountain, spiritually strengthen thy singers, the choirs assembled in thy divine glory, and grant them crowns of glory.

O Word of God, Thou didst make Thine apostles beacons of life, driving away the darkness of ungodliness, O Master, thus enlightening the whole world with Thy divine glory.

Having armed the courageous Matthew with the armor of Thy protection, O Savior, thou didst make him stronger than his persecutors, O Lover of mankind, thus revealing him as a destroyer of the deception of the idols.

O Matthew, thou divine instrument of the Comforter, the message of thy fiery tongue consumed the temples of the demons as thou proclaimed Christ, the hypostatic Life to all.

Theotokion: **A**s a divinely-wise trumpet of theology, Matthew made the teachings of God resound throughout the world as he preached the radiance of the Trinity to all the people, revealing to them the ineffable incarnation of the World through thee, O most pure Lady Theotokos.

Katavasia: “O Theotokos, living and abundant fountain...”

Sessional Hymn, in Tone 8: *To the melody, “Of Wisdom....”*

The sound of thy wise words has resounded throughout the world, /
O wise evangelist of the Lord, /
For thou didst truly preach the vision of God to all: /
Bringing all nations from ignorance to understanding, /
Shining the light of knowledge to those who sat in darkness, /
And dispelling the gloomy night of idolatry. /
Entreat Christ God, O all-praised Apostle Matthew, /
That He may grant the remission of sins ///
To all who lovingly celebrate thy holy memory.

Glory..., in the same Tone: *(and melody)*

We praise thee as a beacon and disciple of the Light, /
And an eye-witness of the divine Word, /
For casting thy net of grace at His command, thou didst catch rational men like fish. /
Thus, by the power of the Spirit, thou didst capture the nations /
And instructed them in the Faith, /
As an initiate in the heavenly mysteries. /
Entreat Christ God, O all-praised Apostle Matthew, /
That He may grant the remission of sins ///
To all who lovingly celebrate thy holy memory.

Now and ever.... Theotokion:

As the pure bride of the Creator, /
And the Mother of the Savior, /
As one who knew not wedlock: /
The all-praised receptacle of the essence of the Comforter, /
Hasten to deliver me who has become the abode of evil, /
The plaything of demons and their evil spite; /
And make me the bright dwelling place of virtues, /
O radiant and incorruptible one! /
Drive away the clouds of my passions, ///
And through thy prayers, make me worthy to partake of the things of heaven.

Ode 4

The Supplicatory Canon to the Theotokos

Irmos: I have heard the mystery of Thy dispensation, O Lord; I have considered Thy works and glorified Thy Godhead.

O Bride of God, who gavest birth to the Lord and Master, still thou the turmoil of my passions and the stormy seas of my sins.

O, bestow thy compassion on me, thy servant, out of the depths of thy tender mercy; for thou didst give birth to the Compassionate One, the Savior of all those who praise thee.

While delighting in thy gifts, O immaculate one, we sing a song of thanksgiving to thee, knowing thee to be the Mother of God.

As I lie on the bed of my pain and infirmity, do thou help me, as thou art a lover of goodness, O Ever-virgin Mary Theotokos.

Having thee as our staff and hope, and as our salvation's unshakable defense, we are then delivered from all adversity, O thou all-praised one.

The Canon of the Saint

***Irmos:** Perceiving the unsearchable purpose of God concerning Thine incarnation from a Virgin, O Most High, the prophet Habakkuk cried out: Glory to Thy power, O Lord!*

Taught by the hypostatic Word, O God, the disciple Matthew beheld Thee and brought the wisdom of the world to an end, crying aloud unto Thee: Glory to Thy power, O Lord!

What manner of praise can we offer to thee, who was blessed by Christ Himself? No one is able to express in words the grace which blossomed forth in thee, O wondrous Apostle Matthew.

Beholding thine undefiled and pure mind, the Most High set thee like a light upon a lampstand to shine upon those in darkness, O divinely-revealed Apostle Matthew.

