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READER'S GREAT VESPERS ON SATURDAY, MAY 11, 2024

(Eve of 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Pascha)

*Sunday of Thomas the Apostle, Called "The Twin"*

THE OPENING

*Leader:* Through the prayers of our holy fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us, and save us.

*Reader:* Amen.

*Leader & Choir:* Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down Death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life! (*thrice*)

PSALM 103

*Reader:* Bless the Lord, O my soul; O Lord my God, Thou hast been magnified exceedingly. Confession and majesty hast Thou put on, Who coverest Thyself with light as with a garment, Who stretchest out the heaven as it were a curtain; Who supporteth His chambers in the waters, Who appointeth the clouds for His ascent, Who walketh upon the wings of the winds, Who maketh His angels spirits, and His ministers a flame of fire, Who establisheth the earth in the sureness thereof; it shall not be turned back for ever and ever. The abyss like a garment is His mantle; upon the mountains shall the waters stand. At Thy rebuke they will flee, at the voice of Thy thunder shall they be afraid. The mountains rise up and the plains sink down, unto the place where Thou hast established them. Thou appointedst a bound that they shall not pass, neither return to cover the earth. He sendeth forth springs in the valleys; between the mountains will the waters run. They shall give drink to all the beasts of the field; the wild asses will wait to quench their thirst. Beside them will the birds of the heaven lodge, from the midst of the rocks will they give voice. He watereth the mountains from His chambers; the earth shall be satisfied with the fruit of Thy works. He causeth the grass to grow for the cattle, and green herb for the service of men, To bring forth bread out of the earth; and wine maketh glad the heart of man. To make his face cheerful with oil; and bread strengtheneth man's heart. The trees of the plain shall be satisfied, the cedars of Lebanon, which Thou hast planted. There will the sparrows make their nests; the house of the heron is chief among them. The high mountains are a refuge for the harts, and so is the rock for the hares. He hath made the moon for seasons; the sun knoweth his going down. Thou appointedst the darkness, and there was the night, wherein all the beasts of the forest will go abroad. Young lions roaring after their prey, and seeking their food from God. The sun ariseth, and they are gathered together, and they lay them down in their dens. But man shall go forth unto his work, and to his labour until the evening. How magnified are Thy works, O Lord! In wisdom hast Thou made them all; the earth is filled with Thy creation. So is this great and spacious sea, therein are things creeping innumerable, small living creatures with the great. There go the ships; there this dragon, whom Thou hast made to play therein. All things wait on Thee, to give them their food in due season; when Thou givest it them, they will gather it. When Thou openest Thy hand, all things shall be filled with goodness; when Thou turnest away Thy face, they shall be troubled. Thou wilt take their spirit, and they shall cease; and unto their dust shall they return.

Thou wilt send forth Thy Spirit, and they shall be created; and Thou shalt renew the face of the earth. Let the glory of the Lord be unto the ages; the Lord will rejoice in His works. Who looketh on the earth and maketh it tremble, Who toucheth the mountains and they smoke. I will sing unto the Lord throughout my life, I will chant to my God for as long as I have my being. May my words be sweet unto Him, and I will rejoice in the Lord. O that sinners would cease from the earth, and they that work iniquity, that they should be no more. Bless the Lord, O my soul. The sun knoweth his going down. Thou appointedst the darkness, and there was the night. How magnified are Thy works, O Lord! In wisdom hast Thou made them all.

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

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. Glory to Thee, O God. (*Twice*)

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia: Glory to Thee, O God our Hope, O Lord, glory be to Thee.

### THE LITANY OF PEACE REPLACEMENT

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy. (*12 times*)

*Senior Reader:* Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, Both now and ever and unto ages of ages.

*Choir:* Amen.

### FIRST STASIS OF FIRST KATHISMA

#### *Psalm 1*

*Reader:* Blessed is the man that hath not walked in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stood in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seat of the pestilent. But his will is rather in the law of the Lord, and in His law will he meditate day and night. And he shall be like the tree which is planted by the streams of the waters, which shall bring forth its fruit in its season; and its leaf shall not fall, and all things whatsoever he may do shall prosper. Not so are the ungodly, not so; but rather they are like the chaff which the wind doth hurl away from the face of the earth. For this reason shall the ungodly not stand up in judgement, nor sinners in the council of the righteous. For the Lord knoweth the way of the righteous, and the way of the ungodly shall perish.

#### *Psalm 2*

Why have the heathen raged, and the peoples meditated empty things? The kings of the earth were aroused, and the rulers were assembled together, against the Lord, and against His Christ. Let us break their bonds asunder, and let us cast away their yoke from us. He that dwelleth in the heavens shall laugh them to scorn, and the Lord shall deride them. Then shall He speak unto them in His wrath, and in His anger shall He trouble them. But as for Me, I was established as king by Him, upon Sion His holy mountain, proclaiming the commandment of the Lord. The Lord said unto Me: Thou art My Son, this day have I begotten Thee. Ask of Me, and I will give Thee the nations for Thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for Thy possession. Thou shalt herd them with a rod of iron; Thou shalt shatter them like a potter's vessels. And now, O ye kings, understand; be instructed, all ye that judge the earth. Serve ye the Lord with fear, and rejoice in Him with trembling. Lay hold of instruction, lest at any time the Lord be angry, and ye perish from the righteous way. When quickly His wrath be kindled, blessed are all that have put their trust in Him.

