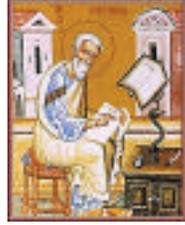


November 16

.. + *Holy Apostle and Evangelist Matthew*



The Holy Apostle Matthew, also named Levi, was born in Nazareth, and up to his calling was a publican and in Capernaum had his duty house, i.e. a special place for collecting duties, probably, from the courts coming by sea to Capernaum. As Jesus Christ was passing, He saw Matthew, sitting at the duty office. Jesus said to him: "Follow Me. And he arose and followed" Him (Mt. 9:9). After he was called by the Lord to the rank of the 12 apostles, he preached the Gospel in Palestine, Syria, Media, Persia, India and Ethiopia, announcing peace, life and salvation", and "to the pagans falling into fiery temptation". He died, according to tradition, by fire in about the year 60. He wrote his Gospel for the Palestinian Christians in which he mainly announces the incarnation of the Son of God, about His origin in the flesh from David and Abraham and consequently more than the others pointed out the fulfillment of the ancient prophecies about Jesus Christ.

Troparion, tone 3

**Fervently, you followed Christ the Master,
Who in His goodness, appeared to men on earth.
He called you from the duty house,
Revealing you as a chosen apostle:
The announcer of the Gospel to all the universe.
Therefore, divinely eloquent Matthew,
We honor your precious memory. //
Pray to the merciful God to grant remission of sins to our souls.**

Kontakion, tone 4

**You renounced the occupation of a publican,
Becoming a merchant rich in divine wisdom.
Preaching the word of truth as a teacher of righteousness,
You exhort us to await the King of glory in vigilance. //
And have given us a faithful account of the final judgment.**

(Translated by the Holy Myrrh-bearing Women Monastery)

Paramoegas: see Nov. 14. **Matins Gospel:** see Apr. 30. **Epistle:** see Apr. 27
Gospel: Mt. 9:6-13; sel. 30.

St. Fulvianus, Prince of Ethiopia, in holy Baptism Matthew

He handed over the Holy Apostle Matthew to fire, but seeing the miracles leading to the death of the Holy Apostle, believed in Christ and zealously preached the Christian faith. Later for his saintly life he became worthy of the rank of bishop. He died in peace.

Repose of the Venerable Sergius of Malopinega

He was the priest of the Transfiguration Church, in the district of Malopinega, Archangel Province. He served as pastor for 62 years and, according to the Chronicles, "he had merciful soul, chaste thought, kind heart, humility and quiet meekness, and love that truly was not hypocritical, and was merciful to the poor up to self denial". He did much work to convert the pagan Chudians to Christ. He died a schema monk in 1585. His grave produced many miracles.

*S. V. Bulgakov, **Manual for Church Servers**, 2nd ed., 1274 pp. (Kharkov, 1900) p. 415
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