***Theotokion:** O pure and most blessed Maiden, thou didst lift up the fallen nature of mankind when thou gavest birth ineffably, to the Power of the Most High, as Matthew hath taught.*

Ode 5

The Supplicatory Canon to the Theotokos

***Irmos:** Enlighten us by Thy commandments, O Lord, and by Thine uplifted arm grant us Thy peace, O Lover of mankind.*

Fill my heart with gladness, O pure Lady, with thine incorruptible joy, for thou didst bear the Cause of all Joy.

Deliver us from dangers, O pure Theotokos, who gavest birth to Eternal Redemption, and to the Peace that passes all understanding.

Dispel the darkness of my sins by the radiance of thy splendor, O Bride of God, for thou didst bear the divine and pre-eternal Light.

Heal the infirmity of my soul, O pure Lady, when thou hast deemed me worthy of thy visitation, and grant me health by thy blessed intercessions.

The Canon of the Saint

***Irmos:** All things were amazed at thy divine glory, for thou, O Virgin, who knewest no wedlock, didst bear in thy womb the God over all, and thou gavest birth to the eternal Son, granting peace to all who sing thy praises.*

Receiving the grace of the Most Holy Spirit, thou didst become the abode of God, O disciple Matthew, teaching to all the light of His divine knowledge having been entrusted as His chosen eye-witness, with putting down in writing the teachings of Christ.

Thy words were formed by the pen of the Comforter as thou wrote about the speedy deliverance of those who acknowledge His Lordship, breathing heavenly wisdom into the souls of the wise, O most honored Apostle Matthew.

Christ sent thee into the world radiant with the power of healing the sick and working miracles in order to trample upon the power of the demons, and to shed light upon the souls of those who praise thee, O preacher of peace.

***Theotokion:** O Virgin, thou gavest birth to the pre-eternal Son who clothed Himself in human nature and thus saved it from corruption in His utter compassion, and thou didst remain a virgin, as the divine Apostle Matthew hath taught.*

Ode 6

The Supplicatory Canon to the Theotokos

***Irmos:** I will pour out my prayer before the Lord; I will make known to Him my sorrow, for my soul has been filled with afflictions, and my life has drawn near to hell, and like Jonah I will pray: O God, raise me up from corruption.*

My nature, held by corruption and death, hath He saved out of death and corruption; for unto death hath He submitted Himself. Wherefore, O Virgin, do thou intercede with Him Who is thy Lord and Son, to deliver me from the wickedness of the enemy.

I know thee as the protection of my life, and most safe fortress, O Virgin; disperse the horde of temptations, and drive away demonic vexation. Unceasingly I pray to thee: Deliver me from the corruption of passions!

We have acquired thee as a wall of refuge, and the perfect salvation of our souls, and a relief in afflictions, O Maiden, and we ever rejoice in thy light. O Sovereign Lady,

do thou also now save us from passions and dangers.

Bedridden, I lie supine with sickness now and there is no healing for my flesh; but to thee, O good one who gavest birth to God, the Savior of the world and the Healer of infirmities, I pray: Raise me up from the corruption of illness.

The Canon of the Saint

***Irmos:** I have fallen into the depths of the sea, and the tempest of my many sins hath encompassed me; but, as Thou art God, lead my life up from the abyss, O greatly merciful one.*

When he followed after Thee, O Lord, the most excellent and eloquent Matthew was transformed from being a publican into an evangelist by Thine omnipotent power, O Master and Maker of all.

Multitudes of nations are lifted toward the lofty summit of the virtues by the spiritually nourishing words of thy Gospel, O most blessed Matthew.

Whole assemblies of the faithful are drawn up by the nets of Thy disciple, the Apostle Matthew, and are guided to the knowledge of Thee, O Christ, the Benefactor of all!

Theotokion: **T**he most excellent Matthew announced glad tidings, O most immaculate Lady, when he described thee, O Virgin, as she who gave birth without corruption and without seed, to the Creator and Fashioner of all!

Katavasia: “Let us clap our hands in gladness...”

The Kontakion of St. Matthew, in Tone 4: *To the melody, “As Thou wast voluntarily crucified...”*

Casting aside the bonds of the customs house for the yoke of righteousness, /
Thou wast revealed as an excellent merchant obtaining the riches of wisdom from
on high. /

Thou didst preach the Word of Truth /
And roused the souls of the slothful ///
By thy teaching on the hour of Judgment.

