

FOLLOW ME

A Meditation on the Calling of Saint Matthew · St. Matthew ix. 9

A tax office is not where we expect to find a saint. Matthew sat at the receipt of custom in Capernaum, collecting Roman tolls from his own countrymen — a trade that made him a fixture of the town and an outcast in the synagogue, distrusted for the coin he handled and the empire he served.

And Jesus, passing by, *"saw a man, named Matthew, sitting at the receipt of custom, and he saith unto him, Follow me."* No résumé was asked for, no explanation given. Two words, spoken to a man mid-ledger, and everything after is different: *"and he arose, and followed him."*

He did not follow empty-handed. Where the other Gospels record only the call, Matthew's own Gospel adds what he did next — he made a great feast in his house, and there sat down with him *"many publicans and sinners,"* his old company, now guests at a table where Christ himself reclined. The first thing the newly called apostle did was bring his former life within reach of his new Lord.

When the Pharisees murmured at the company he kept, Jesus answered for him: *"They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick. I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance."* The call is never a certificate of merit; it is a summons issued precisely where it is least expected and most needed.

The tax-gatherer became an Evangelist, and set down for the whole Church the words that had remade him. Whatever ledger any of us is bent over this morning, the same voice still passes by, and still says only, *Follow me.*

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THE ORDER OF HOLY COMMUNION

Saint Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist

THE SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

20 SEPTEMBER 2026



Guido Reni, Saint Matthew and the Angel, c. 1635 · Pinacoteca Vaticana, Rome

*The Church of Our Saviour and the Holy Apostles
The Church of Our Saviour, Santa Barbara*

The Church of Our Saviour

The Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity

20 September 2026

The Processional Hymn.....*Sine Nomine*....# 126

INTROIT. *Os Justi. Ps. 37.* THE mouth of the righteous is exercised in wisdom : and his tongue will be talking of judgement : the law of God is in his heart. Ps. *ibid.* Fret not thyself because of the ungodly : neither be thou envious against evil doers. V. Glory be.

The Collect for Purity & Summary of the Law.....p. 67

The Ninefold Kyrie (Greek).....*Willan*....# 710

The Gloria in Excelsis.....*Old Scottish Chant*....# 739

The Collect for Saint Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist.....p. 250

The Epistle: 2 Corinthians iv. 1.....p. 250

GRADUAL & ALLELUIA. *Ps. 112.* Blessed is the man that feareth the Lord : he hath great delight in his commandments. V. His seed shall be mighty upon earth : the generation of the faithful shall be blessed. Alleluia, alleluia. V. The glorious company of the Apostles praise thee, O Lord. Alleluia.

The Holy Gospel: St. Matthew ix. 9.....p. 251

The Nicene Creed.....p. 71

The Sermon

OFFERTORY. *Ps. 21.* Thou hast set, O Lord, a crown of pure gold upon his head : he asked life of thee, and thou gavest him a long life, alleluia.

The Offertory Hymn.....# 253

The Doxology.....*Old Hundredth*....# 139

THE ORATE FRATRES. V/ Pray, brethren, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God the Father Almighty. R/ May the Lord receive this sacrifice at thy hand to the praise and glory of his Name, both to our benefit and that of all his holy Church. (To which the priest responds: Amen.)

The Prayer for the Church & General Confession.....p. 74

The Absolution and Comfortable Words.....p. 76

The Sursum Corda and Proper Preface

The Sanctus and Benedictus.....*Willan*....# 711

THE PRAYER OF CONSECRATION.....p. 80

The Lord's Prayer, the Fraction & Pax Domini

The Agnus Dei.....*Willan*....# 712

The Prayer for Unity.....p. 49

The Prayer of Humble Access.....p. 82

The Communion Hymn.....*Rendez a Dieu*....# 195

The Prayer of Thanksgiving.....p. 83

COMMUNION. *Ibid.* His honour is great in thy salvation : glory and great worship shalt thou lay upon him, O Lord.

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT. O LORD, who hast vouchsafed to make us partakers of this holy Sacrament : grant, we beseech thee, that at the intercession of thy blessed Apostle and Evangelist Saint Matthew, the sacrifice we have offered to the increase of his glory may be profitable unto us for the healing of our souls. [Through.]

The Dismissal · V/ Depart in Peace · R/ Thanks be to God

The Blessing.....p. 84

The Recessional Hymn.....*Ballerma*....# 127