

**Addresses  
for  
Morning and Evening Prayer**

according to the  
1943 Lectionary  
of the  
**USA 1928 Book of Common Prayer**

Intended for use  
by Layreaders  
in the absence of a priest

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**St. Matthew  
(September 21)**

**St. Matthew, September 21. Only Morning Prayer so far.  
Homily for Evening prayer will be written.**

## **Morning Prayer**

### **First Lesson: 1 Kings 19:15-16, 19-21**

*Here beginneth the fifteenth verse of the nineteenth chapter of the First Book of Kings.*

15 And the LORD said unto him, Go, return on thy way to the wilderness of Damascus: and when thou comest, anoint Hazael to be king over Syria:  
 16 And Jehu the son of Nimshi shalt thou anoint to be king over Israel: and Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abelmeholah shalt thou anoint to be prophet in thy room.

**19** So he departed thence, and found Elisha the son of Shaphat, who was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen before him, and he with the twelfth: and Elijah passed by him, and cast his mantle upon him.  
 20 And he left the oxen, and ran after Elijah, and said, Let me, I pray thee, kiss my father and my mother, and then I will follow thee. And he said unto him, Go back again: for what have I done to thee?

21 And he returned back from him, and took a yoke of oxen, and slew them, and boiled their flesh with the instruments of the oxen, and gave unto the people, and they did eat. Then he arose, and went after Elijah, and ministered unto him.

*Here endeth the First Lesson.*

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13 I give thee charge in the sight of God, who quickeneth all things, and before Christ Jesus, who before Pontius Pilate witnessed a good confession;  
 14 That thou keep this commandment without spot, unrebutable, until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ:

15 Which in his times he shall shew, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords;

16 Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honour and power everlasting. Amen.

17 Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy;

18 That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate;

19 Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.

*Here endeth the Second Lesson.*

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### **Homily to be written**

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26 When he made a decree for the rain, and a way for the lightning of the thunder:

27 Then did he see it, and declare it; he prepared it, yea, and searched it out.

28 And unto man he said, Behold, the fear of the LORD, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding.

*Here endeth the First Lesson.*

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### **Second Lesson: 1 Tim 6:6-19**

*Here beginneth the sixth verse of the sixth chapter of the First Epistle of St. Paul to St. Timothy.*

6 But godliness with contentment is great gain.

7 For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out.

8 And having food and raiment let us be therewith content.

9 But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition.

10 For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

11 But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness.

12 Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.

### **Second Lesson: Matt 19:16-30**

*Here beginneth the sixteenth verse of the nineteenth chapter of the Gospel according to St. Matthew.*

16 And, behold, one came and said unto him, Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life?

17 And he said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments.

18 He saith unto him, Which? Jesus said, Thou shalt do no murder, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness,

19 Honour thy father and thy mother: and, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

20 The young man saith unto him, All these things have I kept from my youth up: what lack I yet?

21 Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me.

22 But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful: for he had great possessions.

23 Then said Jesus unto his disciples, Verily I say unto you, That a rich man shall hardly enter into the kingdom of heaven.

24 And again I say unto you, It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God.

25 When his disciples heard it, they were exceedingly amazed, saying, Who then can be saved?

26 But Jesus beheld them, and said unto them, With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible.

27 Then answered Peter and said unto him, Behold, we have forsaken all, and followed thee; what shall we have therefore?

28 And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

29 And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name's sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life.

30 But many that are first shall be last; and the last shall be first.

*Here endeth the Second Lesson.*

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## **Evening Prayer**

### **First Lesson: Job 28:12-28**

*Here beginneth the twelfth verse  
of the twenty-eighth chapter of the Book of Job.*

