

GREAT VESPERS

Saturday, April 25, 2020

NEW SUNDAY OR ANTI-PASCHA

SUNDAY OF THOMAS THE APOSTLE, CALLED “THE TWIN”

HIEROMARTYR BASIL, BISHOP OF AMASEA WITH VENERABLE GLAPHYRA
STEPHEN, BISHOP OF PERM • VENERABLE IOANIKIOS OF DEVTCH IN SERBIA

Priest:

Blessed is our God, always, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Amen.

Priest:

O Christ is risen from the dead, O Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down Death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life!

~ The troparion is now repeated twice by the faithful ~

PSALM 103

BLESS THE LORD, O my soul. O Lord my God, Thou art very great; Thou art clothed with honour and majesty. Who coverest Thyself with light as with a garment; Who stretchest out the heavens like a curtain; Who layeth the beams of His chambers in the waters; Who maketh the clouds His chariot; Who walketh upon the wings of the wind; Who maketh His Angels spirits; His ministers a flaming fire; Who laid the foundations of the earth, that it should not be removed forever. Thou coveredst it with the deep as with a garment; the waters stood above the mountains. At Thy rebuke they fled; at the voice of Thy thunder they hasted away. They go up by the mountains; they go down by the valleys unto the place which Thou hast founded for them. Thou hast set a bound that they may not pass over; that they turn not again to cover the earth. He sendeth the springs into the valleys, which run among the hills. They give drink to every beast of the field: the

wild asses quench their thirst. By them shall the fowls of the heaven have their habitation, which sing among the branches. He watereth the hills from His chambers; the earth is satisfied with the fruit of Thy works. He causeth the grass to grow for the cattle, and herb for the service of man, that he may bring forth food out of the earth, and wine that maketh glad the heart of man, and oil to make his face to shine, and bread which strengtheneth man's heart. The trees of the Lord are full of sap; the cedars of Lebanon, which He hath planted, where the birds make their nests; as for the stork, the fir trees are her house. The high hills are a refuge for the wild goats; and the rocks for the conies. He appointed the moon for seasons; the sun knoweth his going down. Thou makest darkness, and it is night, wherein all the beasts of the forest do creep forth. The young lions roar after their prey, and seek their meat from God. The sun ariseth, they gather themselves together, and lay them down in their dens. Man goeth forth unto his work and to his labour until the evening. O Lord, how manifold are Thy works! in wisdom hast Thou made them all. The earth is full of Thy riches. So is this great and wide sea, wherein are things creeping innumerable, both small and great beasts. There go the ships; there is that leviathan, whom Thou hast made to play therein. These wait all upon Thee; that Thou mayest give them their meat in due season. That Thou givest them they gather; Thou openest Thine hand, they are filled with good. Thou hidest Thy face, they are troubled; Thou takest away their breath, they die, and return to their dust. Thou sendest forth Thy spirit, they are created, and Thou renewest the face of the earth. The glory of the Lord shall endure forever; the Lord shall rejoice in His works. He looketh on the earth, and it trembleth, He toucheth the hills, and they smoke. I will sing unto the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have my being. My meditation of Him shall be sweet; I will be glad in the Lord. Let the sinners be consumed out of the earth, and let the wicked be no more. Bless thou the Lord, O my soul. Praise ye the Lord.

THE KATHISMA

Blessed is the man, the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked. *Alleluia.*

For the Lord knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish. *Alleluia.*

Serve the Lord with fear and rejoice, rejoice in Him with trembling. *Alleluia.*

Blessed are all who take refuge in Him. *Alleluia.*

Arise, arise, O Lord; save me, O my God. *Alleluia.*

Salvation belongs to the Lord; Thy blessing be upon Thy people. *Alleluia.*

THE GREAT LITANY

O LORD, I HAVE CRIED OUT

First Tone

Psalm 140

O Lord, I have cried out unto Thee, hear Thou me; hear Thou me, O Lord. O Lord, I have cried out unto Thee, hear Thou me. Give ear to the voice of my supplication when I cry out unto Thee: hear Thou me, O Lord.