Ikos: The oppression of the enemy torments me greatly and it has put blight on all the seeds of my soul. But thou, O Matthew, thou friend of Christ, hast provided me with the seed of thy prayers. May they be multiplied in service to thee and may I, the lowliest of those who now honor thee, recount all thy great and many teachings. By forsaking, without any hesitation, all things for the love of Christ, thou didst fervently follow Him Who had called thee, becoming the first in the world to describe the hour of Judgment.

Ode 7

The Supplicatory Canon to the Theotokos

***Irmos:** The children of Judæa who dwelt of old in Babylon trampled underfoot the flames of the furnace by their faith in the Trinity, as they sang: Blessèd art Thou, O God of our fathers.*

Having willed to accomplish our salvation, O Savior, Thou didst dwell in the womb of the Virgin, and didst show her forth unto the world as its intercessor. Blessèd art Thou, O God of our fathers.

Pray to Him, the dispenser of mercy Whom thou didst bear, O pure Mother, and implore Him to deliver from all transgressions and defilements the souls of those who with faith cry out: Blessèd art Thou, O God of our fathers.

A treasury of salvation and a fountain of incorruption is she who gave Thee birth; a tower of safety, and a gate of repentance hast Thou proved her to those who cry: Blessèd art Thou, O God of our fathers.

Grant healing from physical weakness and spiritual infirmities to those who with love draw near to thy protection, O Virgin Theotokos, for thou gavest birth to Christ our Savior.

The Canon of the Saint

***Irmos:** The divinely wise ones would not serve created things more than Him who created them, but bravely trampled on the fiery threat. They rejoiced, singing: "Blessèd art Thou, O most-hymned Lord and God of our fathers!"*

Thou, O Apostle, wast truly a divine image of the pre-eternal divine Glory set afire by His splendor, and thou didst cry aloud to Him: Blessèd art Thou, O Lord, God of our fathers!

As a servant of the Word, O blessèd Apostle Matthew, thou didst make thine abode in the mansions where Christ dwells as the One, All-holy Lord and God of all the fathers.

All infirmities are banished and the hosts of demons are forced to flee by the gifts of the Holy Spirit given thee, as thou dost sing: Blessèd art Thou, and praised above all, O Lord God of our fathers!

***Theotokion:** With thy divinely-inspired words, O Apostle, thou didst describe the all-praised Virgin who gave birth to the Creator, and to Him we all sing: Blessèd art Thou, and praised above all, O Lord God of our fathers!*

Ode 8

The Supplicatory Canon to the Theotokos

***Irmos:** The King of heaven whom the hosts of angels praise, let us praise and exalt*

throughout all ages.

Disdain not those who need thy help, O Virgin, and who hymn and supremely exalt thee unto all ages.

Thou healest the infirmity of my soul and the pains of my body, O Virgin, that I may glorify thee, O pure one, unto all ages.

Thou pourest forth a wealth of healing, on those who with faith sing praises unto thee, O Virgin, and who supremely exalt thine ineffable Childbearing.

Thou drivest away the assaults of temptations, and the attacks of the passions, O Virgin; Therefore, we sing thee hymns unto all ages.

The Canon of the Saint

***Irmos:** The Offspring of the Theotokos saved the God-fearing children in the furnace He who was then prefigured has since been born on earth, and He raises up all creation to sing: Praise the Lord, all ye works of the Lord, highly exalt Him throughout all ages!*

Blessed by Thy divine Nature, O Master, and ordained by Thy will, the holy Apostle Matthew taught the whole world to sing: Praise the Lord, all ye works of the Lord, highly exalt Him throughout all ages!

The Word of God sent the theologian Matthew as a lover of the Word, to be a lightning bolt illumining the whole world and to drive away the darkness, and thus, enlighten the nations with the divine teachings of theology, as he cried aloud: Praise the Lord, all ye works of the Lord, highly exalt Him throughout all ages!

