

Saint Matthias the Apostle

14 May

Holy Day

Today we commemorate Matthias, who was chosen to take the place of Judas Iscariot in the company of the twelve apostles.

We know nothing about his life and ministry beyond the first chapter of the Book of Acts. The eleven apostles wanted a twelfth to complete their number, and the lot fell to Matthias. We never find out what made him the better candidate, nor do we ever hear of him again in all the New Testament. We are left with the impression that he was important only because there needed to be *twelve* apostles.

According to the Book of Acts, the Apostles were appointed for the sake of proclaiming Jesus to the children of Israel.

“Israel” was originally the name of a person, and that person was Jacob, the grandson of Abraham. He had twelve sons, and they became the patriarchs of the twelve Hebrew tribes that Moses led out of Egypt into freedom. That was the reason for having twelve apostles. They were meant to be the twelve patriarchs of the new Israel, who would lead all Jews out of this present age into the glorious liberty of the kingdom of heaven.

Matthias was chosen to fill up the ancient number of twelve and thus fulfill Israel’s heritage by helping to beget the new Israel “in the Spirit.” By honouring him today, we commit ourselves to a similar task, by enabling others to become children of the new Israel, begotten in the Spirit through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

See Readings, page 548.

Sentence

I chose you and appointed you, says the Lord, that you should go and bear fruit, fruit that will last. *John 15.16*

Collect

Almighty God,
who in the place of Judas
chose Matthias to be numbered in the twelve,
preserve your Church from false apostles,
and by the ministry of faithful pastors and teachers
keep us steadfast in your truth;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Readings

Acts 1.15-26 *or* Philipians 3.13b-22 Psalm 15

Refrain The just shall dwell on your holy mountain. *Or v. 1 or CR 3*
John 15.1, 6-16

Prayer over the Gifts

Father,
receive our offering of praise this day,
and when our faith is weak,
show us the light of your truth,
that we may continue in the way of righteousness,
revealed to us in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Preface of Apostles

Prayer after Communion

Gracious God,
you constantly give life to your people.
May we who receive these holy things
remain faithful to your call.
This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.