

# Sunday of the 7th Œcumenical Council

2021-10-17

## 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 8)

From the heights Thou didst descend, O compassionate One, and Thou didst submit to the three-day burial, that Thou might deliver us from passion; Thou art our life and our Resurrection, O Lord, glory to Thee.

### *Apolytikion* of the Holy Fathers (Tone 8)

Thou, O Christ, art our God of exceeding praise Who didst establish our Holy Fathers as luminous stars upon earth, and through them didst guide us unto the true Faith, O most merciful One, 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.

### Ordinary *Kontakion* (Tone 2)

O protection of Christians that cannot be put to shame, mediation unto the Creator most constant, O despise not the suppliant voices of those who have sinned; but be thou quick, O good one, to come unto our aid, who in faith cry unto thee: Hasten to intercession, and speed thou to make supplication, thou who dost ever protect, O Theotokos, them that honor thee.

## Epistle

### Titus 3:8–15

Titus, my son, faithful is the saying, and concerning these things I desire you to affirm confidently, that those who have believed in God may be thoughtful of how to preside in honorable occupations. These things are good and profitable to men. But avoid foolish disputes, and genealogies, and contentions, and controversies about the Law; for they are unprofitable and vain. A man who is a heretic after the first and second admonition reject, knowing that such a one is subverted, and sins, being self-condemned. When I send Artemas to you, or Tychicós, give diligence to come to me to Nicopolis; for I have determined to winter there. Set forward Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their journey diligently, that they may be lacking

in nothing. And let our people also learn how to preside in honorable occupations, so as to help in cases of urgent need, that they should not be unfruitful. All who are with me salute you. Salute those who love us in the faith. Grace be with you all. Amen.

## **Gospel**

### **Luke 8:5–15**

The Lord spoke this parable: “A sower went out to sow his seed; and as he sowed, some fell along the path, and was trodden under foot, and the birds of the air devoured it. And some fell on the rock; and as it grew up, it withered away, because it had no moisture. And some fell among thorns; and the thorns grew with it and choked it. And some fell into good soil and grew, and yielded a hundredfold.” And when His Disciples asked Him what this parable meant, Jesus said, “To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of God; but for others they are in parables, so that seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand. Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. The ones along the path are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts that they may not believe and be saved. And the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy; but these have no root, they believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away. And as for what fell among the thorns, they are those who hear, but as they go on their way, they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature. And as for that in the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bring forth fruit with patience.” As Jesus said this, He called out, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

## **Synaxarion**

On 17 October, in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the holy and glorious Prophet Hosea; and Venerable-martyr Andrew of Crete.

On this day we commemorate the holy and blessed Fathers who came together for the second time in Nicæa, during the reign of the pious and Christ-loving Sovereigns Constantine and Irene, against those who

impiously, ignorantly and foolishly asserted that the Church of God worshipped idols, and rejected the august and holy icons.

Thy champions, O Word, with words as their weapons,  
Turn to flight the foes of the venerable icons.

The Council met in 787 to refute the Iconoclast heresy, whose camp believed that all depictions of Christ, His Mother and the saints should be destroyed. The iconophiles believed that icons served to preserve the doctrinal teachings of the Church; and they considered icons to be man's dynamic way of expressing the divine through art and beauty. The council decreed that the veneration of icons was not idolatry<sup>1</sup>, because the honor shown to them is not directed to the wood or paint, but passes to the prototype, or the person depicted. It also upheld the possibility of depicting Christ, Who became man and took flesh at His Incarnation. The Father, on the other hand, cannot be represented in His eternal nature, because "no man has seen God at any time."<sup>2</sup>

By the intercessions of the Holy Fathers, O Christ God, have mercy upon us. Amen.

**Please be sure to welcome the Rev. Perry Aalgaard  
and the confirmation class from First Lutheran Church  
in Milford who are visiting us this morning.**

## Upcoming Events

<b>Monday</b>	Orthros & Divine Liturgy for St. Luke	08:30	Holy Trinity
<b>Tuesday</b>	<i>Paraklesis</i>	18:00	Holy Trinity
<b>Wednesday</b>	Daily Vespers	18:00	St. Thomas
<b>Saturday</b>	Great Vespers	18:00	St. Thomas

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

- 1 Exodus 20:4-5
- 2 John 1:18

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