

# 18th Sunday after Pentecost

2021-10-24

## 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 1)**

While the stone was sealed by the Jews, and the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body, Thou didst arise on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world. For which cause the heavenly powers cried aloud unto Thee, O giver of life. Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ, glory to Thy kingdom, glory to Thy providence, O Thou Who alone art the lover of mankind.

### ***Apolytikion* of St. Arethas (al-Haarith) and Companions (Tone 1)**

Be Thou entreated for the sake of the sufferings of Thy Saints which they endured for Thee, O Lord, and do Thou heal all our pains, we pray, O Friend of man.

### ***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**

### **II Corinthians 9:6–11**

Brethren, the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly; and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Let each one do according to what he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly, or under compulsion; for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you; that you, having always all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work. As it is written: "He has scattered abroad, He has given to the poor; His righteousness endures forever"; now He, who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food, will supply and multiply your seed for sowing,

and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in all things for every generosity, which works through us thanksgiving to God.

## **Gospel**

### **Luke 8:26–39**

At that time, Jesus arrived at the country of the Gadarenes, which is opposite Galilee. And as He stepped out on land, there met Him a man from the city who had demons; for a long time he had worn no clothes, and he lived not in a house but among the tombs. When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell down before him, and said with a loud voice, “What hast Thou to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beseech Thee, do not torment me.” For Jesus had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. [For many a time it had seized him; he was kept under guard, and bound with chains and fetters, but he broke the bonds and was driven by the demon into the desert.] Jesus then asked him, “What is your name?” And he said, “Legion”; for many demons had entered him. And they begged Jesus not to command them to depart into the abyss. Now a large herd of swine was feeding there on the hillside; and they begged Jesus to let them enter these. So He gave them leave. Then the demons came out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned. When the herdsmen saw what had happened, they fled, and told it in the city and in the country. Then people went out to see what had happened, and they came to Jesus, and found the man from whom the demons had gone, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind; and they were afraid. And those who had seen it told them how he who had been possessed with demons was healed. Then all the people of the surrounding country of the Gadarenes asked Jesus to depart from them; for they were seized with great fear; so He got into the boat and returned. The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with Jesus; but Jesus sent him away, saying, “Return to your home, and declare all that God has done for you.” And he went away, proclaiming throughout the whole city all that Jesus had done for him.

## **Synaxarion**

On 24 October, in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the holy, glorious and right-victorious Great-martyr Arethas (al-Haarith), Abraham,

Ruhayma, Habsa, Hayya, Hayya, and the multitude martyred with them in Najran of Arabia Felix<sup>1</sup> in the year 524.

Martyr Arethas offered God, when beheaded,  
multitudinous Martyrs beheaded likewise.

On the twenty-fourth, thou wast felled with thy friends, O Arethas.

When Dhu Nuwas, ruler of the Himyarite tribe in southern Arabia, and a Judaizer, took power, he sought to blot out Christianity, especially at Najran. Led by Arethas – who was 95 years old – thousands of martyrs, including women, children, and babies, valiantly withstood his threats, and were beheaded and burned. After Arethas and the men had been slain, all the free-born Christian women of Najran were brought before the tyrant and commanded to reject Christ or die; yet they rebuked the persecutor with such boldness that he said even the men had not insulted him so viciously. The Ethiopian King Elesbaan – whom we also commemorate today – liberated Najran from Dhu Nuwas soon after and raised up churches in honor of the Martyrs. Najran became a place of pilgrimage until the rise of Islam a century later. At the end of his life King Elesbaan, who was also called Caleb, retired into solitude as a hermit.

On this day, we also commemorate the Martyr Sebastiana of Heraclea. By the intercessions of Thy Saints, O Christ God, have mercy upon us. Amen.

## Upcoming Events

|                  |  |       |              |
|------------------|--|-------|--------------|
| <b>Tuesday</b>   | Orthros & Divine Liturgy for<br>St. Demetrios the Myrrh-Streamer | 08:30 | Holy Trinity |
|                  | <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 Present-day Yemen

✉: PO Box 1042  
1100 Jones St  
Sioux City IA 51102-1042

☎: +1(712)258-7166  
✉: [info@stthomassiouxcity.org](mailto:info@stthomassiouxcity.org)  
🌐: <https://stthomassiouxcity.org>