

2 Jesus called a tax-collector to be one of His Apostles. Jesus didn't consult with the leaders as to whom they consider acceptable. This is a really good thing. My Baptismal Certificate is in an envelope on the shelf above my desk. It is there to remind me that I was 41 days old when God called me to belong to Him. I couldn't walk or talk, so God did all the work of giving me righteousness. 3 Jesus ate with those whom the leadership considered beneath themselves. The Pharisees would likely have thrown elaborate dinner parties for politically connected people, but they never would have eaten with them as that would show acceptance. The even better news is that God not only eats with us, He feeds us on the Body and Blood of His Only-Begotten-Son that we are kept with Him. Your faith offends the Pharisees. Your faith pleases God the Father. There is nothing we can do to pay God back for what He has done, but every day in every way, we try to live up to His expectation.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

© Almighty God, our heavenly Father You are our strength and stay. Uphold all creation by Your power. Sustain the Earth and all who live here by Your Love. Help us as we walk in Your way, to do it in the wisdom that only comes from You.

We praise You for the revelation of Your essence in Your law, in which You have taught us Your holy will and by which You govern the world. Grant that Your law may ever instruct us in righteousness, that we will listen to Your laws as commandments that keep us from its judgments.

We thank You that in the merits and mercies of Christ our Lord You have prepared for us the great supper of salvation. Through the preaching of the Gospel You have called all to come and partake; to break bread in Your kingdom. We pray that Your Church may faithfully bring Your invitation to all nations and that many may respond with ready and willing hearts. Send forth messengers to invite those in the streets and lanes of the city and those on the highways of life, the poor, the maimed the troubled, that they may taste of Your supper and see that You are merciful and good.

Lord of hosts, rule over all to whom You have committed authority. Refine our society by giving it purity of motive, nobleness of purpose, and strength of character. Bless our homes, that they may be places of true wisdom and love, that all therein will abide in peace, joy and harmony with one another. Comfort the sick and the sorrowful, the aged and the lonely. Tenderly bestow upon them Your grace and show us all the great mercy You have prepared.

Hear us as we bring to You our private petitions. (Time of silent prayer.) Hear our prayer O Father, and if there is anything else we should have asked, grant it to us for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior and intercessor.

© Amen.

PROPER FIVE

Chant Tone



Introit The Mighty One, God, the Lord, speaks and sum mons the Earth* from the rising of the Sun to its — setting. Hear, O My people, and I will speak, O Israel, I will testify a — gainst you:* I am God, your God. Not for your sacrifices do I re — buke you;* your burnt offerings are continually be — fore Me. I will not accept a bull from your house* or goats from your folds.	For every beast of the fo rest is Mine,* and the cattle on a thousand hills. Glory be to the Father and to the Son* and to the Holy — Spirit; as it was in the be — ginning,* is now, and will be forever. — Amen. The Mighty One, God, the Lord, speaks and sum mons the Earth* from the rising of the sun to its — setting. <i>(Antiphon, Psalm 50:1; Psalm 50:7-10)</i>
--	--

Collect of the Day

Almighty and most merciful God, You sent Your Son, Jesus Christ, to seek and to save the lost. Graciously open our ears and our hearts to hear His call and to follow Him by faith that we may feast with Him forever in His kingdom; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever.

Gradual

Great is the Lord, and greatly | to be praised,*
and His greatness is un | searchable.
On Your wondrous works, I will | meditate.*
and I will declare Your — greatness.

(Psalm 145:3, 5b, 6b)

ENTRANCE PRAYER: Lord God, heavenly Father, we come before You with thanksgiving and praise. We praise You for our creation, preservation, and redemption. We thank You for raising Your Son Jesus Christ from the dead and for preparing a place eternal in the heavens for all who trust in Your Son as their Savior. For sending us Your Holy Spirit so that we might accept Jesus Christ as Lord, we give You thanks. We pray for our leaders in both state and church, make them of one mind with You. Be with the sick, the lonely, the depressed. We ask these favors, O Lord, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen (So be it, Lord.)

THE FALL INTO SIN TOOK SO MUCH AWAY FROM US; THINGS THAT ARE ONLY REPLACED THROUGH THE LIFE OF JESUS.

We live in a world that only honors the efforts of our hands. In a recent "Dilbert" the question was, would we want to be paid a handsome salary even if all our efforts were worthless, or would we put up with poverty if all our ideas were wildly successful and used immediately. The question for a Christian is not one of sacrifice and reward but mercy and life with God. The call of Matthew into the holy ministry is a perfect example of God calling and ordaining exactly whom He will choose. Matthew was looked down on because of his status, but God had placed Matthew in this position for exactly the moment of his call. We are where we are that God will work through us to accomplish His purpose in the world.

THEME OF THE DAY:

Called To Follow Jesus

INTROIT—(Antiphon: Psalm 50:1;) Psalm 50:7-10

This is titled, "A psalm of Asaph." We know that all the Psalms were set to music mostly by Asaph. (Asaph set David's Psalms to music.) We do not know what instruments were played or the sound of the music. Asaph also wrote Psalm 50. This is a statement of instruction. We are not righteous from our works. It is the work of Jesus received by faith in Him.

COLLECT

This prayer is built on the Gospel Lesson. We ask to be given the ability to hear Jesus calling us to follow Him for our salvation.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON—Hosea 5:15–6:6

After Solomon's reign, the Hebrew nation divided itself into two. The ten Northern Tribes (of which Ephraim was the largest) and the two Southern Tribes (Judah and Benjamin.) The Northern Tribes were falling away from God. Hosea was sent to call them back. For 38 years he called them to return to the Lord. Our lesson for today is a wonderful example of the willingness of God to receive us and bring us back. It didn't work for the Northern Tribes, but it did work for Matthew.

GRADUAL—Psalm 145:3, 5b, 6b

Psalm 145 is titled, "David's Psalm of Praise." (The last 5 Psalms are all hymns of praise.) David, concentrated on the Greatness of God and the proofs of the administration of His kingdom as that which we are to praise. We see the grace and mercy of God that allows us to be His disciple.

EPISTLE LESSON—Romans 4:13-25

Paul was an amazing person. He was massively intelligent and well versed in argument and presentation. He was a replacement Apostle from a replacement tribe. (Judges chapters 20 and 21 explain the destruction and replacement of the Tribe of Benjamin.) The people wanted to be righteous because of their birth as the "chosen people" or at very least because they were better than the "sinners" around them. Paul argued that we are justified by faith not by works, (which accords with our Introit and Old Testament lessons.) Paul spent his life trying to convince the Jews to turn from their error and believe that Jesus is the Christ, the One the Old Testament promised as the Messiah.

GOSPEL LESSON—Matthew 9:9-13

There is always a danger in a commentary that is longer than the number of words in the Pericope, but here we go. There are three issues that are bothering the Pharisees. 1 Jesus healed a paralysed man and the crowds glorified Him. They were losing control of the people and they didn't like it.