

THE GOSPELS: “WRITTEN” ICONS

Much of what we know about the earthly life of our Lord, Jesus Christ, comes to us from the writings of the 4 Evangelists: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Just as iconographers express the same theology in different styles in their works, these talented writers of the Gospels approached the story of our Savior’s life from their own, unique perspective.

MATTHEW was one of the 12 Apostles. Matthew’s Gospel, written in Aramaic, has a definite Jewish “flavor” to it. He uses numerous Old Testament quotations in his work, describing also in great detail the religious observances of the Jews. Matthew strongly emphasizes the theme of Christ being the Incarnate God—the Messiah for whom the world had awaited.

MARK was thought to have been a young man at the time of our Lord’s public ministry. According to tradition, Mark was greatly influenced by the Apostle Peter, using his teachings as the basis of his Gospel. Although the shortest and most concise, the theme of Christ coming to serve and to sacrifice is placed before us.

LUKE takes the most historical approach with his Gospel, dating biblical events by reference to secular history. Because he was writing primarily for Christians with a Gentile background like his, the challenge of mission and evangelization is brought to light with his words.

JOHN, the “beloved disciple” of our Lord, left us with a deeply theological Gospel. He clearly defines the purpose of his writing: “...these things are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ the Son of God, and that believing, you may have life in His Name.” (John 20:31)

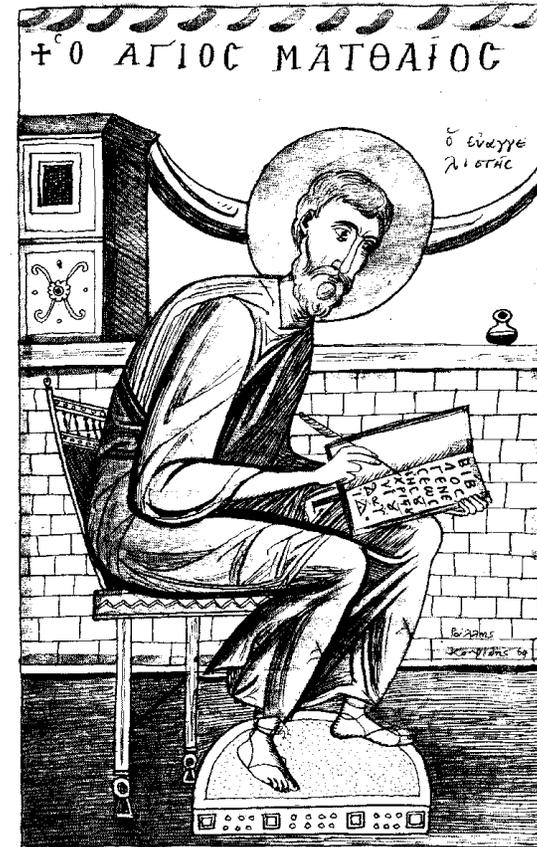
Yes, the Gospels are, indeed, “icons of Christ in words.” These men truly acted as the “bushes of the Holy Spirit” relating to us different events. They left us with one, unified message: Jesus Christ is the Son of God. Follow Him, and salvation will be yours.

To Our Visitors:

We are pleased that you have chosen to worship with us. Just a reminder, however: the Sacrament of Holy Communion is a manifestation of the *unity of the Body of Christ*. As such, only those who are members in spiritual good standing of the Orthodox Church – and who have prepared themselves for the Sacrament – may partake of the Holy Chalice. However, *everyone* is welcome to come up with our people at the end of the service to receive blessed bread. *Please be sure to join us at Coffee Hour following Services.*

Ss Constantine & Helen

Greek Orthodox Cathedral of the Pacific



November 16, 2014

St. Matthew the Apostle and Evangelist

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St. Matthew the Apostle and Evangelist

Commemoration of: St. Matthew the Apostle and Evangelist

Apolytikia - Entrance Hymns

Angelike thinamis (Resurrection Hymn) Tone 6

Apostole ayie (St. Matthew) Tone 2
O holy Apostle and Evangelist Matthew, make intercession to our merciful God, that He grant our souls forgiveness of offenses.

Tou Stavrou Sou (Hymn of the Church) Tone 8
Having seen in the sky the form of Your Cross and, like Paul, having received his calling not from men, Your apostle among Kings, Lord, placed his reigning city in Your hand, which forever you guard in peace, by the intercessions of the Theotokos, for You alone love mankind.

Kontakion

O katharotatos naos Tone 2
Behold the temple of the Savior, His precious bridal chamber. Behold the virginal and sacred vessel of God's glory. Today she enters into the house of the Lord, bearing within her the grace of the Holy Spirit. For this, the angels proclaim: She is indeed the heavenly tabernacle.

Epistle Reading Romans 10:11-21; 11:1-2
BRETHREN, God has exhibited us apostles as last of all men sentenced to death; because we have come a spectacle to the world, to angels and to men. We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are wise in Christ. We are weak, but you are strong. You are held in honor, but we in disrepute. To the present hour we hunger and thirst, we are ill-clad and buffeted and homeless, and we labor, working with our own hands. When reviled, we bless; when persecuted, we endure; when slandered, we try to conciliate; we have become, and are now, as the refuse of the world, the off-scouring of all things. I do not write this to make you ashamed, but to admonish you as my beloved children. For though you have countless guides in Christ, you do not have many fathers. For I became your father in Christ Jesus through the gospel. I urge you, then, be imitators of me.

Gospel Reading Matthew 9:9-13
At that time, as Jesus passed on from there, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at

the tax office; and he said to him, "Follow me." And he rose and followed him.

And as he sat at table in the house, behold many tax collectors and sinners came and sat down with Jesus and his disciples. And when the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" But when he heard it, he said, "Those who are well have not need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means, 'I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.' For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners."

Activities & Announcements

Today

Apostle and Evangelist Matthew; Sunday School honors our Veterans and Military Families— We pray for all of our soldiers who have served, are serving, their families, and may the Memory of those who have fallen asleep be Eternal!

This Week

- ✘ **Book Club Postponed**— This Tuesday's Book Club originally scheduled for this Tuesday, November 18th has been postponed in order to allow time for those desiring to obtain the book, **Elder Porphyrios: Wounded by Love**. A sign up sheet for those interested in attending and attaining the book is available in the narthex.
- ✘ THU, 11/20— Great Vespers for the Presentation of the Theotokos into the Temple 6:30 p.m.
- ✘ FRI, 11/21— Presentation of the Theotokos into the Temple: Orthros 8:30 a.m., Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m.
- ✘ SUN, 11/23— 9th Sunday of Luke; Ordination of Michael Bressemer to the Holy Diaconate at Theotokos of Iveron- "Axios!" 30th Anniversary Celebration for Theotokos of Iveron Russian Orthodox Church 5 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Upcoming Events

- ✘ **Thanksgiving Luncheon**— Thursday, November 27, 2014. Get your tickets today!
- ✘ **Parish Council Elections**— Sunday, December 7, 2014.

Words of Wisdom from the Holy Fathers

"When God created man, He planted something divine into him — a certain conception — a spark that has both light and warmth. The conception that enlightens the mind and indicates what is right and what is wrong is called conscience. Conscience is a natural law. Living in times before any written law, patriarchs and saints pleased God by following the voice of their conscience. "

~ Abba Dorotheos of Gaza