

# 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.*

## Sunday 21st 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.**

### Old Testament: Proverbs 3:13-18

*A reading from the book of Proverbs.*

Happy are those who find wisdom, and those who get  
understanding, for her income is better than silver, and  
her revenue better than gold.  
She is more precious than jewels, and nothing you desire  
can compare with her.  
Long life is in her right hand; in her left hand are riches  
and honour.  
Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are  
peace.  
She is a tree of life to those who lay hold of her; those  
who hold her fast are called happy.

*This is the word of the Lord,*

**All: Thanks be to God.**

### New Testament: 2 Corinthians 4:1-6

*A reading from Paul's 2nd letter to the Corinthians.*

Therefore, since it is by God's mercy that we are en-  
gaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart.  
We have renounced the shameful things that one hides;  
we refuse to practise cunning or to falsify God's word;  
but by the open statement of the truth we commend  
ourselves to the conscience of everyone in the sight of  
God.  
And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who  
are perishing.  
In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds  
of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of  
the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of  
God.  
For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus  
Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus'  
sake.  
For it is the God who said, 'Let light shine out of dark-  
ness', who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the  
knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ

*This is the word of the Lord,*

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## The Holy Gospel: Matthew 9:9-13

*Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ*

*according to Matthew.*

As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Mat-  
thew sitting at the tax booth; and he said to him,  
'Follow me.' And he got up and followed him.  
And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax-  
collectors and sinners came and were sitting with him  
and his disciples.

When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples,  
'Why does your teacher eat with tax-collectors and  
sinners?'

But when he heard this, he said, '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.'*

*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.**

