

Sunday, April 11 Thomas Sunday

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling death by death, and to those in the tombs giving life.

Tropar, tone 7: Though the tomb had been sealed, * from the tomb You arose, O Life and Christ our God. * Though the door had been locked, * You appeared among the disciples, O Resurrection of all; * and thus You restored an upright spirit for us * according to your great mercy.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; now and for ever and ever. Amen!

Kondak, tone 8: Thomas placed his restless hand * into your life-giving side, O Christ our God; * and since You entered, although the doors were locked, * he cried out to You with the other apostles: * "You are my Lord and my God!"

Prokimen, tone 3: Great is our Lord and mighty in power; to his wisdom there is no limit.

Verse: Praise the Lord, for he is good; sing praise to our God, for he is gracious.

Epistle: Acts of the Apostles 5: 12 - 20

In those days through the hands of the apostles, many signs and wonders occurred among the people. By mutual agreement they used to meet in Solomon's Portico. No one else dared to join them, despite the fact that the people held them in great esteem. Nevertheless, more and more believers, men and women in great numbers, we continually added to the Lord. The people carried the sick into the streets and laid them on cots and mattresses, so that when Peter passed by at least his shadow might fall on one or another of them. Crowds from the towns around Jerusalem would gather, too, bringing their sick and those who were troubled by unclean spirits, all of whom were cured. The high priest and all his supporters (that is, the party of the Sadducees), filled with jealousy, arrested the apostles and threw them into the public jail. During the night, however, an angel of the Lord opened the gates of the jail, led them forth and said, "Go out now and take your place in the temple precincts and preach to the people all about this new life."

Alleluia Verses: Come, let us sing joyfully to the Lord, let us acclaim God, our Savior.

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

Gospel: John 20: 19 - 31

On the evening of the first day of the week, even though the disciples had locked the doors of the

place where they were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood before them. "Peace be with you," he said. "When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. At the sight of the Lord the disciples rejoiced. "Peace be with you," he said again. "As the Father has sent me, so I send you." Then he breathed on them and said: "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive men's sins, they are forgiven them; if you hold them bound, they are held bound." It happened that one of the Twelve, Thomas (the name means "Twin"), was absent when Jesus came. The other disciples kept telling him; "We have seen the Lord!" His answer was, "I will never believe it without probing the nail prints in his hands, without putting my finger in the nail marks and my hand into his side." A week later, the disciples were once more in the room, and this time Thomas was with them. Despite the locked doors, Jesus came and stood before them. "Peace be with you," he said; then to Thomas: "Take your finger and examine my hands. Put your hand into my side. Do not persist in your unbelief, but believe!" Thomas said in response, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus then said to him: "You became a believer because you saw me. Blest are they who have not seen and have believed." Jesus performed many other signs as well -- signs not recorded here -- in the presence of his disciples. But these have been recorded to help you believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, so that through this faith you may have life in his name.

Instead of 'It is truly right...': The angel cried out to the One full of grace: * "O chaste Virgin, rejoice! * And again I say, rejoice! * Your Son has risen from the tomb on the third day * and raised the dead." * Let all people rejoice! * Shine, shine, O New Jerusalem, * for the glory of the Lord has risen upon you! * Exalt now and be glad, O Zion! * And you, O chaste Mother of God, take delight * in the resurrection of your Son.

Communion Hymn: Glorify the Lord O Jerusalem; praise your God, O Zion! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

"**Christ is risen...**" replaces: "Blessed is he who comes..." 'We have seen the true light,' "May our mouths be filled," 'Blessed be the name of the Lord,' and 'Glory be to the Father...' at the dismissal.

At the conclusion of the Liturgy, "Christ is risen..." is sung three times, with the addition of "And to us He grants life eternal, let us bow to his third day resurrection."