



Holy Apostle Thomas

TROPARION OF ST. THOMAS

Thou wast a disciple of Christ and a member of the divine choir of Apostles, by thine unbelief thou didst make known Christ's Resurrection, and by touch thou wast assured of His holy Passion, O all-glorious Thomas, and now pray that we be granted peace and great mercy.

MEGALYNARION OF ST. THOMAS

Doubting, thou did come forth to touch His side; yet the resurrection was confirmed by thine unbelief. Henceforth, all have been taught by thee to serve Christ, O Thomas, who did end thy course well by holy martyrdom.

**ST. THOMAS
ANTIOCHIAN
ORTHODOX CHURCH**

1201 N. Llano Street
Fredericksburg, Texas

**COMMEMORATION OF
JOHN CLIMACUS,
AUTHOR OF
"THE LADDER"**

FOURTH SUNDAY OF
GREAT LENT

Sunday, April 14, 2024

*Antiochian Diocese of
Wichita and Mid-America*

Primate

His Beatitude, the Patriarch of
Antioch, JOHN X

Archbishop of New York and
Metropolitan of All North America
His Eminence, Metropolitan Saba

Pastor: Rev. Fr. Methodios Ingalls

Pastor's Email: methodios102@yahoo.com

Pastor's Telephone (512) 632-8188

Website: stthomasorthodoxchurch.org

Wifi: Didymus-Guest
Password: STguest!

Current Events on page 4

Sunday, April 14, 2024; Commemoration of John Climacus, Author of “The Ladder
Apostles Aristarchos, Pudens and Trophymos of the Seventy

FIRST EOTHINON GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew (28:16—20).

At that time, the eleven disciples went to Galilee to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. And when they saw Him, they worshipped Him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, “All power in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age.” Amen.

THE SYNAXARION

On April 14 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the Apostles Aristarchos, Pudens and Trophymos of the Seventy. On this same day, the Fourth Sunday of Great Lent, we make remembrance of our godly father, John, the author of *The Ladder of Divine Ascent* (or Climacus). The celebration of his feast on this day arose from the custom prevalent in the honorable monasteries of starting Great Lent with the reading of his lessons. John describes the method of elevating the soul to God as ascending a ladder. He teaches those who seek salvation how to lay a firm foundation for struggles, how to detect and fight every passion, how to avoid demonic snares, and how to rise from the rudimental virtues to the heights of Godlike love and humility. John of the Ladder came to Mount Sinai at age 16 and remained there, first as a novice under obedience, then as a recluse, and finally as abbot until his eightieth year. One time, his disciple, Moses, fell asleep under the shade of a large stone. John, in prayer in his cell, saw that his disciple was in danger and prayed to God for him. Later, when Moses returned, he fell on his knees and gave thanks to his spiritual father for saving him from certain death. He related how, in a dream, he heard John calling him and he jumped up and, at that moment, the stone tumbled. Had he not jumped, the stone would have crushed him. John Climacus died on March 30, 606.

Verses

John, dead in the flesh and also living,
Liveth eternally, even though appearing dead and without breath.
Leaving letters, a ladder for the journey upwards,
He showeth forth his pursuit of the journey upwards.

THE FIRST EOTHINON EXAPOSTEILARION IN TONE TWO

Upon that mount in Galilee, let us join the disciples to look in faith on Christ, Who saith He hath received dominion o’er things on earth and in Heaven. Let us learn how He teacheth to baptize all the nations in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and how He promised to be with His initiates until the end of all things.

EXAPOSTEILARION & THEOTOKION FOR ST. JOHN CLIMACUS IN TONE TWO

The joy and comfort of the world thou didst reject as wearisome and with strict fasting didst wither the flesh, while fully renewing thy strength of soul, O righteous John, and thou becamest very rich in glory great and heavenly; hence never cease interceding for us, O far-famed ascetic.

All we who have been saved through thee confess thee verily to be the Theotokos, O Lady; for thou ineffably didst bear our God, Who hath abolished death by His divine and precious Cross, and Who hath drawn unto Himself the multitudes of the righteous, with whom we laud thee, O Virgin.

THE EPISTLE

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews (6:13—20)

Brethren, when God made a promise to Abraham, since He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, saying, “Surely blessing I will bless thee, and multiplying I will multiply thee.” And thus, having patiently endured, he obtained the promise. For people indeed swear by what is greater, and in every dispute of theirs the oath is final for confirmation. So when God, being minded to show more abundantly to the heirs of the promise the immutability of His counsel, He interposed it with an oath, that by two immutable things—in which it is impossible for God to lie—we might have a strong consolation, we, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope that is set before us; a hope, which we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and entering into “that which is within the veil,” where Jesus entered as a Forerunner on our behalf, having become a High Priest “forever according to the order of Melchizedek.”

THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark (9:17—31)

At that time, a man came to Jesus, kneeling down and saying unto him, “Teacher, I brought my son to you, for he has a dumb spirit. And wherever it seizes him, it dashes him down; and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid; and I asked Thy Disciples to cast it out, and they were not able.” And Jesus answered them, “O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him to Me.” And they brought the boy to Him; and when the spirit saw Jesus, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. And Jesus asked his father, “How long has he had this?” And he said, “From childhood. And it has often cast him into the fire and into the water, to destroy him; but if Thou canst do anything, have pity on us and help us.” And Jesus said to him, “If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes.” Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, “Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!” And when Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, “You dumb and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him, and never enter him again.” And after crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse; so that most of them said, “He is dead.” But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. And when Jesus had entered the house, His Disciples asked Him privately, “Why could we not cast it out?” And Jesus said to them, “This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer and fasting.” They went on from there and passed through Galilee. And Jesus would not have anyone know it; for He was teaching His Disciples, saying to them, “The Son of man will be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill Him; and after He is killed, He will rise on the third day.”

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE FOUR

Having learned the joyful message of the Resurrection from the angel the women disciples of the Lord cast from them their parental condemnation. And proudly broke the news to the Disciples, saying: Death hath been spoiled; Christ God is risen, granting the world Great Mercy.

APOLYTIKION OF ST. JOHN CLIMACUS IN TONE EIGHT

The barren wilderness thou didst make fertile with the streams of thy tears; and by thy deep sighing thou hast given fruit through thy struggles a hundredfold. Accordingly, thou hast become a star for the universe, sparkling with miracles. Therefore, O righteous Father John Climacus, intercede with Christ God to save our souls.

KONTAKION OF THE ANNUNCIATION IN TONE EIGHT

To thee our captain, Queen of War, the battle trophies won, thy people rescued by thine aid from peril, dedicate as our offering of thanksgiving, O Theotokos, as thou has might which none by war can overcome, from all forms of danger hast thou delivered me, that I may cry unto thee: Hail, O virgin unwedded bride.

WELCOME TO VISITORS

If you are visiting with us today, we are glad you joined with us in prayer today. Please leave your email address with Fr. Methodios if you would like to receive this bulletin and the services. If you are interested in studying the Orthodox faith systematically, please speak to Fr. Methodios at 512-632-8188, or at methodios102@yahoo.com.

REGULAR SERVICES

WEDNESDAY (7:00 p.m.) — Paraklesis
SATURDAY (6:00 p.m.) — Great Vespers
SUNDAY (9:00 a.m.) — Orthros
(10:00 a.m.) — Divine Liturgy
Confessions by appointment — contact the Pastor.

CATECHUMEN CLASS & BOOK STUDY

The Catechism class will meet on April 21, during social hour. The topic will be Holy Week and PASCHA. The Book Study is on hold until after PASCHA.

FASTING THIS WEEK

Strict fast every day, with a relaxation for wine and oil on Saturday and Sunday.

LENTEN SERVICES

Monday, April 15, 7:00 p.m.—Readers Compline (Fr. Methodios out)
Wednesday, April 17, 7:00 pm—Little Compline with Life of Mary of Egypt & Canon of St. Andrew
Friday, April 19, 7:00 p.m. — Little Compline with Akathist Canon
Saturday, Sunday, April 20 & 21 — regular services
Monday, April 22, 7:00 pm — Great Compline
Wednesday, April 24, 7:00 pm— Presanctified Liturgy
Friday, April 26, 7:00 pm— Little Compline with Canon for Raising Lazarus
Saturday, April 27, 9:00 —Orthros & Liturgy for Raising Lazarus
6:00—Great Vespers
Sunday, April 28, 9:00 —Orthros & Liturgy of Palm Sunday
7:00 pm—Bridegroom Service
Monday, April 29, 7:00 am —Presanctified Liturgy
7:00 pm —Bridegroom Service
Tuesday, April 30, , 7:00 am —Presanctified Liturgy
7:00 pm —Bridegroom Service
Wednesday, May 1, 7:00 am —Presanctified Liturgy
7:00 pm —Holy Unction
Thursday, May 2, 9:00 am —Vespereal Divine Liturgy for the Last Supper
7:00 pm—Twelve Passion Gospels & Procession of the Holy Cross
Friday, May 3; 9:00 am—Royal Hours (followed by the decoration of the Tomb)
2:00 pm—Vespers of Holy Friday, Taking Down from the Cross
7:00 pm—Lamentation Service
Saturday, May 4; 9:00 am—Vespereal Liturgy of St. Basil with Baptisms
10:30 p.m.—PASCHA Rush Service
Sunday, May 5; Midnight—Orthros & Divine Liturgy of PASCHA
1:30 a.m. —Agape Feast—the fast is over
12:00 Noon — Agape Vespers, followed by picnic in the park

God is everywhere present and fills all things. I try to take wings to infinity and fly amidst the stars. My mind is lost in the magnificence of God's omnipotence as I contemplate the distances of millions of light years. I feel the omnipotent God before me and I open my arms and I open my soul to be united with Him, to participate in the Godhead.— St. Porphyrios of Kavsoyklyvia