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Sunday, April 27, 2025

Thomas Sunday

8:45am: Orthros

10am: Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

Hymns of the Day

Paschal Troparion in the Plagal First Mode

Christ is risen from the dead, by death trampling down upon death, and to those in the tombs He has granted life.

Χριστὸς ἀνέστη ἐκ νεκρῶν, θανάτῳ θάνατον πατήσας, καὶ τοῖς ἐν τοῖς μνήμασι, ζωὴν χαρισάμενος.

Entrance Hymn

Bless God in the churches, the Lord from the fountains of Israel. Save us, O Son of God, risen from the dead. We sing to You, Alleluia.

Resurrectional Apolytikion in the Grave Mode

The tomb being sealed, You rose from the sepulcher, O Christ God, the Life. And the doors being shut, You came to the disciples, O resurrection of all. Through them You renew a right spirit within us, according to Your great mercy.

Kontakion of Pascha in the Plagal Fourth Mode

Though You went down into the tomb, O Immortal One, yet You brought down the dominion of Hades; and You rose as the victor, O Christ our God; and You called out “Rejoice” to the Myrrh-bearing women, and gave peace to Your Apostles, O Lord who to the fallen grant resurrection.

Hymn to the Theotokos in the First Mode

Mother of our God, we praise you * as the brightly shining lamp, * the illustrious glory * of all creation, of which you are the highest. * With sacred hymns we magnify you.

Communion Verse

Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem; praise your God, O Zion. Alleluia.

Ἐπαίνει, Ἱερουσαλήμ, τὸν Κύριον· αἶνει τὸν Θεόν σου, Σιών.
Ἀλληλούϊα.

Gospel and Epistle Readings

Orthros Gospel

Matthew 28:16 – 20

At that time, the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. And when they saw him they worshiped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age. Amen.”

Epistle Reading

Acts 5:12 – 20

In those days, many signs and wonders were done among the people by the hands of the apostles. And they were all together in Solomon’s Portico. None of the rest dared join them, but the people held them in high honor. And more than ever believers were added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women, so that they even carried out the sick into the streets, and laid them on beds and pallets, that as Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on some of them.

The people also gathered from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all healed. But the high priest rose up and all who were with him, that is, the party of the Sadducees, and filled with jealousy they arrested the apostles and put them in the common prison. But at night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out and said, “Go and stand

in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this Life.”

Gospel Reading

John 20:19 – 31

On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being shut where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord.

Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I send you.” And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see in his hands the print of the nails, and place my finger in the mark of the nails, and place my hand in his side, I will not believe.”

Eight days later, his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. The doors were shut, but Jesus came and stood among them, and said, “Peace be with you.” Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side; do not be faithless, but believing.” Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe.”

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are

written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in his name.

Saints and Feasts

Thomas Sunday

Though the doors were shut at the dwelling where the disciples were gathered for fear of the Jews on the evening of the Sunday after the Passover, our Saviour wondrously entered and stood in their midst, and greeted them with His customary words, “Peace be unto you.” Then He showed unto them His hands and feet and side; furthermore, in their presence, He took some fish and a honeycomb and ate before them, and thus assured them of His bodily Resurrection.

But Thomas, who was not then present with the others, did not believe their testimony concerning Christ’s Resurrection, but said in a decisive manner, “Except I shall see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into His side, I will not believe.” Wherefore after eight days, that is, on this day, when the disciples were again gathered together and Thomas was with them, the Lord Jesus came while the doors were shut, as He did formerly. Standing in their midst, He said, “Peace be unto you”; then He said to Thomas, “Bring hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and bring hither thy hand, and thrust it into My side: and be not unbelieving, but believing.”

And Thomas, beholding and examining carefully the hands and side of the Master, cried out with faith, “My Lord and my God.” Thus he clearly proclaimed the two natures—human and divine—of the God-man (Luke 24:36-49; John 20:19-29).

This day is called Antipascha (meaning “in the stead of Pascha,” not “in opposition to Pascha”) because with this day,

the first Sunday after Pascha, the Church consecrates every Sunday of the year to the commemoration of Pascha, that is, the Resurrection.

Wisdom of the Fathers

“As soon as Thomas touched the Lord’s side, he was revealed as a superb theologian, proclaiming the two natures and single hypostasis of the one Christ. Thomas refers to the human nature of Christ, calling Him *Lord*; for the term “Lord” [Κύριος] is applied not just to God, but to men as well. (Thinking that Jesus was the gardener, Mary Magdalene had said to Him, *Sir* [Κύριε], *if you have taken him away...*). But when Thomas cries out, *and My God*, he confesses Christ’s divine essence and affirms that the names Lord and God refer to one and the same Person. By declaring blessed those who have not seen, and yet have believed, the Lord teaches us that faith means the acceptance of things not seen. He is referring first to the disciples who believed without touching His side or the print of the nails, and second to those who would later believe [without any physical confirmation]. He is not depriving Thomas of his share of blessedness but encouraging all who have not seen.”

- Theophylact of Ochrid, *Explanation of the Holy Gospel According to John* p. 301

“Moses esteemed the seventh day because it led into the truly honourable eighth day. Just as the law given through him is honorable in so far as it leads to Christ, so the seventh day is honourable because it leads into the eighth day on which the Lord’s resurrection took place. The eighth day comes next after the seventh, and if you look carefully you will find that after the seventh day, when we are told that all

the dead from past ages were resurrected, on the eighth day Christ rose.

Not only was Christ's resurrection accomplished on the eighth day, but it was both the eighth day in relation to the day before, and also the first day in relation to the hoped-for resurrection, the rising again, of all men in Christ. That is why Christ is hymned as "the firstfruits of them that slept" and "the first begotten of the dead". In the same way, Sunday is not just the day eighth in order after the preceding days, but the first of the days that come after. So it becomes in its turn the New Day, the first of all days, which we call the Lord's Day, and which Moses referred to not as the first day but as "one day" being exalted above the others and the prelude of the one day without evening of the age to come."

- Gregory Palamas, *Homily* 17 "On the Mystery of the Lord's Day" § 13

Parish Information

Youth Church School

Church School for our kids takes place on **Sunday mornings**, immediately following Holy Communion. Please allow Church School kids and their teachers to come forward for Holy Communion first. We have two classrooms: one for elementary-aged kids and one for middle-school and up.

Byzantine Chant Classes

Byzantine chant classes take place on **Saturdays at 4pm**. If you are interested in learning and helping out, please feel free to attend!

Men's Breakfast

Our next Men's Breakfast will take place on Saturday, **May 3 at 8am**. Feel free to invite a friend!

Ladies' Potluck Luncheon

Our Ladies' Potluck Luncheon group meets on the second Thursday of each month! The next luncheon will take place in the Church hall on **Thursday, May 8** at 12pm.



This Week at St. Nicholas

Following Divine Liturgy this morning, we will celebrate the Memorial Service for the servant of God **Peter C. Melonas**. May his memory be eternal!

- Wednesday, April 30: 6pm Small Paraklesis
- Thursday, May 1 – Saturday, May 3: No events; Fr. Jeremy is out of town for a conference