

Saint Matthew, pray for us!



The Children's Word is a weekly bulletin for Orthodox Christian kids. Copyright 2025 Alexandra Houck. Email is [orthodoxchildrensword\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:orthodoxchildrensword(at)gmail.com). Find it each week at orthodoxchildrensword.org.

The Children's Word

"Let the little children come to me, and do not forbid them, for to such is the Kingdom of Heaven." Mark 10:14

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God gives gifts to all

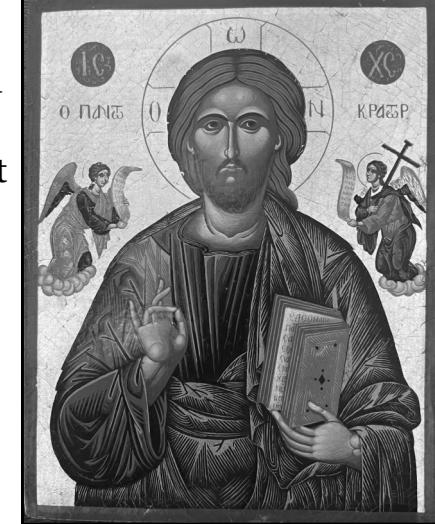
What if you asked your parents

for a treat, and your brother or sister or friend asked for one too. What if your parents gave the treat to the other one, but not to you? That wouldn't be fair, would it?

Today's epistle reading tells us that God doesn't work like that! We hear, "There is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and bestows His riches upon all who call upon Him." In other words, God gives His gifts to anybody who asks for them.

God doesn't treat somebody differently because he is older or younger. Or because she just became a Christian or has been a Christian all her life. God gives these gifts to all. The Bible tells us, God will save anybody who really wants to be saved, anybody who really wants to be with Him.

We know that God is loving, and we know that He wants to give "His riches upon all who call upon Him." So we can be confident when we pray to God! We can call upon our Lord, and we can ask Him to help us be strong Christians. We can call upon our Lord, and we can ask Him to give us His riches, life with Christ in heaven!



WORD SEARCH

Can you find these words in the jumble?

Apostle
Evangelist
Example
Famous
Good News
Gospel
Imitator
Matthew
St Paul
Tax collector

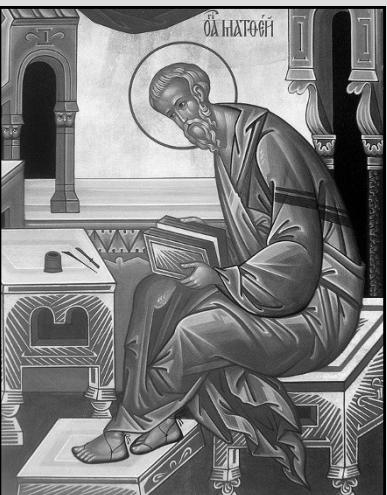
T	Q	K	K	V	Q	S	A	S	Q	A	O	R	I	A
N	S	R	Z	M	B	P	Q	W	Q	D	L	O	D	H
S	B	I	W	O	O	V	E	E	J	W	S	T	X	C
V	T	G	L	S	F	N	S	N	J	S	G	C	G	I
Z	Q	P	T	E	Q	P	M	D	U	T	J	E	O	D
S	L	L	A	W	G	Y	K	O	V	Z	C	L	S	G
X	E	X	X	U	S	N	M	O	U	B	E	L	P	N
M	F	J	Y	P	L	A	A	G	G	B	H	O	E	G
J	P	X	U	G	F	S	Y	V	N	Q	Z	C	L	V
I	M	I	T	A	T	O	R	W	E	Y	I	X	X	V
R	L	K	E	L	P	M	A	X	E	O	I	A	K	O
W	E	H	T	T	A	M	X	U	U	H	F	T	W	K
A	V	Z	Q	D	J	P	B	Q	U	F	Z	Q	W	Z
V	C	L	N	G	C	V	H	Q	C	D	T	X	T	Q
Z	D	A	T	U	E	O	Q	G	V	H	K	S	P	T

WHAT'S IN THE ICON?

Here's another icon of Saint Matthew, the Apostle and Evangelist.

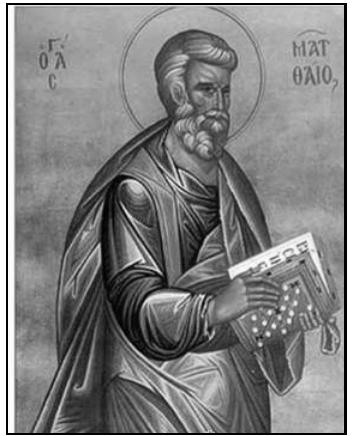
What's he doing in this icon?

He's writing the Evangelion, the Good News, the Gospel! He's telling people about what Jesus has done for all of us!



BEFORE THEY WERE FAMOUS... SAINT MATTHEW THE EVANGELIST

Sometimes, in magazines, you might see pictures of movie stars or models or athletes...BEFORE they were famous. Sometimes they look kind of funny, with hair from the 70s or with clothes you'd never wear today! But now they're famous, so it doesn't even matter!



Did you ever wonder what saints were like... before they were famous? Or before they were saints? Today we celebrate Saint Matthew.

Saint Matthew was one of the special helpers of our Lord Jesus Christ. He spent lots of his life telling people about God. He even wrote one of the books of the Bible.

But in the Gospel we usually read on his feastday (when it's not a Sunday), we hear about what he was like *before* he was Jesus's helper, *before* he followed Christ. We hear in the Gospel that Saint Matthew was a tax collector. In those days, tax collectors were big sinners because they would keep some of the taxes for themselves! People did not like these men. But our Lord trusted Matthew to become His special helper, His disciple.

So, we read what Saint Matthew was like *before* he was famous, and before God called him to be His helper. God calls all of us to be His helpers and His followers! When we know the beautiful example of Saint Matthew, we can know God loves and trusts us to turn to Him too!

We remember St. Matthew today, November 16th (OC: November 29th).