



St. George Orthodox Church of Prescott

Sunday, April 21, 2017—Thomas Sunday

Served by Fr. Jeffrey Frate

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METROPOLIS OF SAN FRANCISCO

The Epistle Reading is from Acts of the Apostles 12:1-11

ABOUT THAT TIME, Herod the king laid violent hands upon some who belonged to the church. He killed James the brother of John with the sword; and when he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter also. This was during the days of Unleavened Bread. And when he had seized him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four squads of soldiers to guard him, intending after the Passover to bring him out to the people. So Peter was kept in prison; but earnest prayer for him was made to God by the Church.

The very night when Herod was about to bring him out, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, and sentries before the door were guarding the prison; and behold, an angel of the Lord appeared, and a light shone in the cell; and he struck Peter on the side and woke him, saying, "Get up quickly." And the chains fell off his hands. And the angel said to him, "Wrap your mantle around you and follow me." And he went out and followed him; he did not know that what was done by the angel was real, but thought he was seeing a vision. When they had passed the first and the second guard, they came to the iron gate leading into the city. It opened to them of its own accord, and they went out and passed on through one street; and immediately the angel left him. And Peter came to himself, and said, "Now I am sure that the Lord has sent his angel and rescued me from the hand of Herod and from all that the Jewish people were expecting."

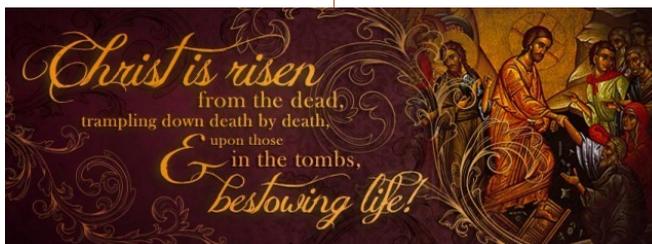
Gospel Reading is from John 20:19-31

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 with 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 with 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 with 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: "Have you 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.



PRAYER LIST

Kathy, Mary, Dan and Marcia Hill, Valentina Thommen, Fr. Makarios Mwaura and family (Kenya), Amber Brogger & children, Elena Cook, Walt Thayer, Vera Timotijevic, John Walendziak, Cynthia DeLeone, Roman Benyk, Karen Clark, Vadim, Kristina, Rochelle and Wayne Pedersen, Lisa, Mark and Jeannie Panos, Presvy Jenny Nicolaou Newlin, Maria Carolina, Bill Kountanis, Michele and McKenzie, Barbara Wright and John Vlahakis.

For our sons and daughters serving in the U.S. Armed Forces; Jordan Verespe, Don (Spyridon) Hock, Col. Stephen Close, Matthew Bricker, Matt Meyers, Joseph Peck, Brittany Rushing and Aeden Rushing.

And for the departed Rt. Rev. Archimandrite Gabriel Cooke, may his memory be eternal.

And the departed Helen Wells, Bob (Timothy) Hunt, John Tupy, Kayla Mueller, Khrystyna Gavryushenko and the newly departed Kathy Hunt.

As members of an Orthodox Christian family, we are called upon to pray for each other.

If you would like us to remember you or your loved one in our prayers, please contact the church office at 928-777-8750 or e-mail the name of your loved one to jillnormandin@gmail.com

For our Visitors this morning!

