

Thomas Sunday  
John 20:19-31

Then the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you. And when He had so said, He shewed unto them His hands and His side. Then were the disciples glad, when they saw the LORD. Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as My Father hath sent Me, even so send I you. And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost: Whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whose soever sins ye retain, they are retained. But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came. The other disciples therefore said unto him, We have seen the LORD. But he said unto them, 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. And after eight days again His disciples were within, and Thomas with them: then came Jesus, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, Peace be unto you. Then saith He to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold My hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into My side: and be not faithless, but believing. And Thomas answered and said unto Him, My LORD and my God. Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen Me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed. And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book: But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name. (KJV)

Hristos Voskrese! Vaistinu Voskrese!

Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!

God's Holy Church continues to celebrate the Resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ with great joy. After having been put to death on the Cross and risen from the Tomb, the Lord Jesus Christ visited his disciples.

St. John's Gospel for today describes the disciples' experience with the Risen Jesus Christ. Christ's Resurrection is verified in the present Gospel. The disciples' witnessing of the Risen Christ is clearly documented.

Holy Apostle Thomas had his doubts removed when he had the opportunity to personally see the Risen Christ. To this very day, God's Holy Church continues to celebrate the Resurrection in the present.

The Church proclaims with conviction: "Christ is Risen!" Believers everywhere respond with certainty: "Indeed He is Risen!" Minds, hearts and souls of believers are filled with the joy of the Risen Christ.

Churches around the world and through the centuries have proclaimed and have celebrated the Resurrection with conviction and great certainty. Daily life changes with the celebration of the Resurrection.

The Resurrection causes hope to rise and guides Christian lives. Gloom is erased. Believers are empowered in the Risen Christ. The Risen Jesus brings peace and is the Source of peace for believers.

Church services are radiant in celebrating the Resurrection. The Risen Christ illuminates the future for believers. The door to eternal life is firmly open for seekers of God's Kingdom.

Death's barrier is removed by the Lord Jesus Christ. Believers have reason to greet each day with joy. Christians share the wonderful news of the Resurrection with each other.

Language barriers are transcended as the news of the Resurrection spreads through the centuries and around the world. God's Holy Church fills with overflowing joy in celebrating the Risen Christ.

The Gospel of the Holy Apostle and Evangelist John serves as an authoritative source for verifying the Resurrection. The Gospel message is proclaimed in parish churches and monasteries everywhere.

Believers have their belief in the Resurrection confirmed in the unfolding of each day of life. The Risen Christ is readily apparent for those with eyes to see and the faith to believe.

Holy Thomas exclaimed: "My Lord and my God!" when he met the Risen Christ. Believers of every century experiencing the Risen Christ make the same exclamation in the way they go about living.

Thomas Sunday holds great importance in the Church. Thomas Sunday testifies to the Resurrection celebrated on Pascha. The Church witnesses to and proclaims the Resurrection on Sundays throughout the year.

Believers verify and witness to the Resurrection in their personal relationships throughout earthly life. At Baptism believers die and rise with Christ. Resurrection joy is central to the hearts, minds and souls of believers.

The Church will continue to celebrate the Resurrection in the days ahead. Believers immersed in the joy are transformed by Christ. Parish churches, Christian homes and communities experience the great difference the Resurrection makes.

The Resurrection offers great Light. The Resurrection is the embodiment of Hope. Thomas Sunday adds to the proof for conviction and action. Peace rises to the fore on Thomas Sunday.

Jesus Christ's Resurrection is the foundation for the greatest awe! Offer unending gratitude to the Risen Christ. Join with the Holy Apostle Thomas and firmly proclaim: "My Lord and my God!"

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Thomas Sunday. Holy Hieromartyr Terence. April 10/23, 2023. Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic