

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY (YEAR A) Sunday 7 June 2026

EXPLORING THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

REPAIR SHOP

EXPLORING NEXT SUNDAY'S THEME

Introducing the Gospel

Restoring life (Matthew 9: 9-13, 18-26)

A key theme of the Gospels is that Jesus holds out a new start to broken people. Jesus heals those who are hurt and welcomes those who are alienated. The present passage from Matthew presents four examples of Jesus offering a new start. Jesus calls Matthew from his work as someone who collected taxes from the Jewish people on behalf of the Roman authorities. Jesus welcomes social outcasts to eat with him. Jesus heals the woman who had been suffering from haemorrhages for twelve years. Jesus restores the dead girl to life.

The image to stimulate reflection on this passage is *repair shop*.

Core extract from the Gospel (Matthew 9: 10-13; for reflection throughout the week)

And as Jesus sat at dinner in the house,
many tax-collectors and sinners came
and were sitting with him and his disciples.
When the Pharisees saw this,
they said to his disciples,
'Why does your teacher eat with tax-collectors and sinners?'
But when he heard this, he said,
'Those who are well have no need of a physician,
but those who are sick.
Go and learn what this means,
"I desire mercy, not sacrifice."
For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners.'

Gospel prayer (for use throughout the week)

Lord Jesus Christ,
you offer a new start to broken people.
Help us to acknowledge our brokenness,
that we may make a new start with you;
for you are the Lord of life.
Amen.

READING NEXT SUNDAY'S GOSPEL

Matthew 9: 9-13, 18-26

The Calling of Matthew

As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth; and he said to him, 'Follow me.' And he got up and followed him.

And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax-collectors and sinners came and were sitting with him and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, 'Why does your teacher eat with tax-collectors and sinners?' But when he heard this, he said, 'Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means, "I desire mercy, not sacrifice." For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners.'

A Girl Restored to Life and a Woman Healed

While he was saying these things to them, suddenly a leader of the synagogue came in and knelt before him, saying, 'My daughter has just died; but come and lay your hand on her, and she will live.' And Jesus got up and followed him, with his disciples. Then suddenly a woman who had been suffering from haemorrhages for twelve years came up behind him and touched the fringe of his cloak, for she said to herself, 'If I only touch his cloak, I will be made well.' Jesus turned, and seeing her he said, 'Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well.' And instantly the woman was made well. When Jesus came to the leader's house and saw the flute-players and the crowd making a commotion, he said, 'Go away; for the girl is not dead but sleeping.' And they laughed at him. But when the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took her by the hand, and the girl got up. And the report of this spread throughout that district.

ENGAGING WITH THE THEME

Dwelling with the text (Matthew 9: 9-13, 18-20)

Begin to explore the account in Matthew's Gospel of Jesus' welcome extended to broken people by employing the SIFT approach of Sensing, Intuition, Feeling, and Thinking. You may find that one of these approaches comes easier to you than the others. But it is worth trying all four.

- What details in the passage catch your attention (Sensing)?
- What big ideas in the passage spark in your mind (Intuition)?
- What most touches your heart in the passage (Feeling)?
- What most stretches your mind and makes you think in the passage (Thinking)?

Thinking and talking

Identify topics within the passage that can get you thinking and talking. Here are some ideas to get you started.

- What was problematic about Matthew's job at the tax booth?
- What led tax-collectors and sinners to be social outcasts?
- What do you make of the leader of synagogue coming to Jesus?
- What do you make of the woman touching Jesus' cloak?
- What does this narrative say for us today?

Using your Bible

Explore these narratives in the source on which Matthew drew, Mark's Gospel.

- Mark 2: 14-17
- Mark 5: 22-43

Explore the parallel accounts in Luke's Gospel.

- Luke 5: 27-32
- Luke 8: 41-56

Explore God's care for the outcast and for the vulnerable in the Psalms.

- Psalm 91: 1-6
- Psalm 147: 1-7

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Exploring online

Widen your exploration of Matthew's account of Jesus' welcome extended to broken people by looking up some of the following themes and others of your own choosing.

- God and outcasts
- Tax collectors and sinners
- Matthew 9: 18-26 commentary

Drawing on experience

The image to stimulate reflection on Matthew's account of Jesus' welcome extended to broken people is *repair shop*. Draw on your experience of the repair shop. For example:

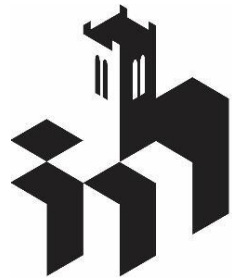
- What is your experience of broken things that need repairing?
- What is your experience of broken people who need repairing?
- What is your experience of being in need of repair?

What have you learned about the repair shop?

Creating and making

This section offers pointers to some creative activities that may be inspired by the theme of Jesus' welcome to broken people or by the image of the repair shop.

- Make a display of the tools needed in the repair shop.
- Create a collage of people who share in Jesus' work of welcoming and healing.
- Make a poster illustrating today's Gospel reading.
- Create a reflection, poem, or prayer on the theme of Jesus' welcome to broken people or the image of the repair shop.



Liverpool Cathedral

EXPLORING THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

Each week we are inviting people in their homes to look forward to those Sunday services that follow the Revised Common Lectionary Gospel readings. We employ the SIFT approach (Sensing, Intuition, Feeling, and Thinking) to encourage reflection on the Sunday Gospel. We are suggesting a variety of ways in which people of all ages, and households working together, may engage with the Gospel reading and celebrate that engagement with shared activities.

These materials have been developed by the Canon Theologian of Liverpool Cathedral working in collaboration with the staff team here at the Cathedral, and with sponsorship and support from the St Mary's Centre in Wales.



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