If this is your first visit to an Orthodox Christian liturgy we welcome you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! The Eastern Orthodox Church traces her lineage back to the Day of Pentecost, the birth of the New Testament Church. We are liturgical in worship, using the liturgies developed in the fourth century and attributed to St. John Chrysostom, and St. Basil the Great, also, the Pre-Sanctified Liturgy attributed to St. Gregory Dialogos, Pope of Rome. Liturgy literally means, "work of the people", and it seems these services are attributed to these three saints because they were in every sense of the word champions of the people, caring for their flocks with true wisdom and discernment, and not afraid to suffer on their behalf, and on behalf of the truth. We are the "Church of the Bible" since it was in the bosom of the Church that the New Testament developed and was given birth. We are hierarchical in structure, visibly witnessing to, and manifesting, the reality that the grace of God flows from our one great High Priest and Hierarch, Jesus Christ, through the communion of hierarchs throughout the world to the entire body of the faithful, even to the smallest child. The apex of our worship experience is to commune with God in the Body and Blood of Christ. He Himself taught in the Gospel of St. John, "I am the living bread which came down from heaven; if anyone eats of this bread he will live forever; and the bread which I shall give for the life of the world is my flesh...For my flesh is food indeed, and my blood is drink indeed." (Jn 6:51,55) In light of this, the Divine Liturgy of the Orthodox Church is essentially Eucharistic, meaning it is offered in thanksgiving to the One Triune God who continuously sends down the Holy Spirit upon us and the bread and wine that we offer, making these humble things, for us the unworthy, the precious Body and Blood of Christ. **Please note that Holy Communion is reserved for those Orthodox Christians who have prepared themselves with prayer and fasting to receive the Holy Mysteries.** We do invite you to receive the blessed bread (antidoron) which is offered to all after the dismissal, and please do join us at the conclusion of the Divine Service for our fellowship meal in the hall next door. May the Lord richly bless your worship with us in this morning's Divine Liturgy!

APOLYTIKION FOR THOMAS SUNDAY IN TONE SEVEN

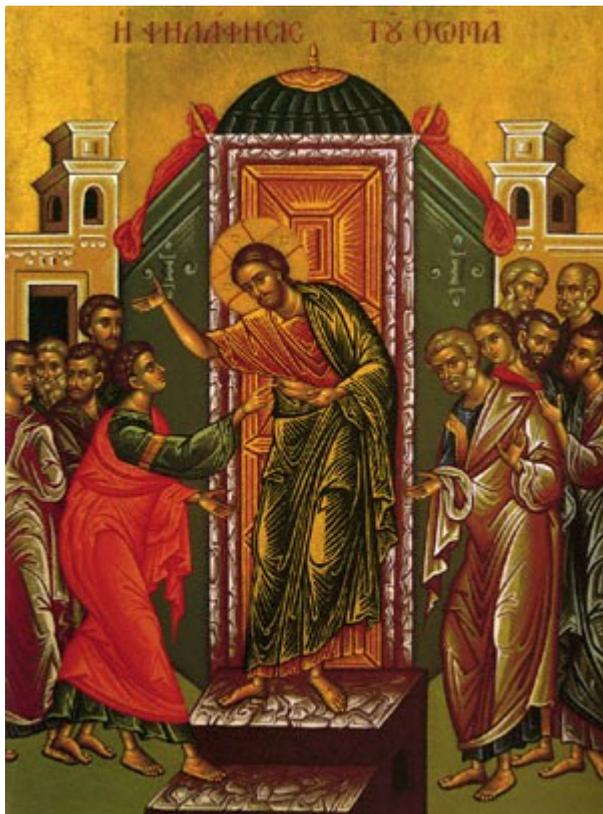
Whilst the tomb was sealed, Thou, O life, didst shine forth from the grave, O Christ God; and whilst the doors were shut, Thou didst come unto Thy disciples, O resurrection of all, renewing through them an upright spirit in us according to Thy great mercy.

APOLYTIKION OF ST. GEORGE

Liberator of captives, defender of the poor, physician of the sick, and champion of kings, O trophy-bearer, Great Martyr George, intercede with Christ God that our souls be saved.

KONTAKION FOR PASCHA IN FOURTH MODE

Though Thou didst descend into the grave, O Immortal One, yet didst Thou destroy the power of Hades, and dist arise as Victor, O Christ God, calling to the Myrrhbearing Women, Rejoice, and giving peace to Thine Apostles, O Thou Who dost grant Resurrection to the fallen.



