

THE BELIEF OF THOMAS



Today the air is filled with the fragrance of spring and blossoming flowers, and the new creation exults with joy; today the Lord passes through closed doors and shatters the bonds of doubt by His presence. In an act of faith, Thomas, the Apostle of Christ, calls out to acknowledge Him: “You are my Lord and my God!”

Exapostilarion, Sunday of Thomas

St. Ignatios of Antioch Melkite Church

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Sunday of St. Thomas

May 1, 2011

Tone: festal

Eothinon: of the feast

Coming Events:

May

Tuesday, May 10 Parish Council Meeting, 6:30 PM

June

Thursday, June 2 Feast of the Ascension
We will celebrate with Divine Liturgy at 6:30 PM on
Wednesday evening, June 1

Saturday, June 11 Saturday of the Dead

Sunday, June 12 Feast of Pentecost

The **National Melkite Convention** this year will be hosted by Holy Cross parish in Placentia, CA from July 6—10 . Details can be found in the most recent Sophia magazine and on a poster in the parish hall. All are invited to participate in this festive gathering of our Eparchy!

*Publicans' Prayers on 2nd and 4th Fridays at **1:00 PM**
at the Prides' house, 2329 Norton Dr., 706-790-7575*

And on 1st Saturdays at 5:00 PM at the church

Sunday
Orthros 9:15 AM
Divine Liturgy 10:00 AM

Daily
Vespers 5:30 PM

This Sunday's Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

After "Blessed is the Kingdom...", the Troparion of Pascha (*Christ is risen!*) is chanted 3 times.

Antiphons of Pascha

Antiphon Prayer:

(Recited aloud at the end of the *Eireneka* or Great Synapte)

O Christ God, You showed Thomas your side from which gushed blood and water, symbols of Baptism. You invited him to touch the wound by which mankind was healed from its ancient deep wound. We ask You to strengthen our faith in Your Divinity and Humanity so that we may become witnesses to Your glorious Resurrection by our words, our deeds and our way of life.

For You are our Resurrection, O Christ, God, and to You we render glory and to Your Eternal Father and Your All-holy, Good and Life-giving Spirit, now and always and forever and ever.

People: Amen

Little Entrance Hymn:

In your assemblies bless the Lord our God, from the springs of Israel.

O Son of God, who are risen from the dead, save us who sing to You: Alleluia!

Hymns:

Troparion of the Sunday of Thomas, Tone 7, three times

C. Haddad

While the tomb was sealed You shone
forth from it , O Christ our Life, and

A week after Your Resurrection, O Lord, You appeared to Your disciples in the place where they were gathered and said to them, "Peace be with you!" Then You showed Your hands and Your side to the doubting disciple, Thomas. In great belief, he cried out to You, "My Lord and my God, glory to You!"

Sticheron, Vespers

What a wondrous mystery: that grass can touch fire and not be consumed; for Thomas put his hand into the fire of the side of Jesus Christ our God, and he was not consumed in touching Him. He changed his doubt into the fervor of faith, and shouted from the depth of his heart, "O Master who are risen from the dead, You are my God! Glory to You!"

Aposticha, Vespers

What a wondrous mystery: John leaned back against the bosom of the Word and Thomas was found worthy to touch His side. John drew from it the depth of the theology of God; and Thomas was privileged to announce to us His saving plan, for he openly manifested the proof of the Resurrection when he said, "My Lord and my God, glory to You!"

Aposticha, Vespers

Today is the springtime of our souls, for Christ has risen like the sun from the tomb on the third day, scattering the dark winter of our sins. Let us sing to Him, for He is gloriously triumphant.

O Christ, the gates of Death could not hold You back, nor could the seals on the tomb, nor the locked doors. Having risen, You appeared to Your friends, giving them a peace which surpasses all understanding.

Ode 1, Canon

be to you!" Then He said to Thomas. "Bring here your finger, and see my hands; and bring here your hand, and put it into my side; and be not unbelieving, but believing." Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Because you have seen me, Thomas, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen, and yet have believed." Many other signs also Jesus worked in the sight of His 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.

Hymn to the Theotokos:

O shining light, Mother of God, honorable without compare; you are higher in dignity than any other creature. We magnify you with hymns.

Kinonikon (Communion hymn of the clergy):

Exalt the Lord, O Jerusalem! Praise your God, O Zion! Alleluia!

Communion Hymn of the faithful:

Instead of "Receive me now...":

Re - ceive the Bod - y, the Bo - dy of Christ, and
 drink of the foun - tain of im - mor - tal - i - ty.
 Al - li - lu - i - a.

Post-communion Hymn: (Instead of "We have seen the true light...") Christ is risen from the dead... (once)

while the doors re-mained closed, You
 stood a - mong your Disci- ples, O
 Res-ur- rec-tion of all, and through
 them You res-tored a new spir- it
 in us ac-cording to your great Mer- cy.

Kontakion of Pascha, Tone 2

C.H.
 Though You went down in the tomb, O
 Im-mor- tal One, You o-ver-threw
 the pow-er of Ha- des, and rose
 vic- to- ri-ous, O Christ God,

You greeted the Ointment- Bear- ing Wo-
 men, say- ing : Re-joice ! You gave
 peace to your Ap- ost- les , and to
 those who had fall- en res-ur-rec -
 tion .

Epistle: Acts of the Apostle, 5: 12-20

SUNDAY OF ST. THOMAS

PROKIMENON (*Tone 3*) Ps.146: 5; 117: 1

Great is our Lord, and great is his power, and to his wisdom there is no limit.

Stichon: Praise the Lord, for he is good, for his mercy endures forever.

READING from the Acts of the Apostles

In those days by the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were done among the people (and with one accord, they all would meet in Solomon's portico; but of the rest, no one dared to associate with them, yet the people made much of them. And the multitude of men and women who believed in the Lord continued to increase), so that they carried the sick into the streets and laid

them on beds and pallets, in order that, as Peter went by, at least his shadow would fall upon some of them. And crowds also came to Jerusalem from neighboring towns, and they brought the sick and those afflicted with unclean spirits — and all of them were healed.

But the High Priest rose up, and all his supporters (that is, the members of the Sadducean sect), and being filled with hatred, they laid their hands upon the apostles and threw them into the public jail. But during the night, an angel of the Lord opened the doors of the prison, and led them out, saying: "Go, and standing in the temple, speak to the people all words of life."

ALLELUIA (*Tone 8*) Ps.94: 1, 3

Come, let us rejoice in the Lord, let us sing gladly to God our Savior!

Stichon: For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods.

Gospel of the Feast, *John 20: 19-31* (Skeptic Thomas)

When it was late, that same day, the first of the week, though the doors where the disciples gathered had been closed for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst and said to them, "Peace be to you!" And when He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. The disciples therefore rejoiced at the sight of the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be to you! As the Father has sent me, I also send you." When He had said this, He breathed upon them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit; whose sins you shall forgive, they are forgiven them; and whose sins you shall retain, they are retained." Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. The other disciples therefore said to him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the place of the nails, and put my hand into His side I will not believe." And after eight days, His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors being closed, and stood in their midst, and said, "Peace