With pure words and pristine thoughts didst thou converse with God, drawing thyself away from the cares of this world and coming ever closer to the Lord, ever singing aloud to Him, O glorious one: Praise the Lord, all ye works of the Lord, highly exalt Him throughout all ages!

Let us bless the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, the Lord!

Theotokion: **T**he Word became incarnate for the sake of mankind as the Lord passed through the portal of virginity and revealed thee as the Mother of God. Therefore, we all cry aloud: Praise the Lord, all ye works of the Lord, highly exalt Him throughout all ages!

We praise, bless, and worship the Lord, singing and exalting Him throughout all ages.

Katavasia: “The Offspring of the Theotokos...”

The Magnificat is sung: “my soul magnifies the Lord...”

Ode 9

The Supplicatory Canon to the Theotokos

***Irmos:** Saved through thee, O pure Virgin, we confess thee to be truly Theotokos, and with the choirs of angels we magnify thee.*

O Virgin, who didst give birth to Christ, Who doth wipe away every tear from every face: turn not away from the torrent of my tears.

O Virgin, who didst receive the fullness of joy, and didst banish the grief of sin: fill my heart with joy.

Be thou the haven and protection, the unshakable wall, the refuge, the shelter, and the joy of those who flee to thee, O Virgin.

Illuminate with the rays of thy light, O Virgin, those who piously confess thee to be the Theotokos, and banish from them the darkness of ignorance.

I am brought low by mine afflictions and infirmities, but do thou, O Virgin, heal me, bringing me from illness into health.

The Canon of the Saint

***Irmos:** Let all the earthborn leap for joy, enlightened by the Spirit, and let the nature of the bodiless ones make festival; and let them cry aloud: “Rejoice, all-blessèd and pure Theotokos, Ever-virgin.*

Thou didst receive the diadem of spiritual beauty, O wise Apostle of the Lord, and wast adorned with the magnificent crown of the kingdom by the right hand of the Almighty. Now, thou dost forever shine with glory, standing with the angels before the throne of Christ the Master, O blessed one.

Receiving nourishment from the Tree of Life, O preacher of the Living God, thou didst spread the Good Tidings of Life—the visitation of God—to all the world. Thou didst not let thy mind to be polluted by the wisdom of the world, and wast truly an unshakeable and immovable foundation of the Church, O blessed Apostle Matthew.

Thou didst adorn the Church, the Bride of Christ, with thy Gospel as with a jewel, O divinely-bless’t Matthew, and now she commemorates thy divine memorial. O Apostle Matthew, entreat the Lord that she be delivered from every trial and tribulation through thy holy prayers!

***Theotokion:** Without leaving the bosom of the unoriginate Father, the Word before all time became incarnate of thee, O pure and all-praised Lady, putting on our human nature as the Apostle Matthew wrote when he proclaimed the Glad Tidings to all!*

***Katavasia:** “Let every earth-born exult...”*

The Exapostilarion of Saint Matthew:

Matthew, the man well-pleasing to God, that glorious scribe, hath recorded for us all the divine wonders of the Good News of Christ.

Glory..., another Exapostilarion:

Having wisely cast away the publican's yoke, O divinely-wise Matthew, thou didst follow wondrously in the footsteps of Christ, thus obtaining a share of His kingdom and glory through communion with Him, becoming an initiate of the Ineffable Mysteries.

Now and ever..., Theotokion:

O Virgin Mother of God, lift up thy most holy hands, which had held the Creator, in supplication to Him, that He may deliver us from the temptations of the devil, O all-praised Lady, and that we may be counted worthy to receive of His bounties in the world to come.

On the Praises, 4 stichera of St. Matthew, in Tone 4: *To the melody, "Thou hast given a sign..."*

Thou didst shine forth like the sun, O Apostle, /
With the brilliant rays of the Spirit /
And didst illuminate the whole world /
With the divine knowledge of God, /
And didst dispel the gloom of idolatry, O greatly blessed one. /
Therefore, on this day we celebrate thy radiant and wondrous memory ///
As a source of sanctification, O most wise Matthew. *(twice)*

Seated on the pinnacle of divine knowledge, O Apostle, /
Thou art bathed in the light of the Spirit /
Appearing to thee in the form of tongues of fire; /
For godless impiety was consumed, as firewood, by thy words. /
Therefore, we honor thee as an apostle and a herald of God, ///
Celebrating on this day thy holy festival.

