

Vespers sung on Saturday 5th October for Sunday 6th October 2024

15th Sunday after Pentecost ♦ The Holy, Glorious and All-laudable Apostle Thomas

“LORD, I CALL ...”

Tone 6

Lord, I call upon Thee, hear me!
Hear me, O Lord!
Lord, I call upon Thee, hear me!
Receive the voice of my prayer,
when I call upon Thee!//
Hear me, O Lord

Let my prayer arise
in Thy sight as incense,
and let the lifting up of my hands
be an evening sacrifice!//
Hear me, O Lord!

Bring my soul out of prison, that I may give thanks to Thy Name.

Tone 6 *(For the Resurrection)*

[Music on website]

Possessing victory over hell, O Christ,
since Thou art free among the dead,
Thou didst ascend the Cross
raising with Thyself those who sat in the shades of death.//
Drawing life from Thy light, O almighty Saviour, have mercy on us!

The righteous will surround me, for Thou wilt deal bountifully with me.

Today Christ tramples on death,
for He is risen as He said!
Let us all sing this song,
for He has granted joy to the world:
O Light unapproachable, O Fountain of life!//
O Saviour almighty, have mercy on us!

Out of the depths I cry to Thee, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice!

Where shall we sinners flee from Thee, Who art in all creation?
In heaven Thou dwellest!
In hell Thou didst trample on death!
In the depths of the sea?
Even there is Thy hand, O Master!
To Thee we flee, and falling before Thee, we pray://
O Thou Who didst rise from the dead, have mercy on us!

Let Thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

In Thy Cross, we glory, O Christ.
We sing and glorify Thy Resurrection.
For Thou art our God,//
and we know no other than Thee.

If Thou, O Lord, shouldst mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with Thee.

We will always bless the Lord
by singing of His Resurrection!
For He endured the Cross,//
trampling down death by death.

For Thy Name's sake I wait for Thee, O Lord. My soul has waited for Thy word; my soul has hoped on the Lord.

Glory to Thy might, O Lord,
for Thou didst overthrow the prince of death,
by Thy Cross renewing us, //
granting us life and incorruption.

From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch, let Israel hope on the Lord!

Tone 4 (For the Apostle Thomas)

O most blessed one,
when thou didst touch the side of the Master
thou didst grasp the most excellent of good things,
for like a sponge thou didst soak up waters therefrom,
the wellspring of blessings and life eternal
and didst moisten hearts dried up through unbelief, //
pouring forth the dogmas of the divine knowledge of God.

For with the Lord there is mercy and with Him is plenteous redemption, and He will deliver Israel from all his iniquities.

Repeat: O most blessed one ...

Praise the Lord, all nations! Praise Him, all peoples!

By thy faithful disbelief
thou didst assure the faithful,
having begun to speak of God, that He is the God and Lord of all creation,
Who took flesh for the sake of us on earth,
and endured the Cross and death, the print of the nails, and the piercing of His side with a spear //
whence we all draw forth life.

For His mercy is confirmed on us, and the truth of the Lord endures forever.

The wondrous Thomas
hath disclosed the wellspring of dogmas unto the divinely wise, O Master;
for, when he touched Thy side and was taught Thy twofold energies through Thy two Natures,
he rightly cried aloud:
Thou art my God and Master! Thou art the Lord of glory, //
Who didst become flesh for my sake!

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;

Tone 6 (For the Apostle Thomas)

As a servant of the Word and of His ineffable incarnation,
thou didst draw forth an abyss of wisdom, O Apostle Thomas;
for luring souls from the depths of deception,
thou didst draw them up with the pole of the Cross.
Hence, with the net of thy dogmas, thou hast brought the whole world to enlightenment
And hast illumined the souls of the people of India with the light of knowledge.
Wherefore, radiantly delighting in the glories of Christ, //
do thou entreat Him to have mercy on our souls.

Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Tone 6 (Theotokion – Dogmatikon)

[Music on website]

Who will not bless thee, O most holy Virgin?
Who will not sing of thy most pure childbearing?
The only-begotten Son shone timelessly from the Father,
but from thee He was ineffably incarnate.
God by nature, yet Man for our sake,
not two persons, but one known in two natures.
Entreat Him, O pure and all-blessed Lady, //
to have mercy on our souls.

APOSTOLIC READINGS

The reading from the First Epistle of Saint John.

[1 John 1:1-7]

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life – the life was made manifest, and we saw it, and testify to it, and proclaim to you the eternal life which was with the Father and was made manifest to us – that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you may have fellowship with us; and our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. And we are writing this that our joy may be complete. This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not live according to the truth; but if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

The Reading from the Epistle of Saint James.

[James 1:1-12]

James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes in the Dispersion: Greeting. Count it all joy, my brethren, when you meet various trials, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives to all men generously and without reproaching, and it will be given him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. For that person must not suppose that a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways, will receive anything from the Lord. Let the lowly brother boast in his exaltation, and the rich in his humiliation, because like the flower of the grass he will pass away. For the sun rises with its scorching heat and withers the grass; its flower falls, and its beauty perishes. So will the rich man fade away in the midst of his pursuits. Blessed is the man who endures trial, for when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life which God has promised to those who love him.