12 But where shall wisdom be found? and where is the place of understanding?

13 Man knoweth not the price thereof; neither is it found in the land of the living.

14 The depth saith, It is not in me: and the sea saith, It is not with me.

15 It cannot be gotten for gold, neither shall silver be weighed for the price thereof.

16 It cannot be valued with the gold of Ophir, with the precious onyx, or the sapphire.

17 The gold and the crystal cannot equal it: and the exchange of it shall not be for jewels of fine gold.

18 No mention shall be made of coral, or of pearls: for the price of wisdom is above rubies.

19 The topaz of Ethiopia shall not equal it, neither shall it be valued with pure gold.

20 Whence then cometh wisdom? and where is the place of understanding?

21 Seeing it is hid from the eyes of all living, and kept close from the fowls of the air.

22 Destruction and death say, We have heard the fame thereof with our ears.

23 God understandeth the way thereof, and he knoweth the place thereof.

24 For he looketh to the ends of the earth, and seeth under the whole heaven;

25 To make the weight for the winds; and he weigheth the waters by measure.

But are we letting ourselves get comfortable again?  
 Are we making decisions based more on  
 preserving what we now have  
 than on following Our Lord wherever He leads?  
 Are we valuing our present buildings  
 the way we valued the ones we had to leave?  
 Will what we no have hold us back?  
 Or is the love of Jesus the one thing that matters?  
 Is bringing that love to our neighbors  
 the most important thing in our lives?  
 Or have we gone back to our old habits,  
 and walked sadly away?

Let us pray.

Direct us, O Lord, in all our doings, with thy most gracious favour, and further us with thy continual help; that in all our works begun, continued, and ended in thee, we may glorify thy holy Name, and finally, by thy mercy, obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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## Homily

St. Matthew, as we know, was a tax-collector, and thus considered by the native Jews as a money-grubbing traitor, enriching himself by serving the occupying enemy, at the expense of his own people.

Perhaps most of this was true.

We do know that Matthew was very prosperous. But Jesus saw more in him than that, and called him to be His disciple, and an Apostle, and the writer of a Gospel. After Pentecost, He preached in Judea and in the East, ultimately dying for his faith, either in Ethiopia or in Persia.

What memories must have gone through his head as he wrote what we read today!

A rich young noble came to Jesus.

Perhaps he'd sensed a call much like what Matthew heard.

Something drew him to the Master What Jesus had, he wanted, but what he already had, had such a grip on him that he could not let it go, and, instead walked away sadly, with a deep emptiness in his soul, that likely lasted all the rest of his life.

Matthew had the same choice offered him one day, just as did Elisha in our Old Testament reading. He was also prosperous.

Our text stresses that, by mentioning twelve yoke of oxen,

that's twenty-four beasts,  
seriously expensive livestock  
There was a fortune at stake here,  
but Elisha wound up his affairs and followed;  
and so did Matthew.  
Both of them gave up a great deal.  
Neither of them had an easy life after that.  
They'd both been used to comfort,  
to wealth and a certain kind of prestige.  
And now they'd given up their wealth,  
their servants, their homes,  
and became mere students of wandering preachers.  
But they knew their destiny.  
They had a word for the people of God.  
Eventually the Prophet Elijah was taken up  
in that fiery chariot, into heaven,  
and Elisha continued his work on earth.  
Eventually the Lord Jesus,  
after He had died and risen,  
was taken up into heaven,  
and Matthew and the other Apostles  
remained to continue His work on earth.  
  
Nothing ever got easy for either of them,  
but they carried on the work of God,  
and His word and His salvation multiplied.  
Matthew ultimately gave up his life,  
but he sits today on one of the twelve thrones  
around his Lord in heaven.  
  
It's harder for a rich man  
to enter into the Kingdom of heaven,  
than for a camel  
to go through the eye of a needle,  
said Jesus,

but he went on:  
With God all things are possible,  
and Matthew illustrates that well.  
  
Today's Scripture Lessons,  
and the life of St. Matthew  
present us with a tremendous and difficult,  
but not impossible challenge:  
  
We're Americans.  
One thing that means is that we have stuff.  
Even the poorest of us have enough  
to make us look rich in the eyes of other nations.  
We are blessed, and should be thankful.  
But we hear the question today:  
Do we have things?  
Or do things have us?  
When we hear the call of God,  
are the things we need to leave behind  
going to keep us from answering the call.  
St. Matthew left his house, his riches, his comforts,  
and eventually his physical life  
in order to follow his Master.  
The young nobleman couldn't do that.  
How about us?  
  
We Continuing Anglicans  
have had practical choices to make.  
Many of us were in comfortable churches,  
with beautiful buildings and expensive programs,  
and sometimes a lot of prestige.  
Many of us have had to walk away from all that,  
in order to answer the call of truth,  
and it often has not been easy.