

**MAY 9, 2021**  
**SECOND SUNDAY OF PASCHA**  
**SAINT THOMAS SUNDAY**

Some icons depicting this event are inscribed “The Doubting Thomas.” This is incorrect. In Greek, the inscription reads, “The Touching of Thomas.” The Slavonic inscription is, “The Belief of Thomas.” When Saint Thomas touched the Life-giving side of the Lord, he no longer had any doubts.

This day is also known as “Antipascha.” This does not mean “opposed to Pascha,” but “in place of Pascha.” Beginning with this first Sunday after Pascha, the Church dedicates every Sunday of the year to the Lord’s Resurrection. Sunday is called “Resurrection” in Russian, and “the Lord’s Day” in Greek.

**GREAT VESPERS**

***LORD I CALL Six stikhera from the Pentecostarion***  
***Pentecostarion, tone 1:***

The doors being shut and the Disciples assembled,  
You appeared to them as almighty, O Jesus, our God.  
You stood in their midst giving them peace;  
You granted the Holy Spirit to them,  
commanding them to wait in Jerusalem  
until they would be clothed with the power from on high.  
Therefore we cry to You://  
“Our Illumination and Resurrection and Peace, glory to You!”

Eight days after Your Resurrection, O Lord,  
You came to Your Apostles  
proclaiming: “Peace be with you all!”  
To the doubting Disciple, You showed Your hands and side.  
He believed and cried to You://  
“My Lord and my God, glory to You!”

Thomas, called the Twin, was not with the Disciples, O Christ,  
when You came to them through closed doors.  
Therefore he doubted their word.  
You did not reject him for his faithlessness.  
When he saw Your side and the wounds in Your hands and feet,  
his faith was made certain.  
Having touched and seen,

he confessed You to be truly God, not only man, //  
crying: “My Lord and my God, glory to You!”

The Disciples were assembled on the eighth day,  
and the Savior appeared to them.

He gave them peace and said to Thomas:

“Come, Apostle! Feel my hands, which were pierced by the nails!”

Most wonderful doubt of Thomas!

It brought the hearts of the faithful to knowledge. //

And with fear he cried: “My Lord and my God, glory to You!”

***tone 2:***

After Your rising, O Lord,

though the doors were shut,

You came to your assembled Disciples.

You granted them peace.

Even Thomas believed, seeing Your hands and side!

He confessed You as Lord and God, //

Who save those who hope in You, O Lover of mankind!

When the doors were shut,

Jesus stood in the midst of His Disciples.

He calmed their hearts and granted them peace.

Then He spoke to Apostle Thomas:

“Do you not believe that I am risen from the dead?

Bring your hands here, and touch My side!

Be no longer an unbeliever!

Proclaim My passion and My Resurrection to all,

that everyone may join your cry: //

‘My Lord and my God, glory to You!’”

***GLORY...NOW & EVER, Pentecostarion, tone 6:***

When the doors were shut, Jesus came to His Disciples.

The Apostle Thomas, by divine dispensation, was not with them,  
for he spoke these words:

“Unless I see the Master myself,

unless I see His side flowing with baptismal blood and water,

unless I see those wounds, which have healed all mankind,

unless I see not a spirit, but flesh and bones, I will not believe.”

Glory to You, O Lord,

for You confirmed Thomas in faith, //

and have trampled death by death!

***APOSTIKHA (All Pentecostarion) tone 4:***

Glorious wonder!

Doubt bore certain faith!

Thomas said: “Unless I see, I shall not believe!”

By touching His side, he blessed the incarnate Son of God, Who suffered in the flesh,  
and he proclaimed the resurrected God, //

crying out with joy: “My Lord and my God, glory to You!”

**Verse: Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem; praise your God, O Zion!**

Glorious wonder!

Thomas placed his hand on the fiery side of Jesus Christ, God!

He was not scorched by this,

and his doubt changed to certain faith, and he cried fervently:

“You are my Master and my God. //

You Who have resurrected from the dead, glory to You!”

**Verse: He has strengthened the bars of your gates; He has blessed your children within you!**

Glorious wonder!

John the Apostle leaned on the Savior's breast,

and Thomas was made worthy to touch His side.

The one thus understood the depths of theology;

the other was privileged to announce the mystery of the Resurrection to us, //

crying: “My Lord and my God, glory to You!”

***GLORY... NOW AND EVER...Pentecostarion, tone 5:***

How great is the abundance of Your compassion, O Lover of mankind!

Because of Your long-suffering, You were struck by the Jews,

You were examined by an Apostle and touched by those who denied You.

How are You incarnate?

How are You crucified?

You have not known sin!

Make us understand like Thomas, that we may call out to You: //

“My Lord and my God, glory to You!”

**TROPARION**

From the sealed tomb, You shone forth, O Life!

Through closed doors You came to Your Disciples, O Christ God.

Renew in us, through them, an upright spirit, //

by the greatness of Your mercy, O Resurrection of all!

