

11th Sunday after Pentecost

2021-09-05

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 2)

When Thou didst submit Thyself unto death, O Thou deathless and immortal One, then Thou didst destroy hell with Thy Godly power. And when Thou didst raise the dead from beneath the earth, all the powers of Heaven did cry aloud unto Thee: O Christ, Thou giver of life, glory to Thee.

***Apolytikion* of Zachariah the Prophet (Tone 4)**

In the vesture of a priest, according to the Law of God, thou didst offer unto Him well-pleasing whole-burnt offerings, as it befitted a priest, O wise Zachariah. Thou wast a shining light, a seer of mysteries, bearing in thyself clearly the signs of grace; and in God's temple, O wise Prophet of Christ God, thou wast slain with the sword. Hence, with the Forerunner, make entreaty that our souls find salvation.

***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* of the Nativity of the Theotokos (Tone 4)**

By thy holy nativity, O pure one, Joachim and Anna were delivered from the reproach of barrenness; and Adam and Eve were delivered from the corruption of death; thy people do celebrate it, having been saved from the stain of iniquity, crying unto thee: The barren doth give birth to the Theotokos, who nourisheth our life.

Epistle

I Corinthians 9:2–12

Brethren, the seal of my apostleship are you in the Lord. My defense to those who would examine me is this: Do we have no authority regarding what to eat and what to drink? Do we have no authority to lead about a wife, who is a sister, as the rest of the apostles, even as the brethren of the Lord, and Cephas? Or is it only Barnabas and I who have no authority to refrain from working? Which soldier ever served at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard and does not eat the fruit thereof? Or who shepherds a flock and does not eat from the milk of the flock? Do I speak of these things according to human nature? Or does not the Law say the same also?

For it is written in the Law of Moses: “Thou shalt not muzzle an ox which treads out the grain.” Is it for oxen that God cares, or does He say it altogether for our sakes? Indeed, for our sakes it was written: because he who plows ought to plow in hope, and he who threshes in hope, so that the same might partake in hope. If we have sown in you spiritual things, is it a great matter if we should reap your carnal things? If others are partakers of this authority over you, are we not even more? Nevertheless, we have not made use of this authority, but we endure all things, in order that we may cause no hindrance to the gospel of Christ.

Gospel

Matthew 18:23–35

The Lord spoke this parable: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. When he began the reckoning, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents; and as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, ‘Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ And out of pity for him the lord of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. But that same servant, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ So his fellow servant fell down and besought him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you besought me; and should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?’ And in anger his lord delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. So also My heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.”

Synaxarion

On September 5 in the Holy Orthodox Church we commemorate the glorious Prophet Zachariah, father of the Forerunner.

For the Divine Lamb of God’s sake, Zachariah
Is slain like a lamb in the midst of the temple.
On the fifth, Zachariah lieth slain on the temple’s floor.

Herod and the Jews killed Zachariah between the temple and the altar¹, first, because even after the Virgin Mary gave birth, he continued to refer to her as virgin and number her among the virgins; second, because Zachariah's son John was not found during the slaughter of the Innocents. Zachariah's wife Elizabeth had taken him and carefully hid him, while he was yet an infant, in an unnamed and hidden cave that sprung forth in her prayer to God. Zachariah's blood spilled over the marble and became as hard as stone, remaining as testament to Herod's wickedness. Forty days after Zachariah's death, blessed Elizabeth also entered into rest. The child John stayed in the wilderness, fed by an angel and guarded by God's providence, until that day when he appeared by the Jordan.

On this day, we also commemorate Obadiah, bishop of Persia; and the martyrdom of the Holy Passion-bearer Gleb. By the intercessions of Thy Saints, O Christ God, have mercy upon us. Amen.

Upcoming Events

Tuesday	<i>Paraklesis</i>	18:00	Holy Trinity
	Ladies' Club	18:30	Minerva's
Wednesday	Orthros & Divine Liturgy for the Nativity of the Theotokos	08:30	Holy Trinity
	Daily Vespers	18:00	St. Thomas
Saturday	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](#).



1 Matthew 23:35

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