Let my prayer be set forth before Thee as the incense, and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice; hear Thou me, O Lord.

Set a watch, O Lord, before my mouth, and a protecting door round about my lips. • Incline not my heart to evil words, to make excuses in sins. • With men that work iniquity; and I will not communicate with the choicest of them. • The just man shall correct me in mercy and shall reprove me; but let not the oil of the sinner anoint my head. • For my prayer also shall still be against the things with which they are well pleased; their judges falling upon the rock have been swallowed up. •

They shall hear my words, for they are sweet; as when the thickness of the earth is broken upon the ground, their bones are scattered by the side of hell. • But to Thee, O Lord, Lord, are mine eyes; in Thee have I put my trust, take not away my soul. • Keep me from the snare which they have laid for me, and the traps of the workers of iniquity. • Let the wicked fall into their own nets, whilst I alone escape.

Psalm 141

I cried unto the Lord with my voice, with my voice unto the Lord, did I make my supplication. • I poured out my supplication before Him; I showed before Him my trouble. • When my spirit was overwhelmed within me, then Thou knewest my path. • In the way wherein I walked have they secretly laid a snare for me. • I looked on my right hand, and beheld, but there was no man that would know me. • Refuge failed me; no one cared for my soul. • I cried unto Thee, O Lord; I said: Thou art my refuge and my portion in the land of the living. • Attend unto my cry, for I am brought very low. • Deliver me from my persecutors, for they are stronger than I.

of Thomas Sunday, from the Pentecostarion • First Tone

Bring my soul out of prison, that I may praise Thy Name.

Into the gathering of the Disciples while the doors were shut, Thou didst suddenly enter, O Jesus our Almighty God. And standing in their midst, thou didst grant them peace, and filled them with a holy spirit, commanding them to tarry and not depart from Jerusalem until they were vested with power from above. Wherefore, O our Light, Resurrection and Peace, we cry unto Thee: Glory to Thee.

The righteous shall wait for me until Thou recompense me.

Into the gathering of the Disciples while the doors were shut, Thou didst suddenly enter, O Jesus our Almighty God. And standing in their midst, thou didst grant them peace, and filled them with a holy spirit, commanding them to tarry and not depart from Jerusalem until they

were vested with power from above. Wherefore, O our Light, Resurrection and Peace, we cry unto Thee: Glory to Thee.

Out of the depths have I cried to Thee, O Lord, Lord hear my voice.

Eight days after Thy Resurrection, O Lord, Thou didst appear to Thy Disciples in the place where they were gathered, and cried unto them: Peace unto you; and then showed Thy hands and pure side to the doubting Disciple. Having, therefore, believed, He shouted unto Thee: My Lord and my God, Glory to Thee.

Let Thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication.

Eight days after Thy Resurrection, O Lord, Thou didst appear to Thy Disciples in the place where they were gathered, and cried unto them: Peace unto you; and then showed Thy hands and pure side to the doubting Disciple. Having, therefore, believed, He shouted unto Thee: My Lord and my God, Glory to Thee.

If Thou, O Lord, shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand?

For with Thee there is forgiveness.

O good Christ, when Thou didst enter unto Thy Disciples, the doors being shut, Thomas, who was called Didymus, was not with them. Wherefore, he doubted what was told to him. But Thou didst not deem him unworthy for his lack of faith, rather assuring him of faith, by showing him Thy pure side, and the wounds in Thy hands and feet. Therefore, having sought and beheld, he confessed that Thou art an unabstract God, and an unsimple Man, crying: My Lord and my God, Glory to Thee.

Because of Thy Name have I waited for Thee, O Lord;

my soul hath waited upon Thy word, my soul hath hoped in the Lord.

O good Christ, when Thou didst enter unto Thy Disciples, the doors being shut, Thomas, who was called Didymus, was not with them. Wherefore, he doubted what was told to him. But Thou didst not deem him unworthy for his lack of faith, rather assuring him of faith, by

showing him Thy pure side, and the wounds in Thy hands and feet. Therefore, having sought and beheld, he confessed that Thou art an unabstract God, and an unsimple Man, crying: My Lord and my God, Glory to Thee.

