Welcome to Morning Prayer with the people of the Green Mountain Online Abbey.

A few notes about today's service.
Please *leave your microphone on mute* during the responsory portions of the service. You are welcome to unmute yourself when you are invited to offer your prayers, then remember to mute it again when you have completed your prayer.

We will always read the Gospel appointed for the day so that we can read and meditate on Jesus' words and teaching.

Morning Prayer

*September 21, 2020*

*Monday of Ordinary Time, Proper 20*

*Saint Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist*
Opening Sentence

*The Officiant says the following*

Keep on praying and guard your prayers with thanksgiving.
*Colossians 4:2*

Invitatory and Psalter

*Officiant*  O God, open our lips.
*People*   And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

*All*   Praise to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God:
    as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be

*Officiant*  Our God orders all things well:
*People*   Come, let us worship.

*Said in unison*  **Jubilate**  *Psalm 100*

May all lands be joyful before you, O God, *
serve with gladness
    and come before your presence with a song.

For we know that you are God; *
you yourself have made us, and we are yours;
    we are your people and the sheep of your pasture.
We shall enter your gates with thanksgiving,
go into your courts with praise, *
give thanks to you and call upon your Name.

For you are good; your mercy is everlasting; *
and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

*Officiant*  Our God orders all things well:
*People*  Come, let us worship.

**Psalm Appointed**

*read in unison* **Psalm 119:33-40** He *Legem pone*

33 Teach me, O God, the way of your statutes,* 
and I shall keep it to the end.

34 Give me understanding, and I shall keep your law; * 
I shall keep it with all my heart.

35 Make me go in the path of your commandments, * 
for that is my desire.

36 Incline my heart to your decrees * 
and not to unjust gain.

37 Turn my eyes from watching what is worthless; * 
give me life in your ways.
38 Fulfill your promise to your servant, * which you make to those who fear you.

39 Turn away the reproach which I dread, * because your judgments are good.

40 Behold, I long for your commandments; * in your righteousness preserve my life.

Praise to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

The Lessons

First Reading

Reader  A reading from 2 Timothy 3:14-17

As for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it, and how from childhood you have known the sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.

Here ends the reading.
Surely God is my salvation; *
    I will trust and will not be afraid,
For God is my strength and my might *
    and will be my Savior.
Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing
from the springs of salvation, *
    and on that day you shall say,
    Give thanks and call upon God’s name;
Make known God’s deeds among the peoples; *
    proclaim that God’s name is exalted;
Sing praises to the Most High who has done great things; *
    let this be known in all the world.
Shout aloud and sing for joy, O inhabitants of Zion, *
    for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.
Praise to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God*
    as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be
    for ever. Amen.

The Gospel

Reader: A reading from the Gospel of Matthew 9:9-13

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. 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.”

Here ends the reading.

The Apostles' Creed

All say together

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
   creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
   He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
   and born of the Virgin Mary.
   He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
     was crucified, died, and was buried.
   He descended to the dead.
   On the third day he rose again.
   He ascended into heaven,
     and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
   He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
   the holy catholic Church,
   the communion of saints,
   the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Prayers

Officiant  God be with you.
People     And also with you.
Officiant  Let us pray.
Our Father in heaven,
    hallowed be your Name,
    your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
    as we forgive those
    who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
    and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
    and the glory are yours,
    now and for ever. Amen.

Suffrages

V. Help us, O God our Savior;
R. Deliver us and forgive us our sins.
V. Look upon your congregation;
R. Give to your people the blessing of peace.
V. Declare your glory among the nations;
R. And your wonders among all peoples.
V. Do not let the oppressed be shamed and turned away;
R. Never forget the lives of your poor.
V. Continue your loving-kindness to those who know you;
R. And your favor to those who are true of heart.
V. Satisfy us by your loving-kindness in the morning;
R. So shall we rejoice and be glad all the days of our life.

The Collects

The Collect of the Day

Proper 20
Grant us, Lord, not to be anxious about earthly things, but to love things heavenly; and even now, while we are placed among things that are passing away, to hold fast to those that shall endure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

We thank you, heavenly Father, for the witness of your apostle and evangelist Matthew to the Gospel of your Son our Savior; and we pray that, after his example, we may with ready wills and hearts obey the calling of our Lord to follow him; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.
Together
A Collect for Guidance
O God, our Creator and Sustainer, in you we live and move and have our being: We humbly pray you so to guide and govern us by your Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our life we may not forget you, but may remember that we are ever walking in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

For People Facing Uncertainty
God of the present moment, God who in Jesus stills the storm and soothes the frantic heart; bring hope and courage to us all as we wait in uncertainty. Bring hope that you will make us the equal of whatever lies ahead. Bring us courage to endure what cannot be avoided, for your will is health and wholeness; you are God, and we need you. Amen.

The Officiant says
I invite your prayers of thanksgiving and intercession at this time.

(During the silence people may add their own prayers. Please unmute yourself to share your prayer aloud. When you have completed your prayer, return the microphone to mute.)

The Officiant
O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son: Look with compassion on the whole
human family; take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts and our nation; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth; that in your good time, all nations and races may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ our Savior, Amen.

The Officiant concludes with the Collect for Mission

A Collect for Mission

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of your faithful people is governed and sanctified: Receive our supplications and prayers which we offer before you for all members of your holy Church, that in their vocation and ministry they may truly and devoutly serve you; through our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

The General Thanksgiving

The Officiant and People say together
Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks for all your goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all whom you have made. We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life;
but above all for your immeasurable love
in the redemption of the world
by our Lord Jesus Christ;
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.
And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,
that with truly thankful hearts
we may show forth your praise,
not only with our lips,
but in our lives,
by giving up our selves to your service,
and by walking before you
in holiness and righteousness all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.

Together A Collect of Dedication
Beloved God: As we offer ourselves to you this day, guide
and stir us with your Holy Spirit, that we may become one
body, one spirit in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Dismissal
 Deacon or Officiant       Let us bless God.
 People                     To God be thanks forever.

Concluding Sentences
The grace of our Savior Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and
the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore.
Amen.
May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Glory to God, whose power working in us can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. Glory to God from generation to generation in the church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. Amen.

**Commemoration**

Matthew, one of Jesus’ disciples, is probably to be identified with Levi, a tax collector (“publican”) mentioned by Mark and Luke. In the Gospel according to Matthew, it is said that Matthew was seated in the custom-house when Jesus invited him, “Follow me.” When Jesus called him, he at once left everything, followed Jesus, and later gave a dinner for him. Mark and Luke also note that Levi was a tax collector. In all three accounts, Jesus is severely criticized for eating at the same table with tax collectors and other disreputable persons. Tax collectors were viewed as collaborators with the Roman State, extortioners who took money from their own people to further the cause of Rome and to line their own pockets. They were spurned as traitors and outcasts. The Jews so abhorred them that pious Pharisees refused to marry into a family that had a publican as a member. Clearly, Matthew was hardly the type of man that a devout Jew would have had among his closest associates. Yet Jesus noted that it was the publican rather than the proud Pharisee who prayed the acceptable prayer, “Lord, be merciful to me, a sinner.” There are several favorable
references to publicans in the sayings of Jesus in the Gospel according to Matthew. According to the early Christian writers Irenaeus and Clement of Alexandria, Matthew converted many people to Christianity in Judea, and then traveled on to the East; however, there is no certain evidence for this. He has traditionally been venerated as a martyr, but the time and circumstances of his death are unknown.

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