

All we have is a name -Matthias. How do we remember him? We don't have any good stories. In Christian art he's often pictured with an axe, which means early Christians believed he was put to death by beheading, a result of confessing Jesus as true God and refusal to acknowledge false gods. God chose him to be an apostle; sent him out to preach and administer sacraments and shepherd the flock. Legend has it he traveled all over, maybe ended up in Germany.

Unremarkable Matthias. In history a footnote; in the memory of the Church a mystery; in the mission of the kingdom anonymous; in the list of the saints, only a name. It is also for you and me. Sure people know our name, in the next generation or so, but soon forgotten, anonymous saints, at best just a name like Matthias. We are very unremarkable, your life stories will be unknown - known well to the Lord, He knows every time you've scrapped your knee and every tear you've cried. We are ordinary who are extra-ordinary only because of the riches of God's grace in Christ, mercy of His love to forgive you, the desire of His heart to redeem you, the wisdom of His Spirit to call you, the miracle of His work to teach you faith, your life here a brief moment and then it passes to others, as it was for Matthias -ordinary, unremarkable people - remarkable only to God.

We cannot remember Matthias, without recalling and mourning for Judas. Like everyone else, Judas was looking out for himself, to make a name for himself, looking for peace and rest -outside of Christ -brings only emptiness and despair. In guilt and shame and fear, he ended his own life. He abandoned his vocation and went to his own place of destruction. Hence the sobering Word of Jesus, **it would've been better for that man had he never been born.**

How is it with you? Your situation -you weak, weary, weighed down, burdened -by your sin and its consequences, you're tempted constantly to look for rest and life and love in all the wrong places. There is no real life or true love, nor any lasting peace and rest, apart from a life in Christ.

Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. (sigh) We need to hear those words and take a deep sigh. How incredible, what gift! Do not despair or lose heart! Repent. Learn from Him of Life and of Love everlasting, gentle and lowly in heart and find your rest in Him. How desperate we need rest in Him. When Jesus says, **come to me, take my yoke, find** -those are passive verbs in the Greek -a passive activity. It's not what you accomplish, but what you are to receive. You miss His point in the English. His gifts of Himself, His works, lived out in your daily life. How incredible! Receive and make use of the good gifts that Christ pours out, gives you by the Ministry of His Gospel in His

Church. Your God, always found working through means that He declares His works, untied you to Him.

Matthias now stands one of the 24 pillars in heaven before the throne of the Lamb. A name and unknown. It reminds me of The Tomb to the Unknown Soldier: "Here Rests in Honored Glory an American Soldier known but to God" as with our soldiers graves you find throughout the world, engraved: "Here rests in honored glory a comrade known but to God".

Eventually for us all, just put on your tombstone, "Here rests in honored glory a saint known only to God." That's what happens. You're, mostly anonymous, like Matthias, a name known but God.

At a Lutheran church in NY, dating back to the 1700s, the pastor is buried in the floor of the narthex you walk in on Sunday morning. That isn't uncommon with very old churches, especially in Europe, people are buried in the floor. I'm not sure if we do that here, but the Lord has built us into His church.

You've heard it, perhaps you've said it at a funeral, "We'll always remember him" We won't be remembered here. We'll all be unknown saints, yet built into the Lord's Church, which He promised the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. The Lord remembers His saints, by name as He baptized them in His Name. He writes His saints names, your name in His book of life.

Think of the holy martyrs, like Matthias, along with the Apostles and countless others. Even the pagans marveled at the way these faithful men, women, and children went bravely to suffering and death. They forgave those who hurt them. They were at peace. They suffered great cruelty rather than forsake the Lord. Their peace and rest, their light and easy yoke and burden, was not of themselves. The peace in their heart, the rest that Jesus gave to their souls through the forgiveness of their sins, the gift of salvation by His grace alone, the sure, certain promise of the Resurrection by His own crucified and risen Body. That is your peace and rest also, no matter what in this life. **Come to Me you will find rest;** here within His House — find perfect peace and rest in Him, in the Liturgy of His Gospel, in the Ministry of His preaching and His Holy Sacraments.

Is it enough for you? I think we all struggle the older we get, to come to terms with our anonymity and unremarkable, ordinary life; being known and remembered only by God; the only legacy we leave is the faith. It is enough... and even now He endears to call you, my little child -beloved, unique to Your Father. And by the grace of God that is what He has made you and the days He gives you with loved ones here, joined with Matthias and with all our loved ones in Christ who have gone before us and loved ones you will not get to see here. Ordinary, unremarkable anonymous, you, a name- yet so much more to Him, who gives all He has, all His is, to spend eternity with you, even now daily find your rest in Him.