Thomas Sunday (April 21)

Though the doors were shut at the dwelling where the disciples were gathered for fear of the Jews on the evening of the Sunday after the Passover, our Saviour wondrously entered and stood in their midst, and greeted them with His customary words, "Peace be unto you." Then He showed unto them His hands and feet and side; furthermore, in their presence, He took some fish and a honeycomb and ate before them, and thus assured them of His bodily Resurrection. But Thomas, who was not then present with the others, did not believe their testimony concerning Christ's Resurrection, but said in a decisive manner, "Except I shall see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into His side, I will not believe." Wherefore after eight days, that is, on this day, when the disciples were again gathered together and Thomas was with them, the Lord Jesus came while the doors were shut, as He did formerly. Standing in their midst, He said, "Peace be unto you"; then He said to Thomas, "Bring hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and bring hither thy hand, and thrust it into My side: and be not unbelieving, but believing."

And Thomas, beholding and examining carefully the hands and side of the Master, cried out with faith, "My Lord and my God." Thus he clearly proclaimed the two natures - human and divine - of the God-man (Luke 24:36-49; John 20:19-29).

This day is called Antipascha (meaning "in the stead of Pascha," not "in opposition to Pascha") because with this day, the first Sunday after Pascha, the Church consecrates every Sunday of the year to the commemoration of Pascha, that is, the Resurrection.

Prayer for Evangelism in Ourselves and in Our Community

God of truth and love: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Hear our prayer for those who do not know You. That they may come to a saving knowledge of the truth, and that Your Name may be praised among all peoples of the world. Sustain, inspire, and enlighten Your servants who bring them the Gospel. Bring fresh vigor to wavering faith; sustain our faith when it is still fragile. Continually renew missionary zeal in ourselves and in the Church, and raise up new missionaries who will follow You to the ends of the world. Make us witnesses to Your goodness full of love, full of strength, and full of faith for Your glory and the salvation of the entire world. Through the prayers of all the missionary saints, Have mercy on us and save us. Amen.

This Week at St. George

Monday, April 24, 2017

9:00AM

Daily Orthros

Tuesday, April 25, 2017

9:00AM

Daily Orthros

6:30PM

Daily Vespers

Saturday, April 29, 2017

5:00PM

Great Vespers

CHRIST IS RISEN!

Pascha Picnic

Please join us for our Pascha Meal following Liturgy as we welcome his grace, Bishop Apostolos to our community.

Special Thanks

Thank you to all who contributed in so many different ways to the holy work of Holy Week. There are countless things that need to take place every year, and we are glad to have so many parishioners who step up to contribute their time, talent, and treasure.

Clergy Laity Conference

Fr. Jeffrey will be away from the 26th - 28th this week for the Clergy Laity Conference in CA. He can be reached in case of emergency at the Church's phone number: 777-8750

Invoice Payment Process Change

Please note all church invoices will be moved to a bi-weekly payment cycle starting next month. This means, payments will be made twice a month vs. several times a week. Therefore, all invoices received from the 1st to 15th of the month will be paid on the 15th. All invoices received from the 16th to the 30th will be paid on the 30th. If you have any questions, please contact Kally Key.

Future Church Treasurer

St. George is in need of a new church treasurer, starting January 1, 2018. If you are interested, please see Kally Key or Gina Clark to learn more about this important volunteer position. The position requires a 3 year term and participation on the church council. Kally has been the treasurer for the past 9 years and it's time to replace her as she has far exceed the required 3 year term, and needs a break. Please seriously consider this role if you have skills in this area, including accounting experience and strong organizational skills. Training will begin immediately once a replacement is found. If we do not find a new treasurer, we will move this service to our accounting firm which will be very costly for St. George..

Upcoming Parish Meeting

May 7th 2017 - Save the Date for our next Parish Meeting where we plan to discuss building growth options for the Church and report on our Evangelism and Stewardship Programs. We will also review the financial picture for 2017. The meeting will begin immediately following the Divine Liturgy. Lunch will be provided.

If you have bulletin announcements, please contact Jill Normandin by Thursday to have your announcement included in the Sunday bulletin. Email jillnormandin@gmail.com or call 928-533-3977 (email is preferable so no details are missed).

St. George Parish Council: Gina Clark, President, George Rizk, Vice President, Kally Key, Treasurer, Laretta Gioia , Secretary and Council Members, Ty Freedman, Matt Maxwell, Kenny Scott, Robert Smith, and Raymond Zogob.