

Old Testament Reading: Hosea 5:15–6:6

- ¹⁵I will return again to my place,
until they acknowledge their guilt
and seek my face,
and in their distress earnestly seek
me.
- ^{6:1}“Come, let us return to the LORD.
for he has torn us, that he may heal
us;
he has struck us down, and he will
bind us up.
- ² After two days he will revive us;
on the third day he will raise us up,
that we may live before him.
- ³ Let us know; let us press on to know
the LORD;
his going out is sure as the dawn;
he will come to us as the showers,
as the spring rains that water the
earth.”
- ⁴ What shall I do with you, O Ephraim?
What shall I do with you, O Judah?
Your love is like a morning cloud,
like the dew that goes early away.
- ⁵ Therefore I have hewn them by the
prophets;
I have slain them by the words of
my mouth,
and my judgment goes forth as the
light.
- ⁶ For I desire steadfast love and not
sacrifice,
the knowledge of God rather than
burnt offerings.

Second Reading: Romans 4:13–25

¹³For the promise to Abraham and his
offspring that he would be heir of the
world did not come through the law but
through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴For
if it is the adherents of the law who are to
be the heirs, faith is null and the promise
is void. ¹⁵For the law brings wrath, but
where there is no law there is no transgres-
sion.

¹⁶That is why it depends on faith, in
order that the promise may rest on grace

and be guaranteed to all his offspring—not
only to the adherent of the law but also to
the one who shares the faith of Abraham,
who is the father of us all, ¹⁷as it is writ-
ten, “I have made you the father of many
nations”—in the presence of the God in
whom he believed, who gives life to the
dead and calls into existence the things
that do not exist. ¹⁸In hope he believed
against hope, that he should become the
father of many nations, as he had been
told, “So shall your offspring be.” ¹⁹He did
not weaken in faith when he considered
his own body, which was as good as dead
(since he was about a hundred years old),
or when he considered the barrenness of
Sarah’s womb. ²⁰No unbelief made him
waver concerning the promise of God, but
he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory
to God, ²¹fully convinced that God was
able to do what he had promised. ²²That
is why his faith was “counted to him as
righteousness.” ²³But the words “it was
counted to him” were not written for his
sake alone, ²⁴but for ours also. It will be
counted to us who believe in him who
raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, ²⁵who
was delivered up for our trespasses and
raised for our justification.

Holy Gospel: Matthew 9:9–13

⁹As Jesus passed on from there, he saw
a man called Matthew sitting at the tax
booth, and he said to him, “Follow me.”
And he rose and followed him.

¹⁰And as Jesus reclined at table in the
house, behold, many tax collectors and
sinners came and were reclining with Jesus
and his disciples. ¹¹And when the Phari-
sees saw this, they said to his disciples,
“Why does your teacher eat with tax col-
lectors and sinners?” ¹²But when he heard
it, he said, “Those who are well have no
need of a physician, but those who are
sick. ¹³Go and learn what this means: ‘I
desire mercy, and not sacrifice.’ For I came
not to call the righteous, but sinners.”



About the Cover: In ancient times, dining with someone signified fellowship. The Pharisees, who prided themselves in their devotion to keeping God’s Law and traditions, were scandalized by Jesus’ dining partners. However, Jesus’ fellowship is for the forgiveness of sinners and healing of the sick. He was “numbered with the transgressors” on the cross, where He atoned for the sins of the world (Isaiah 53:12). In His Holy Supper, Jesus not only eats with us but also provides His very body and blood to forgive and strengthen faith.



*Many tax collectors and sinners
... were reclining with Jesus*