

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, ansaid, 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)

Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!

Hristos Voskrese! Vaistinu Voskrese!

Hristos a inuiat Adevarat a inuiat!

We are blessed to celebrate the Resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ in God's Holy Church. Having the freedom and the opportunity to attend the Divine services is an immeasurable blessing.

Freedom of worship and the availability of Divine services do not exist everywhere. The parish church is to be cherished and greatly supported. Monasteries are to be welcomed, supported and visited.

Homebound believers, those in hospitals and residential care centers with internet benefit from broadcast services. Worshipping and experiencing Jesus Christ in the Divine services nourishes and strengthens believers.

Believers experience life and new life in Christ. Jesus Christ's defeat of death provides the enduring evidence that Christ is Life and is the Way to life-everlasting.

Jesus Christ is the power over the barrier of death. Resurrection joy abounds in God's Holy Church throughout the year. Resurrection joy is very pronounced especially during the Paschal celebration.

Jesus' Resurrection removes the darkness from life. The Light of Christ overpowers any worldly darkness. The exclamation: "Christ is Risen" is sufficient to eradicate any darkness that might arise.

The Risen Christ is the embodiment of enduring hope in all circumstances of life. The disciples felt enduring hope and joy when Jesus appeared to them after He rose from the Tomb.

Holy Apostle Thomas experienced Resurrection hope and joy when he reached forth to touch Jesus' side. The Resurrected Christ is within reach of each believer stretching forth to Christ in prayer.

Believers experience the Resurrected Christ in each Divine Liturgy. Believers die and rise with Christ at Baptism. Immeasurable joy and hope are synonymous with the life in Christ.

Throughout Bright Week, Jesus' Resurrection is proclaimed and celebrated in churches and monasteries around the world. Believers in prison cells, hospital wards and critical care units have reason to hope in Christ.

Darkness in life has no place in the Christian heart, mind and soul. Darkness has no place in family life, in marriages or the raising of children. Children need to be raised in homes filled with joy, love and hope.

Jesus' love was convincingly demonstrated when He ascended the Cross and suffered. Jesus' love exists for each person from the beginning of time until the present.

We come to learn about Jesus Christ and understand His teachings in the Church. Learning about and from Jesus Christ never ends for those seeking to grow in Christ.

The heart, mind and soul yearn for Christ. The heart, mind and soul are at peace and filled with love and joy when united with Christ. Apostle Thomas was blessed with joy when he reached out to touch the Risen Jesus.

Each believer of each century is blessed to experience the Risen Christ. The Risen Christ is ever-present. The Church ensures the message of the Resurrection is proclaimed throughout the world and in each century.

Today and each day let us share the joy of the Resurrection. May the way we live each day be proof that the Resurrected Christ fills our hearts, minds and souls.

Love for Christ is to be alive in our daily relationships in the home, at work and in the community. The Risen Christ appeared to His disciples and proved He was not contained in the Tomb.

Christians prove their belief in Jesus Christ in their daily relationships and daily actions. Love, peace and hope abound in the daily relationships and actions of believers united with the Resurrected Christ.

Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen! Hristos Voskrese! Vaistinu Voskrese!

Thomas Sunday. St. Eutychius. April 6/April 19, 2026.

Father Rodney Torbic