



**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2025**

***The Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity / St Matthew's Day / Creationtide***

## **Gospel Reading**

**Matthew 9:9-13**

### **The Calling of Matthew**

<sup>9</sup> As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth; and he said to him, 'Follow me.' And he got up and followed him.

<sup>10</sup> And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax-collectors and sinners came and were sitting with him 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 he 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 come to call not the righteous but sinners.'

**Other Readings: Proverbs 3:13-18    Psalm 119:65-72    2 Corinthians 4:1-6**

## **Homily**

You might like to take some time this week to look up the other readings set alongside the Gospel. This homily will make reference to all the readings set for today as we consider them alongside some of the themes we are invited to reflect on during this season of creationtide.

Let us begin with a question. Was everything as it should be in Matthew's life? Probably not. Tax collectors did not have a good reputation for honesty or playing by the rules and they certainly were not very popular or sought after guests to have at your dinner party. We can assume that Matthew had some awareness that something was not right or needed to change from his response to Jesus' invitation. Jesus says "follow", Matthew follows. An indication perhaps that he knows at the very core of his being that Jesus has something he needs, something that is lacking. We could speculate further: perhaps Matthew has been aware for a while of the need for something to change in his life or perhaps it is a sudden moment of realisation. Both scenarios are possible. Jesus' words later in the passage highlight that mercy and a chance for making a necessary change are offered to and accepted by Matthew: 'Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means "I desire mercy, not sacrifice." For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners.'

The acceptance of the need for mercy needs to be prompted by the recognition that something is not right and needs to be addressed. In this season of creationtide we are aware that all is not well with the world God has created and delights in. The first step is to recognise that fact and then to seek the wisdom and will of God for how we might respond trusting in God's mercy that as the ultimate physician he would show us how to heal the hurts we have inflicted on his creation.

The other readings set alongside this one have words of wisdom for us on this path:

Words from the psalm might help us prayerfully reflect on the fact that things need to change:

"Teach me good judgement and knowledge, for I believe in your commandments. Before I was humbled I went astray, but now I keep your word. You are good and do good; teach me your statutes."

The passage from proverbs tells us that Wisdom "is a tree of life to those who lay hold of her; those who hold her fast are called happy (or in another translation will be blessed)." Seeking wisdom, personified here as the very tree of life is the way of life, the way of healing and the way of hope. Nature itself has much to teach us about regeneration and flourishing even in dry and barren places. The concept of rewilding areas of land and of letting depleted soil regenerate so that native species of flora and fauna might return are particularly encouraging.

Ecological and environmental issues can seem huge, overwhelming and unsolvable but the passage from Corinthians reminds us that we are not acting in our strength "since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart." and that in God and Jesus Christ we find light to enlighten even dark times where the way ahead seems unclear or obscured: "For it is the God who said 'Let light shine out of the darkness', who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ."

### **Conversation Questions**

1. Take some time to honestly reflect on your response to current climate and environmental issues perhaps using some of the passages examined in the homily as a starting point or another appropriate piece of scripture that speaks to you.
2. Where might you find wisdom about your response to the needs of creation and our environment?
3. Is there anything else from the passage not already discussed that speaks to you? What is it?
4. What will you do this week in your Monday-to-Saturday ministry in response to what you have heard today? #everydayfaith

## **Prayer**

Spend some time in prayer, responding to what you have heard today and listening to what God might be saying to you.

## **Collect of the day**

*Almighty God,  
whose only Son has opened for us  
a new and living way into your presence:  
give us pure hearts and steadfast wills  
to worship you in spirit and in truth;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.*

*(or)*

*Merciful God,  
your Son came to save us  
and bore our sins on the cross:  
may we trust in your mercy  
and know your love,  
rejoicing in the righteousness  
that is ours through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

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