



# HOLY ASCENSION

## ORTHODOX CHURCH

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*A parish of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America*

His Eminence Metropolitan JOSEPH, Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of All North America  
His Grace Bishop BASIL, Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese of Wichita and Mid-America

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**Sunday, May 9, 2021**

## **Sunday of St Thomas**

**Also known as Anti-Pascha**

**WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS** – We are very happy to have you worshipping with us today. After the service, please join us for coffee hour, so we can get to know you.

**RECEIVING HOLY COMMUNION** – We believe that the reception of Holy Communion is the highest expression of our unity in the ancient Orthodox Christian faith. While we work and pray for true unity among all Christians, it is not a reality at this time. For this reason, Communion may only be received by members of the Orthodox Church who have prepared themselves by prayer, fasting, and recent confession. Everyone, however, is welcome and encouraged to receive blessed bread following the dismissal.

**PARENTS & CHILDREN** – We enjoy having children with us in worship as much as possible. A little commotion is to be expected, but sometimes a child may need to be taken out of church so they don't become a distraction. In these situations, parents are welcome to use the alcove to the right of the sanctuary entrance, where there is a window that allows you to see the service. There is also an unstaffed nursery downstairs, which you are welcome to use as needed.

# VARIABLES IN TODAY'S DIVINE LITURGY

## THE DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

*The service begins on page 37 in the red pew book ("Orthros and Divine Liturgy"); the letter symbols below are coordinated with the book, to help you follow along.*

### **A** The 1<sup>st</sup> Antiphon

Shout with joy to God, all the earth. Sing to his name; give glory to his praises.

**Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, Savior, save us.**

Say to God: How awesome are thy works; let all the earth worship thee and sing to thee. Let it sing a song to thy name, O Most High.

**Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, Savior, save us.**

Glory...Now...

**Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, Savior, save us.**

### **B** The 2<sup>nd</sup> Antiphon

May God have mercy upon us and bless us, and may he cause his face to shine upon us and have mercy upon us.

**O Son of God, who art risen from the dead, save us who sing to thee: Alleluia.**

That thy way may be known upon earth, thy salvation among all nations. Let the peoples give thanks to thee, O God; let all the peoples give thanks to thee.

**O Son of God, who art risen from the dead, save us who sing to thee: Alleluia.**

May God bless us, and may all the ends of the earth fear him.

**O Son of God, who art risen from the dead, save us who sing to thee: Alleluia.**

Glory...Now...

**O Only-Begotten Son...**

### **C** The 3<sup>rd</sup> Antiphon

Let God arise, and let his enemies be scattered, and let them that hate him flee from before his face.

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

As smoke vanisheth, so let them vanish; as wax melteth before the fire.

**Christ is risen from the dead...**

So let sinners perish at the presence of God, and let the righteous be glad.

**Christ is risen from the dead...**

This is the day which the Lord hath made; let us rejoice and be glad therein.

**Christ is risen from the dead...**

## **D** The Entrance Hymn

In congregations bless God, the Lord from the springs of Israel. Save us, O Son of God, who art risen from the dead, as we sing to thee: Alleluia.

## **E**

### **Troparion of Thomas Sunday – Tone 1**

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.

### **Kontakion of Pascha – Tone 8**

Though thou didst descend into the grave, O Immortal One, yet didst thou destroy the power of Hades, and didst arise as victor, O Christ God, calling to the myrrh-bearing women, "Rejoice," and giving peace unto thine apostles, O thou who dost grant resurrection to the fallen.

## **F**

**The Thrice-Holy Hymn – As usual...**

## **G**

### THE EPISTLE

Great is our Lord, and great is his power.  
Praise the Lord, for the Lord is good.

**The reading is from Acts of the Apostles (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."

### Alleluia Verses:

- v.* O come, let us sing to the Lord; let us shout for joy to God our Savior.
- v.* For the Lord is a great God, and a great king above all gods.

### THE GOSPEL

**The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St 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 to 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 to 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 to 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, "Thomas, you have 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.

### **H** The Megalynarion – Tone 1

O most radiant lamp, the Theotokos, the immeasurable honor, which is more exalted than all creatures, with praises do we magnify thee.

### **I** The Communion Hymn – Tone 8

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

### **J** Troparion of Pascha – Tone 5

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

**FASTING GUIDELINES:** All kinds of food and drink are permitted from Pascha through its leave-taking (June 9), even on Wednesday and Friday.

## THIS WEEK AT HOLY ASCENSION

Saturday, May 8	5pm Great Vespers
Sunday, May 9	8:45am Orthros 10am Divine Liturgy
Monday, May 10	7pm Ladies Bible Study on Zoom
Tuesday, May 11	6:30pm Parish Council on Zoom