Thy sacred and salvific teachings /
Rolled like thunder over all the earth /
Cleansing creation of pagan delusions, /
And countless people were illumined /
By the splendors of the Gospel. /
And having destroyed the pagan temples by grace /
Thou didst raise up churches for the glory of God, ///

O Apostle and Evangelist Matthew.

Glory..., in Tone 2: (by Byzantius)

Abandoning the yoke of injustice /
And the gold of usury /
Thou didst hasten to put on the yoke of righteousness. /
Thou didst strive to accumulate the riches of eternity. /
And like a merchant traded the fleeting for the timeless; /
Things corruptible for the everlasting.
And having acquired the divine pearl of great price /
Thou gavest to Cæsar the things that are Cæsar's; /
And having obediently followed Christ, the King of all, /
Thou didst enrich creation with the wise words of the Gospel, O wise one. /
O most excellent Apostle and Evangelist Matthew, ///
Earnestly pray that we be granted great mercy and that our souls maybe saved.

Now and ever..., Theotokion, in the same Tone:

Save thy servants, O Virgin Theotokos, /
From all danger and misfortune, /
For after God we have recourse only to thee, ///
As to our invincible fortress and intercession.

Great Doxology, Troparia, Litanies and Dismissal, as usual.

Liturgy

At the Beatitudes, 8 troparia: 4 from the Third Ode of the Appointed Canon; and 4 from the Sixth Ode of the Canon of Saint Matthew.

1-4. From the Appointed Canon.

5. When he followed after Thee, O Lord, the most excellent and eloquent Matthew was transformed from being a publican into an evangelist by Thine omnipotent power, O Master and Maker of all.

6. Multitudes of nations are lifted toward the lofty summit of the virtues by the spiritually nourishing words of thy Gospel, O most blessed Matthew.

7. Whole assemblies of the faithful are drawn up by the nets of Thy disciple, the Apostle Matthew, and are guided to the knowledge of Thee, O Christ, the Benefactor of all!

8. (Theotokion) The most excellent Matthew announced glad tidings, O most

immaculate Lady, when he described thee, O Virgin, as she who gave birth without corruption and without seed, to the Creator and Fashioner of all!

The Troparion of Saint Matthew, in Tone 3:

O holy Apostle and Evangelist Matthew /
Intercede with our merciful God, /
That He may grant to our souls ///
The forgiveness of our transgressions.

Another Troparion of Saint Matthew, in the same Tone:

Having zealously followed Christ the Master, /
Who in His goodness appeared on earth to mankind, /
And summoned thee from the customs house, /
By grace, revealing thee as His chosen apostle /
And a mighty-voiced herald of Gospel to the universe. /
Therefore we honor thy precious memory, O divinely-eloquent Matthew, /
And we beseech thee, O speaker of the Word of God: ///
Entreat the merciful God that He may grant our souls the remission of our sins.

The Kontakion of St. Matthew, in Tone 4:

Casting aside the bonds of the customs house for the yoke of righteousness, /
Thou wast revealed as an excellent merchant obtaining the riches of wisdom from
on high. /
Thou didst preach the Word of Truth /
And roused the souls of the slothful ///
By thy teaching on the hour of Judgment.

The Prokeimenon, in Tone 8: Their proclamation is gone out into all the earth / and their words to the ends of the universe! *Verse:* The heavens are telling the glory of God, and the firmament proclaims His handiwork!

The Epistle: (131) 1 Corinthians 4:9-16

The Alleluia, Tone 1: The heavens shall confess Thy wonders, O Lord, and Thy truth in the congregation of the saints! *Verse:* God is glorified in the council of the saints!

The Gospel: (30) Matthew 9:9-13

The Communion Hymn: Their proclamation is gone out into all the earth / and their words to the ends of the universe!

THE HOLY APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST MATTHEW

UPDATED 11/17/2014 SDA
7/13/2018 SDA
11/13/22 SDA
7/28/2023 SDA