

### Matthew



Matthew – a former tax collector who was called by Jesus to be one of the Twelve Apostles

Matthew the Evangelist is symbolized by a winged man, or angel. Matthew's Gospel starts with Joseph's connection to Abraham; it represents Jesus' Incarnation and Christ's human nature.

In the New Testament, Matthew is the first Gospel of the four accounts. This Gospel was written for people who knew the Old Testament, both Moses and the Prophets. Matthew makes more references to the Old Testament than any other Gospel writer. Matthew takes great care to show how Jesus fulfills the prophecies made about Him earlier in the Bible—especially focusing on Jesus' role as the Messiah. (The promised king descended from David.)

## Mark



Mark – a follower of Jesus' good friend, Peter, who became the leader of Christ's Church

Mark the Evangelist is symbolised by a winged lion – a figure of courage and monarchy. The lion also represents Jesus' Resurrection (because lions were believed to sleep with open eyes) and Christ as King.

Mark is the shortest Gospel. According to early Church tradition, this Gospel was written by the same man who backed out of his missionary journey with Paul and Barnabas (Acts 15:37 –39), but aided the Apostle Peter later in life. This Gospel is an arranged collection of Peter's memories of Jesus. Mark was written for a wide audience. It focuses on Jesus' role as the suffering servant and Son of God. While the other Gospels contain long discourses and sermons by Jesus, Mark is all about action. This is where we see Jesus doing many things.

## Luke



Luke – a doctor who also wrote the Book of Acts (or Acts of the Apostles)

Luke the Evangelist is symbolised by a winged ox or bull – a figure of sacrifice, service, and strength. Luke's account begins with the duties of Zacharias in the temple; it represents Jesus' sacrifice in His Passion and Crucifixion, as well as Christ being our High Priest.

Luke is the longest of the four Gospels. It is the most historical, journalistic Gospel: a thorough account of the episodes in Jesus' life arranged in chronological order. This Gospel was written to establish believers in the teachings of Jesus (Luke 1:1–4). Jesus is portrayed as the seeking savior of all nations (Luke 2:30–32). Luke was, and continues to be, a rich story of Jesus' life and ministry.

## John



John – a disciple of Jesus and possibly the youngest of his Twelve Apostles

John the Evangelist is symbolised by an eagle – a figure of the sky, and believed by Christians to be able to look straight into the sun. John begins his Gospel explaining that Jesus was present at the beginning of the world and will be present at the end; he wants us to know that Jesus is God.

John's Gospel is written to show the miracles of Jesus, so that those who read his story will believe in Him and have life with God (John 20:30–31). John's account of Jesus' teachings and miracles show the divine nature of Jesus Christ and has a very different feel from the other three Gospels. The way the different Gospels begin is a good example of this. Mark begins with Jesus' Baptism. Luke begins with the events surrounding Jesus' birth. Matthew begins with Abraham, tracing the generations down to Jesus. John, however, takes us all the way back to the very first words of the Bible: "In the beginning" (John 1:1). John is telling the story of the divine being, the Son of God, who became flesh, dwelt among us, and died so that we might have everlasting life.