

HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH Parish Newsletter

New Parish Center: 20937 Ashburn Rd., #110, Ashburn, VA 8 May 2021

ANTIPASCHA—THOMAS

READING FROM THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES.

IN THOSE DAYS: ^{5,12}Many signs and wonders were done among the people at the hands of the apostles. And by common consent they all used to meet in Solomon's Portico. ¹³No one from outside their number dared to join them, yet people spoke well of them. ¹⁴More and more, believers in the Lord were added, a large number of men and women. ¹⁵Thus they even carried out the sick into the streets, and laid them on cots and mats, so that when Peter came by, at least his shadow might fall on some of them. ¹⁶A great number of people from the towns in the vicinity of Jerusalem also gathered, bringing the sick and those disturbed by unclean spirits, and they were all cured.

¹⁷Then the high priest took action and all who were with him—that is, the party of the Sadducees; they were filled with jealousy ¹⁸They laid hands upon the apostles and put them in the public jail. ¹⁹But during the night, the angel of the Lord opened the prison doors, led them out, and said, ²⁰“Go, stand in the temple, and tell the people all about this Life.”

PROKIMENON, Tone III

Great is our Lord and abundant in power; * his understanding is beyond measure.

PSALM 146

NOTE: This psalm sings the praises of God as the restorer of exiled Israel who sustains the needy.

How good to sing to our God! How pleasant to praise the glorious one!

²The Lord rebuilds Jerusalem. He gathers together the exiles of Israel;

³he heals their broken hearts and binds their wounds.

⁴He assigns a number to the stars: to each of them he gives a name.

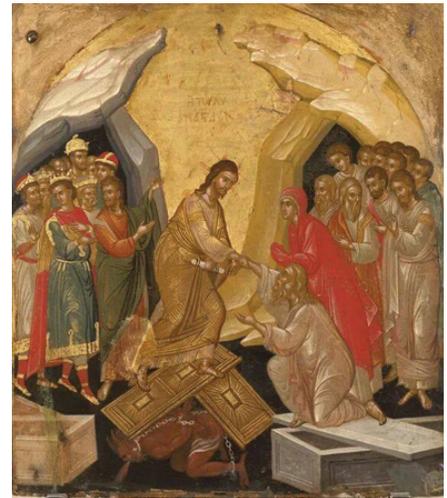
⁵**Great is our Lord and abundant in power; his understanding is beyond measure.**

⁶The Lord reassures the humble; he consigns the wicked to the world beneath.

⁷Sing to the Lord in gratitude.... make music to our God, ⁸for he makes the sky overcast with clouds; he prepares rain for the earth;

He makes the mountains sprout grass and provides plants for man's use; ⁹he gives cattle their grain and the young ravens what they cry for;

¹⁰He does not delight in the strength of horses nor value the fleetness



Saturday, May 8

Paschal Vespers at 6:00 p.m.

Sunday, May 9

Divine Liturgy at 10:00 a.m.

Happy Mothers' Day.

God grant many years!

God grant many years!

God grant many, happy years!

of men. ¹¹But the Lord values those who revere him, those who rely on his lovingkindness.

Reader: Great is our Lord and abundant in power. People: His understanding is beyond measure.

READING FROM THE FIRST EPISTLE OF PETER TO ALL THE CHURCHES.

BELOVED: ¹⁷If you call «Father» [*this is alluding to the Lord's Prayer which the newly baptized have just learned—Ed.*] him who judges impartially according to each one's works, conduct yourselves with reverence during the time of your sojourning [=lifetime], ¹⁸realizing that you were ransomed from your futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, ¹⁹but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a spotless unblemished lamb. ²⁰He was known before the foundation of the world, but revealed in this final period of time for your sake. ²¹Through him you have come to believe in God who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

²²Since you have purified yourselves by obedience to the truth [*meaning being baptized*] through the Spirit for sincere mutual love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart. ²³You have been born anew, not from perishable but from imperishable seed, through the living and enduring Word of God, ²⁴for:

All flesh is like grass, and all its glory like the flower of the field; the grass withers, and the flower wilts; ²⁵but the Word of the Lord remains forever.

This Word is the Good News that was brought to you.

^{2.1}Rid yourselves of all malice, and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all slander; ²like newborn infants, long for pure spiritual milk so that through it you may grow into salvation, ³for you have tasted that the Lord is good. ⁴Come to him, a living stone, rejected by men but chosen and precious in the sight of God, ⁵and, like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ...