#### *Psalm 3*

O Lord, why are they multiplied that afflict me? Many rise up against me. Many say unto my soul: There is no salvation for him in his God. But Thou, O Lord, art my helper, my glory, and

the lifter up of my head. I cried unto the Lord with my voice, and He heard me out of His holy mountain. I laid me down and slept; I awoke, for the Lord will help me. I will not be afraid of ten thousands of people that set themselves against me round about. Arise, O Lord, save me, O my God, for Thou hast smitten all who without cause are mine enemies; the teeth of sinners hast Thou broken. Salvation is of the Lord, and Thy blessing is upon Thy people.

*Stasis*

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

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. Glory to Thee, O God. (*Twice*)

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia: Glory to Thee, O God our Hope, O Lord, glory be to Thee.

**“O LORD, I HAVE CRIED” IN TONE ONE**

*Choir:* 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.

*Choir:* 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.
- 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.

For Thomas Sunday in Tone One

***Verse 10. Bring my soul out of prison, that I may praise Thy Name.***

Into the gathering of the Disciples while the doors were shut<sup>1</sup>, Thou didst suddenly enter, O Jesus our Almighty God. And standing in their midst, thou didst grant them peace, and filled them with

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<sup>1</sup> If doing this in Church, the doors to the sanctuary, open since Pascha, are now closed.

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.

*Verse 9. 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.

*Verse 8. 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.

*Verse 7. 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.

*Verse 6. 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 unabstractive God, and an unsimple Man, crying: My Lord and my God, Glory to Thee.

*Verse 5. 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 unabstractive God, and an unsimple Man, crying: My Lord and my God, Glory to Thee.

*Verse 4. From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch let Israel trust in the Lord.*

As the Disciples were being doubtful, the Savior, 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.

*Verse 3. 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 Savior, 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 for Thomas Sunday in Tone Two

*Verse 2. 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.

*Verse 1. 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.

#### DOXASTICON FOR THOMAS SUNDAY IN TONE SIX

*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.

#### THE HYMN OF THANKSGIVING AT THE LIGHTING OF THE LAMPS

*Choir:* 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.

#### SATURDAY EVENING PROKEIMENON IN TONE SIX

*Leader:* The Evening Prokeimenon!

*Choir:* The Lord is King, and hath clothed Himself with majesty. (*twice*)

*Verse:* The Lord is clothed with strength and He hath girt Himself;

*Choir:* The Lord is King, and hath clothed Himself with majesty.

*Verse:* For He established the world which shall not be shaken

*Choir:* The Lord is King, and hath clothed Himself with majesty.

*Verse:* Holiness becometh Thy house, O Lord, unto length of days.

*Choir:* The Lord is King, and hath clothed Himself with majesty.

#### AUGMENTED EKTENIA REPLACEMENT

*Reader:* Lord have mercy (*40 times*)

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

### THE EVENING PRAYER

*People:* Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this evening 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 statutes. Blessed art Thou, O Holy One; enlighten me with Thy statutes. 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; now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

### LITANY OF SUPPLICATION (& THE PEACE) REPLACEMENT

*Reader:* Lord have mercy (*12 times*)

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

### THE APOSTICHA FOR THOMAS SUNDAY IN TONE FOUR

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.

*Verse 1. Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem. Praise thy God, O Zion.*

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.

*Verse 2. 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.

### DOXASTICON FOR THOMAS SUNDAY IN TONE FIVE

*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 was 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.

### THE HYMN OF ST. SIMEON THE GOD-RECEIVER

*Leader:* 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

*People:* Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal: have mercy on us. (*Thrice*)

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

All-holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from our sins. Master, pardon our iniquities. Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for thy Name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. (*Thrice*)

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

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

*Leader:* O Lord, Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on us.

*All:* Amen.

## APOLYTIKION FOR THOMAS SUNDAY IN TONE SEVEN

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, without "Glory..." "Both now.."*)

## THE DISMISSAL

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

Shine! Shine! Shine! O new Jerusalem. The glory of the Lord has shone on thee. Exult now, exult and be glad, O Sion. Be radiant, O pure Theotokos, in the Resurrection, the Resurrection of thy Son.<sup>2</sup>

*The Leader bows toward the icon of Christ on the iconostasis, saying:*

*Leader:* Glory to thee, O Christ our God and our Hope, glory to thee.

*All:* 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. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. O Lord, bless.

*Leader:* O Thou Who rose again from the dead, Christ our true God, through the intercessions of his all-immaculate and all-blameless holy Mother; of our venerable and God-bearing fathers; of the Holy Myrrh-Bearer and Equal to the Apostles Mary Magdalene, protector of this community; of the holy, glorious, and all-laudable Apostle Thomas, called "The Twin"; of Germanos, patriarch of Constantinople, Epiphanius, bishop of Cyprus; (Venerable Theodore of Kythera; New-martyr John of Vallachia; and Hermogenes, patriarch of Moscow, prince of Pskov), whose memory we celebrate today, and of all the saints: have mercy on us, and save us, for Thou art good and lovest mankind.

*Then, facing the icon of Christ, on the iconostasis, the Leader says:*

*Leader:* Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down Death by death, and upon those in the tombs...

*People:* ...bestowing life!

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<sup>2</sup> Some sources have the usual "More honorable..." in place of "Shine, shine ..." Our parish uses this hymn during Paschal season.