*From the morning watch until night,
from the morning watch let Israel trust in the Lord.*

As the Disciples were being doubtful, the Saviour, after eight days, came to where they were gathered and granted them peace. Then He cried unto Thomas: Come, O Apostle, and probe the two palms which were pierced by the nails. O the delicacy of the beautiful unbelief of Thomas, as coming with the heart of an unbeliever to knowledge, he called out with fear: My Lord and my God, Glory to Thee.

*For with the Lord there is mercy and with Him is abundant redemption,
and He will deliver Israel from all his iniquities.*

As the Disciples were being doubtful, the Saviour, after eight days, came to where they were gathered and granted them peace. Then He cried unto Thomas: Come, O Apostle, and probe the two palms which were pierced by the nails. O the delicacy of the beautiful unbelief of Thomas, as coming with the heart of an unbeliever to knowledge, he called out with fear: My Lord and my God, Glory to Thee.

also of Thomas Sunday, from the Pentecostarion • First Tone

Praise the Lord, all ye nations; praise Him, all ye people.

After Thy Resurrection, O Lord, Thou didst stand in the midst of Thy Disciples, as they were gathered together, the doors being shut, and bestowed peace on them. As for Thomas, having been convinced by beholding Thy hands and side, he confessed that Thou art Lord, God and Savior of those who put their trust in Thee, O Lover of mankind.

For His mercy is great toward us, and the truth of the Lord endureth forever.
Verily, Jesus approached the Disciples, the doors being shut, and granted them safety and the passing away of fear. Then He pointed to

Thomas and said: Why believest thou not in My Resurrection from the dead? Reach hither thy hand and thrust it into My side. See and know; for Thy lack of faith shall teach everyone My Passion and Resurrection; and they shall all shout with thee: My Lord and my God, Glory to Thee.

Doxastikon of Thomas Sunday, from the Pentecostarion • Plagal of the Second Tone

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;
both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

Thou didst come to Thy Disciples, O Christ, the doors being shut, but through design Thou didst not find Thomas with them; for he said: I will not believe until I behold the Master, view the side from which blood and water issued for baptism, observe the wound through which He healed man from the great wound, and see that He is not a ghost, but of body and bones. Wherefore, O Thou Who didst tread down death and convince Thomas, O Lord, glory to Thee.

ENTRANCE AT THE LIGHTING OF THE LAMPS

Gladsome Light of the holy glory that shines from the immortal Father in heaven, the holy, the blessed: O Jesus Christ. Lo, now that we come to sunset, now that we see the evening light, we sing the praise of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: One God. Worthy art Thou to be praised at all times with voices meet for holy song, Son of God, Thou Giver of Life. Wherefore, the world glorifieth Thee.

THE EVENING PROKEIMENON

The Lord is King, • and hath clothed Himself with majesty.

✠. The Lord is clothed with strength and hath girt Himself.

✠. For He established the world which shall never be moved.

✠. Holiness becometh Thy house, O Lord, unto length of days.

THE LITANY OF FERVENT SUPPLICATION

THE EVENING PRAYER

Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this night without sin. Blessed art Thou, O Lord, the God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy Name forever. Amen.

Let Thy mercy be upon us, O Lord, even as we have set our hope on Thee. Blessed art Thou, O Lord; teach me Thy statutes. Blessed art Thou, O Master; make me to understand Thy commandments. Blessed art Thou, O Holy One; enlighten me with Thy precepts.

Thy mercy, O Lord, endureth forever. O despise not the works of Thy hands. To Thee belongeth worship, to Thee belongeth praise, to Thee belongeth glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

THE LITANY OF SUPPLICATION

THE PEACE

Priest:

Peace be to all.

And to thy spirit.

Deacon:

Let us bow our heads unto the Lord.

To Thee, O Lord.

Priest:

O Lord our God, Who didst bow the heavens and come down for the salvation of mankind: Look upon Thy servants and Thine inheritance; for unto Thee, the fearful Judge Who yet lovest mankind, have Thy servants bowed their heads and submissively inclined their necks, awaiting not help from men but entreating Thy mercy and looking confidently for Thy salvation. Guard them at all times, both

during this present evening and in the approaching night, from every foe, from all adverse powers of the devil, and from vain thoughts and from evil imaginations.

