

14 May

Matthias the Apostle

When all is made new, and the Christ is on his throne of glory, you will sit on the twelve thrones to judge the tribes of Israel.

Almighty God, who in the place of the traitor Judas, chose your faithful servant Matthias to be of the number of the Twelve: preserve your Church from false apostles and, by the ministry of faithful pastors and teachers, keep us steadfast in your truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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After the betrayal of Jesus by Judas Iscariot, the apostles brought their number back to twelve by choosing Matthias to replace him. He was chosen by lot from amongst the disciples. The author of the Acts of the Apostles sees apostleship differently from Paul's interpretation of the rôle and seems to reflect the understanding of the gospel of Luke. The number had to be restored so that they might 'sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel'. It was conditional that they had to have been with Jesus during his earthly ministry and witnesses to the resurrection. The point of being chosen by lot, rather than by some democratic method, indicated the election or choosing by God, rather than by mortals.

Sourced from 'Exciting Holiness'