

## Lectionary

*You are invited to follow the first two readings while seated, and as is the custom, to just listen, standing if possible, as the Holy Gospel is proclaimed.*

### Midweek 24th September Matthew, Apostle & Evangelist

#### The Collect

O Almighty God,  
whose blessed Son called Matthew the tax collector  
to be an apostle and evangelist:  
give us grace to forsake the selfish pursuit of gain  
and the possessive love of riches that we may follow  
in the way of your Son Jesus Christ, who is alive and  
reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

#### First reading: Ezra 9:5-9.

*A reading from the book of Ezra.*

At the evening sacrifice I got up from my fasting, with my garments and my mantle torn, and fell on my knees, spread out my hands to the Lord my God, and said, 'O my God, I am too ashamed and embarrassed to lift my face to you, my God, for our iniquities have risen higher than our heads, and our guilt has mounted up to the heavens.

From the days of our ancestors to this day we have been deep in guilt, and for our iniquities we, our kings, and our priests have been handed over to the kings of the lands, to the sword, to captivity, to plundering, and to utter shame, as is now the case.

But now for a brief moment favour has been shown by the Lord our God, who has left us a remnant, and given us a stake in his holy place, in order that he may brighten our eyes and grant us a little sustenance in our slavery.

For we are slaves; yet our God has not forsaken us in our slavery, but has extended to us his steadfast love before the kings of Persia, to give us new life to set up the house of our God, to repair its ruins, and to give us a wall in Judea and Jerusalem.

This is the word of the Lord,

**All: Thanks be to God.**

#### Second reading: Psalm 103:1-6

1. Bless the Lord, O my soul, • and all that is within me  
bless his holy name.

2. Bless the Lord, O my soul, • and forget not all his  
benefits;

3. Who forgives all your sins • and heals all your infir-  
mities;

4. Who redeems your life from the Pit • and crowns  
you with faithful love and compassion;

5. Who satisfies you with good things, • so that your  
youth is renewed like an eagle's.

6. The Lord executes righteousness • and judgement  
for all who are oppressed.

This is the word of the Lord,

**All: Thanks be to God.**

#### The Holy Gospel: Luke 9:1-6

*Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.*

Then Jesus called the twelve together and gave them  
power and authority over all demons and to cure dis-  
eases, and he sent them out to proclaim the kingdom  
of God and to heal.

He said to them, 'Take nothing for your journey, no  
staff, nor bag, nor bread, nor money—not even an ex-  
tra tunic.

Whatever house you enter, stay there, and leave from  
there.

Wherever they do not welcome you, as you are leav-  
ing that town shake the dust off your feet as a testimo-  
ny against them.'

They departed and went through the villages, bringing  
the good news and curing diseases everywhere.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**All: Praise to you, O Christ.**

#### Post Communion Prayer

Almighty God,  
who on the day of Pentecost sent your Holy Spirit to  
the apostles with the wind from heaven and in tongues  
of flame, filling them with joy and boldness to preach  
the gospel:

by the power of the same Spirit strengthen us to wit-  
ness to your truth and to draw everyone to the fire of  
your love;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

