

Sunday of the Last Judgment

2021-03-07

St. Thomas Orthodox Church

A Parish of the [Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America](#)



To our visitors...

Welcome! We hope your time with us is healing and worshipful. Please note that, although we have much respect for other Christian traditions, Holy Communion is reserved for properly prepared members of the Orthodox faith. Everyone is invited to partake of the blessed bread after the conclusion of the Liturgy.

May God's blessing be upon you!

Hymns in Today's Liturgy

Resurrectional *Apolytikion* (Tone 6)

When Mary stood at Thy grave, looking for Thy sacred body, angelic powers shone above Thy revered tomb; and the soldiers who were to keep guard became as dead men. Thou led Hades captive and wast not tempted thereby. Thou didst meet the Virgin and didst give life to the world, O Thou, Who art risen from the dead, O Lord, glory to Thee.

Apolytikion of St. Thomas (Tone 3)

O Holy Apostle Thomas, intercede to the merciful God, that He grant unto our souls forgiveness of sins.

Kontakion for the Sunday of the Last Judgment (Tone 1)

When Thou comest, O God, to earth with glory, and all creatures tremble before Thee, and the river of fire floweth before the Altar, and the books are opened and sins revealed, deliver me then from that unquenchable fire, and make me worthy to stand at Thy right hand, O righteous Judge.

Epistle

I Corinthians 8:9–9:2

Brethren, food will not bring us closer to God; for neither if we eat, are we the better, nor if we do not eat, are we the worse. But take heed lest by any means this authority of yours become a stumbling block to those who are weak. For if any one sees you, as someone who has knowledge, reclining at a table in an idol's temple, will not the conscience of the one who is weak be emboldened to eat of the things sacrificed to idols, and through your knowledge the weak brother perishes, for whom Christ died? And thus, sinning against the brethren, and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food causes my brother to stumble, I will not eat meat forever, lest I cause my brother to stumble. Am I not an apostle? Am I not free? Have I not seen Jesus Christ our Lord? Are not you my work in the Lord? If to others I am not an apostle, yet at least I am to you; for the seal of my apostleship are you in the Lord.

Gospel

Matthew 25:31–46

The Lord said, “When the Son of man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne. Before Him will be gathered all the nations, and He will separate them one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and He will place the sheep at His right hand, but the goats at the left. Then the King will say to those at His right hand, ‘Come, O blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave Me food, I was thirsty and you gave Me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed Me, I was naked and you clothed Me, I was sick and you visited Me, I was in prison and you came to Me.’ Then the righteous will answer Him, ‘Lord, when did we see Thee hungry and feed Thee, or thirsty and give Thee drink? And when did we see Thee a stranger and welcome Thee, or naked and clothe Thee? And when did we see Thee sick or in prison and visit Thee?’ And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.’ Then He will say to those at his left hand, ‘Depart from Me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave Me no food, I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome Me, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.’ Then they also will answer, ‘Lord, when did we see Thee hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to Thee?’ Then He will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it not to one of the least of these, you did it not to Me.’ And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

Synaxarion

On March 7 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the Hieromartyrs of Cherson: Basil, Ephraim, Eugene, Kapiton, Elpidios, Agathodoros and Ætherios; Venerable Laurence; and Venerable Paul the Simple, disciple of Venerable Anthony the Great.

Today, we commemorate the Second and impartial Coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

When the Judge of all sitteth to judge the earth
Come now! Mayest Thou judge me worthy of Thy voice

It is the Sunday of the Last Judgment – known also as Meatfare Sunday – the lesson of which occurs in today’s Holy Gospel. Jesus illustrates to us God’s ineffable goodness and His great love for mankind. And so, lest some who are lazy should

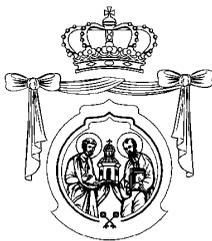
loiter and spend the time appropriate to their salvation in the pursuit of sin and be suddenly overtaken by death, the divine Fathers decree that, on this day, the remembrance of the Second Appearance of Christ may be celebrated. The intention is to remind them that, as God is good and loving to mankind, He is also a very righteous Judge Who recompenses each according to his deeds. Our Lord teaches us that when we minister to our brother or sister, we really minister to Him. This brings us righteousness and life eternal.

By Thine ineffable love for mankind, O Christ God, make us worthy of Thy devoted voice, number us among Thy righteous ones and have mercy on us. Amen.

Upcoming Events

Tuesday	Orthros and Divine Liturgy for the Forty Holy Martyrs of Sebaste	08:30	St. Thomas
Wednesday	Daily Vespers	18:00	St. Thomas
	Parish Council	19:00	<i>Online</i>
Thursday	<i>Paraklesis</i>	18:30	Holy Trinity
Saturday	Orthros and Divine Liturgy for the Saturday of Souls	08:30	St. Thomas
	Great Vespers	18:00	St. Thomas

We will stream services live and post updates on [our Facebook page](#), on [our Periscope channel](#), and on [our YouTube channel](#).



The Most Rev. Metropolitan JOSEPH,
Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of All North America

The Right Rev. Bishop BASIL,
Auxiliary Bishop of Wichita and Mid-America

The Rev. Fr. Peter Cox,
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