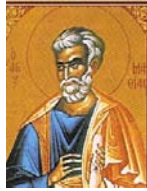


August 9

C. ✠ *Holy Apostle Matthias*



He was born in Bethlehem, from the root of Judah. He received his education under the supervision of St. Simeon, the God-receiver. Originally St. Matthias was elected to be among the 70 apostles, and after the Ascension of the Lord he was chosen by lot to be among the 12 apostles, replacing Judas Iscariot (Acts 1:15-26). St. Matthias preached the Gospel in Judea, Ethiopia and Macedonia. With his godly wise words dispersing "the fog of godlessness", enlightening "those sitting in darkness", deposing idolatrous "pride", he converted many to Christ. That is why the Holy Church called him "the hunter of those who strayed" and "the lamp of the Church of Christ". Preaching, he worked many wonders. He healed the blind, the lame, lepers, expelled evil spirits and raised the dead. The persecutor of Christians in Jerusalem, the high priest Ananias, demanded the apostle to appear in court. Ananias in court tried to expose Christ and His disciples as seducers of the people and traitors to fatherland. But Matthias proved that Christ is the promised Messiah on the basis of prophecies and transformations with evidence. Then they accused him of blasphemy and stoned him, but to please the Romans, as if he were an opponent of Caesar, they beheaded the apostle by the sword.

Kontakion, tone 4

**Having radiated light like the sun into the entire world,
Your good news enlightens the pagan temple with grace,
O Wonder-bearing Apostle Matthias.**

Paramoegas: 1) Acts 1:15-26. 2) 1 John 3:21-24, 4:1-6. 3) 1 John 4:11-16. **Matins Gospel:** John 21:15-25; sel. 67. **Epistle:** Acts 1:12-17, 21-26; sel. 2. **Gospel:** Luke 9:1-6; sel. 40.

Martyr Anthony. He was born in Alexandria and after terrible tortures was burned for his faith in Christ.

Martyrs Julian, Marcian, John, Jacob, Alexius, Demetrius, Photius (Phocas), Peter, Leontius, Maria, Patricia and others with them, cruelly suffered during the reign of Emperor Leo the Isaurian because they overthrew the soldier who on the order of the iconoclast emperor wanted to remove the image of the Savior which was located above the so-called copper gate in Constantinople. After heavy and prolonged tortures all the holy martyrs were beheaded (in 730). Their bodies were buried in Pelagia (this district

was in Constantinople) and after 139 years were found incorrupt. The Martyr Photius in some monuments is called Phocas.

Ven. Psoi. He was tonsured in Egypt in the IV century and was a disciple of the Ven. Pachomius the Great.

Ven. Macarius, disciple of the Ven. Alexander of Svir and founder of the Dormition (now vacated) Monastery on the Oredezh River beyond Lake Ladoga. The time of his end is not known. His relics are in a hidden place in the church of the vacant monastery.

*S. V. Bulgakov, Handbook for Church Servers, 2nd ed., 1274 pp. (Kharkov, 1900) p 0277-8
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