

PASCHAL APOLYTIKION TONE 5

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

طروبارية القيامة

المسيح قام من بين الاموات ووطىء الموت بالوت ووهب الحياة للذين في القبور

Χριστός ανέστη ἐκ νεκρῶν, θανάτῳ θάνατον πατήσας, καί τοῖς ἐν τοῖς μνήμασι, ζῶήν χαρισάμενος

APOLYTIKION FOR THOMAS SUNDAY IN TONE 7

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

O Immortal One, when Thou didst descend into the tomb, Thou didst destroy the power of Hades; and Thou didst rise victorious, O Christ God. Thou hast said to the ointment-bearing women: Rejoice! And Thou gavest peace to Thy Disciples, O Bestower of Resurrection to those Who had fallen.

THE EPISTLE

Great is the Lord, and great is His power.

Praise the Lord, for the Lord is good.

The Reading from the Acts of the Saintly and Pure 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."

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 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.

We Celebrate Today

On April 15 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate of Martyr Crescens of Myra in Lycia; and Hieromartyr Leonidas, bishop of Athens.

On this day, the second Sunday of Pascha, we inaugurate the celebration of Christ's Resurrection, and the occasion whereon the Holy Apostle Thomas touched the Savior's side.

This day is called New Sunday, Thomas Sunday or Anti-Pascha. The last term means "in place of Pascha" because Thomas did not immediately hear of Christ's Resurrection and disbelieved it. We remember his doubt but do not repeat it. After this Sunday, the Church dedicates Sunday to the Resurrection.

As the Disciples were gathered together on the Sunday of the Resurrection, Jesus entered and greeted them in His usual way, saying, "Peace be unto you." Then He showed them His hands, feet and side. Jesus ate before His Disciples and reassured them of His Resurrection.

However, Thomas was not with them at that time, and insisted upon seeing the Savior's scars—the print of the nails in His hands and feet, and the spear in His side—before he would believe that Jesus was risen. Eight days later Christ appeared again to the Disciples, this time with Thomas present. The Master told Thomas to see and feel. Then Thomas immediately cried out, "My Lord and my God!" But Jesus tells His Disciples, "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe." This event also clearly illustrates the human and divine Natures of Christ.

By the intercessions of Thine Apostle Thomas, O Christ our God, have mercy on us. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

+**Please remember in your prayers***The kidnapped Hierarchs, Metropolitan Paul, and Archbishop Yohanna.

*The servants of God, for their healing: Sonia, Wassim, Mariam, Vanda, Ghalia, Chris, Daniella, Mireille, Salim, Walid and Haya.

+**The Holy Bread** and coffee hour are offered by Mr. & Mrs. Shawki & Nina Salameh and their family.

+ **Mother's Day Celebration.** On April 27 at Chateau Crystal. For more information, contact please Mrs. Amal Sawan 281-650-7798

+**2018 MEMBERSHIP FORM** is available in the Hall or online. A new form must be on file each year for members to be *in good standing*. The work and ministry of The Forty Holy Martyrs Church is made possible by tithing and pledging members. *May God bless your generosity!*

+**Antiochian Women's general meeting.** Will be held on Sunday, April 22nd. To elect a new president, Nomination is opened.

+**PARISH LIFE CONFERENCE:** June 13-16th. 2018 – Eldorado Hotel & Spa, Santa Fe, NM. *Guest Speaker:* Hieromonk Silouan, abbot of the Monastery of the Holy Archangel Michael in Cañones, NM. Register today – www.SantaFePLC.org

+ **Day of Rejoicing:** On the Tuesday following Bright Week, Orthodox Christians visit the graves of departed loved ones, announcing the Resurrection. Our annual gathering at the Orthodox section of Forest Park Cemetery (12800 Westheimer Rd, 77077), sponsored by the Orthodox Clergy Association of Southeast Texas, will take place on Tuesday, 17th, @ 1:30 PM. *Your prayers and presence coveted.*

+**Guests and visitors** are always welcome at Forty Holy Martyrs church, and you are invited to join us after the liturgy for coffee hour.

THE FORTY HOLY MARTYRS ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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REGULAR SERVICES

Divine Liturgy (Arabic)

Thursday @ 6pm

Great Vespers: Saturday

5:00 PM (English)

Matins/Orthros: Sunday

8:45 AM (English)

Divine Liturgy: Sunday

10:00 AM (English)

Please visit our website

**for additional
information.**

www.40martyrs.org

 *forty Holy Martyrs*

Sugar Land

340 Eldridge Rd.

Sugar Land, TX 77478

DIVINE LITURGY

APRIL 15 2017

**SUNDAY OF GREAT AND
NEW SUNDAY OR ANTI-PASCHA
SUNDAY OF THOMAS THE APOSTLE,
CALLED "THE TWIN"**

MARTYR CRESCENS OF MYRA IN LYCIA;
HIEROMARTYR LEONIDAS, BISHOP OF
ATHENS



Fast Free .

Christ is Risen

المسيح قام

Χριστός Ἄνέστη!

Христос Воскресе!

Cristo ha resucitado!