Blessed and glorified be the might of Thy kingdom: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit; now and ever, and unto ages of ages. **Amen.**

THE APOSTICHA

of Thomas Sunday, from the Pentecostarion • Fourth Tone

What a miraculous wonder, that lack of faith became conviction of faith; for Thomas exclaimed: Unless I see, I will not believe. Wherefore, when he searched the side he spoke of the Godhead of the Incarnate, Who is Son of God, and knew that He verily did suffer in the flesh, and thus cried proclaiming the Risen God, shouting in a loud voice: My Lord and my God, glory to Thee.

Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem. Praise thy God, O Sion.

What a miraculous wonder: that grass should touch fire and be safe; for Thomas cast his hand into the fire of the side of Jesus Christ our God, and was not consumed by touching Him. Verily, the obstinate soul turned with fervor to true faith, and he shouted from the depth of his spirit: Thou art my Master and my God Who didst rise from the dead; glory to Thee.

*Because He hath strengthened the bars of thy gates,
He hath blessed thy children within thee.*

What a miraculous wonder! John did lean against the Word's bosom, yet Thomas was made worthy to probe His side. Albeit, that one drew there from the depth of theology and dread dispensation; this one was privileged to announce to us openly, and reveal the mystery of His Resurrection, crying: My Lord and my God, glory to Thee.

Doxastikon of Thomas Sunday, from the Pentecostarion • Plagal of the First Tone

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;
both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

How great is the multitude of Thine infinite compassion, O Lover of mankind; for because of Thy long-suffering Thou wast struck by the Jews, wast examined by an Apostle, and deeply probed by those who denied Thee. How wast Thou incarnated? How wast Thou crucified, O Thou Who hast not possessed sin? Albeit, make us understand, as Thomas, that we may call out to Thee: My Lord and my God, glory to Thee.

HYMN OF ST. SIMEON

Lord, now lettest thou Thy servant depart in peace, according to Thy word; for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people, a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel.

THE TRISAGION PRAYERS

Apolytikion of Thomas Sunday, from the Pentecostarion • Grave Tone

While the tomb was sealed, Thou didst shine forth from it, O Life. While the doors were closed, Thou didst come in to Thy Disciples, O Christ God, Resurrection of all, renewing in us through them an upright spirit, according to the greatness of Thy mercy. (*thrice*)

THE DISMISSAL

Deacon:

Wisdom!

Father, bless!

Priest:

Christ our God, the Existing One, is blessed, always, now and ever,
and unto ages of ages. **Amen.**

Preserve, O God, the holy Orthodox faith and all Orthodox Christians, unto ages of ages. Amen.

Priest:

Most holy Theotokos, save us.

More honorable than the Cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim, who without stain bearest God the Word and art truly Theotokos: we magnify thee.

Priest:

Glory to Thee, O Christ our God and our hope, glory to Thee.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. Lord, have mercy (*thrice*). Father, bless.

Priest:

MAY HE WHO ROSE FROM THE DEAD, Christ our true God, through the intercessions of His all-immaculate and all-blameless holy Mother; by the might of the Precious and Life-giving Cross; by the protection of the honourable Bodiless Powers of Heaven; at the supplication of the honourable, glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John; of the holy, glorious and all-laudable apostles; of the holy, glorious and right-victorious Martyrs; of our venerable and God-bearing Fathers; of Saint Ignatius the Godbearer of Antioch, the patron and protector of this holy community; of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; of the holy, glorious, and all-laudable Apostle Thomas, called “The Twin”; of the Hieromartyr Basil, bishop of Amasea with Venerable Glaphyra; Stephen, bishop of Perm; and Venerable Ioanikios of Devitch in Serbia, whose memory we celebrate today, and of all the saints: have mercy on us and save us, forasmuch as He is good and loveth mankind.

Priest:

O Christ is risen from the dead, O Christ is risen from the dead,
trampling down Death by death, and upon those in the tombs
bestowing life!

...bestowing life!