The Reading from the Epistle of Saint Jude

[Jude 1:1-25]

Jude, a servant of Jesus Christ and brother of James, To those who are called, beloved in God the Father and kept for Jesus Christ: May mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to you. Beloved, being very eager to write to you of our common salvation, I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints. For admission has been secretly gained by some who long ago were designated for this condemnation, ungodly persons who pervert the grace of our God into licentiousness and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ. Now I desire to remind you, though you were once for all fully informed, that he who saved a people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed those who did not believe. And the angels that did not keep their own position but left their proper dwelling have been kept by him in eternal chains in the nether gloom until the judgement of the great day; just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding cities, which likewise acted immorally and indulged in unnatural lust, serve as an example by undergoing a punishment of eternal fire. Yet in like manner these men in their dreamings defile the flesh, reject authority, and revile the glorious ones. But when the archangel Michael, contending with the devil, disputed about the body of Moses, he did not presume to pronounce a reviling judgement upon him, but said, "The Lord rebuke you." But these men revile whatever they do not understand, and by those things that they know by instinct as irrational animals do, they are destroyed. Woe to them! For they walk in the way of Cain, and abandon themselves for the sake of gain to Balaam's error, and perish in Korah's rebellion. These are blemishes on your love feasts, as they boldly carouse together, looking after themselves; waterless clouds, carried along by winds; fruitless trees in late autumn, twice dead, uprooted; wild waves of the sea, casting up the foam of their own shame; wandering stars for whom the nether gloom of darkness has been reserved for ever. It was of these also that Enoch in the seventh generation from Adam prophesied, saying, "Behold, the Lord came with his holy myriads, to execute judgement on all, and to convict all the ungodly of all their deeds of ungodliness which they have committed in such an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against him." These are grumblers, malcontents, following their own passions, loud-mouthed boasters, flattering people to gain advantage. But you must remember, beloved, the predictions of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ; they said to you, "In the last time there will be scoffers, following their own ungodly passions." It is these who set up divisions, worldly people, devoid of the Spirit. But you, beloved, build yourselves up on your most holy faith; pray in the Holy Spirit; keep yourselves in the love of God; wait for the mercy of our Lord

Jesus Christ unto eternal life. And convince some, who doubt; save some, by snatching them out of the fire; on some have mercy with fear, hating even the garment spotted by the flesh. Now to him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you without blemish before the presence of his glory with rejoicing, to the only God, our Saviour through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and for ever. Amen.

APOSTICHA

Tone 6 (*For the Resurrection*)

[Music on website]

Thy Resurrection, O Christ our Saviour,
the Angels in heaven sing!
Enable us on earth//
to glorify Thee in purity of heart!

V. The Lord is King; He is robed in majesty!

Destroying the gates of hell,
breaking the chains of death,
Thou didst resurrect the fallen human race as almighty God!//
O Lord Who didst rise from the dead, glory to thee!

V. For He has established the world, so that it shall never be moved.

Desiring to return us to Paradise,
Christ was nailed to the Cross and placed in a tomb.
The Myrrhbearing Women sought Him with tears, crying,
“Woe to us, O Saviour!
How dost Thou deign to descend to death?
What place can hold Thy life bearing body?
Come to us as Thou didst promise!
Take away our wailing and tears!”
Then the Angel appeared to them:
“Stop your lamentations!
Go, proclaim to the Apostles:
“The Lord is risen,//
granting us purification and great mercy!”

V. Holiness befits Thy house, O Lord, forevermore!

Having been crucified as Thou didst will,
by Thy burial Thou didst capture death, O Christ,
rising on the third day as God in glory,//
granting the world unending life and great mercy!

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;

Tone 6 (*Aposticha Doxastikon for the Apostle Thomas*)

Beholding the divine wisdom of Christ,
thou wast mystically shown to be a noetic bowl
wherein the souls of the faithful are gladdened, O Apostle Thomas;
for, with the divine net of the Spirit,
thou didst draw men from the depths of wretchedness.
Wherefore, thou didst go forth from Zion like a river of grace,
pouring forth thy divine dogmas upon the whole world.
Therefore, emulating the sufferings of Christ,
thou wast pierced in thy side,
entering the shade of incorruption.//
Him do thou entreat, that our souls be saved.

Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Tone 6 (Theotokion)[\[Music on website\]](#)

My Maker and Redeemer, Christ the Lord,
 was born of thee, O most pure Virgin.
 By accepting my nature, He freed Adam from his ancient curse.
 Unceasingly we magnify thee as the Mother of God!
 Rejoice, O celestial Joy!
 Rejoice, O Lady://
 the protection, intercession and salvation of our souls!

TROPARIA**Tone 6****Troparion of the Resurrection**[\[Music on website / Green Book page 12\]](#)

The Angelic Powers were at Thy tomb;
 the guards became as dead men.
 Mary stood by Thy grave,
 seeking Thy most pure body.
 Thou didst capture hell
 not being tempted by it.
 Thou didst come to the Virgin, granting life.//
 O Lord, Who didst rise from the dead, glory to Thee.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,

Troparion of the Holy Apostle Thomas in in Tone 2 [\[Music on website / Sheet\]](#)

Thou wast a disciple of Christ,
 a member of the divine assembly of the Apostles;
 for thou didst prove the Resurrection of Christ by thy disbelief,
 and didst verify His all-pure Passion by thy touch,
 O all-praised Thomas,
 ask that peace and great mercy may now be given to us.

Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Resurrectional Dismissal Theotokion in Tone 2

All of thy most glorious mysteries
 are beyond comprehension, O Theotokos;
 for, thy purity sealed and thy virginity intact,
 thou art known to be a true Mother, having given birth unto God.//
 Him do thou entreat, that our souls may be saved.