You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people of his own, so that you may announce the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

¹⁰ *Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.*

¹¹Beloved, I urge you as aliens and sojourners to keep away from natural inclinations that wage war against the soul. ¹²Maintain good conduct among the Gentiles, so that if they speak of you as evildoers, they may observe your good works and glorify God on the day of visitation.

¹³Be subject to every human institution for the Lord's sake, whether it be to the emperor as supreme ¹⁴or to governors as sent by him for the punishment of those who do wrong and the approval of those who do right. ¹⁵For it is the will of God that by doing good you may silence the ignorance of foolish people. ¹⁶Live as free men, without using freedom as a cloak for vice, but as servants of God. ¹⁷Honor everyone. Love the community. Fear God. Honor the emperor.

ALLELUIA PSALM 97

NOTE: A hymn of praise exto **PSALM 94**

NOTE: As if from the lips of the devout Messiah/Christ inviting the faithful to join him in telling out God's glory and showing him reverence, for he is king of creation and shepherd of his flock. (An adaptation of verse 6 repeated thrice opens so many divine services; Psalm 94 is also the daily third antiphon at the Liturgy.)

Come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to God our saviour!

²Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving! And with psalms let us make a joyful noise to him.

³For the Lord is a great God, and a great king over all the earth.

⁴In his hand are the depths of the earth, and the heights of the mountains are also his.

⁵The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land....

⁶Come, let us worship and fall down before him; let us kneel before the Lord who made us.

⁷For he is our God, and we are the people he shepherds and the flock he guides. ⁸If only you would heed his voice today.....

READING FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN.

AT THAT TIME: ¹⁹On the evening of that first day of the week, when the doors were locked, where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came

and stood in their midst and said to them, “Peace to you.”²⁰ When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.²¹ Jesus said to them again, “Peace to you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.”²² And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the holy Spirit.²³ Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained.”²⁴ Thomas, called Didymos (or the Twin), one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came.²⁵ So the other disciples said to him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger into the nail marks and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.”²⁶ Now eight days later his disciples were again inside and Thomas was with them. Jesus came—although the doors were locked—and stood in their midst and said, “Peace to you.”²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands, and bring your hand and put it into my side, and do not be unbelieving, but believe.”²⁸ Thomas answered and said to him, “My Lord and my God!”²⁹ Jesus said to him, “Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed.”³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book.³¹ But these are written that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through this belief you may have life in his name.

TROPARION, Tone V

Christ is risen from the dead, * trampling down Death by death, * and on those in the tombs bestowing life.

TROPARION, Tone VII

While the tomb was sealed, * you shone forth from it as light, O Life, * and though the doors were closed, * you appeared in your disciples’ midst; * through them you renew in us an upright spirit * in your great mercy.

Glory: Both now:

KONDAKION, Tone VIII

Although the doors were closed, O Christ our God, * you appeared in the midst of your disciples. * Then Thomas probed your life-giving wounds and

exclaimed with the other apostles: * You are my Lord and my God.

THE ÉKTENY or FERVENT PRAYER (Ancient Penitential Litany and Prayer)

Let us all say with our whole soul,
and with our whole mind let us say:
Lord, have mercy.

O Lord almighty! O God of our fathers!
We pray you. Hear us and have mercy.

Have mercy on us, O God,
according to your great mercy!

We pray you. Hear us and have mercy.

Again we pray:

- For devout and Orthodox Christians.
- For our Archbishop Tikhon.
- For Ed and Janet and Andrea and Mildred, and for all who have asked for our prayers *NW...*: we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, visitation, pardon, and remission of their sins.
- For Orthodox Christians who are made to suffer on account of Christ, and we pray for those who persecute them.
- For Orthodox Christians and indeed all men who are victims of war and civil strife [and terror], of hunger and want, of intolerance and injustice.
- For physicians, nurses, care-givers, and all serving those infected with the virus; and for the thousands who have succumbed to the disease—and for all who will die today.

PRAYER OF THE ÉKTENY

Lord our God, accept this fervent prayer from your servants, and have mercy on us according to the greatness of your mercy. Send down your compassionate help upon us and upon all your people awaiting the rich mercy that comes from you.

For you are God, merciful and loving to man, and we render glory to you—to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit: now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.