

# Chains of the Apostle Peter

2022-01-16

## 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 5)

Let us believers praise and worship the Word; coeternal with the Father and the Spirit, born of the Virgin for our salvation. For, He took pleasure in ascending the Cross in the flesh to suffer death; and to raise the dead by His glorious Resurrection.

### *Apolytikion* of St. Peter the Apostle (Tone 4)

Thou hast come to us without leaving Rome, O thou who dost preside over the Apostles, by the power of the venerable chains thou didst bear. While honoring them with faith, we beseech thee, that through thine intercessions, God may grant us great mercy.

### *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 Presentation of Christ (Tone 1)

Thou, O Christ God, Who by Thy Birth, didst sanctify the Virgin's womb, and, as is meet, didst bless Simeon's arms, and didst also come to save us; preserve Thy fold in wars, and confirm them whom Thou didst love, for Thou alone art the Lover of mankind.

## Epistle

### Colossians 3:4–11

Brethren, when Christ, Who is our life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these, the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience. In these you once walked, when you lived in them. But now put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and foul talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old nature with its practices and have put on the new nature, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its Creator. Here there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcised and

uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all, and in all.

## Gospel

### Luke 17:12–19

At that time, as Jesus entered a village, He was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance and lifted up their voices and said, “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us.” When He saw them He said to them, “Go and show yourselves to the priests.” And as they went they were cleansed. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; and he fell on his face at Jesus’ feet, giving Him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan. Then Jesus said, “Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?” And He said to him, “Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well.”

## Synaxarion

On 16 January, in the Holy Orthodox Church, we celebrate the veneration of the precious chains of the holy and glorious Apostle Peter.

Release me from the long chain of mine offenses,  
as I worship thine honorable chain, O Peter.  
On the sixteenth I worship Peter’s chain.

As Peter sat in prison shackled by the lawless Herod, an angel appeared to him: “Suddenly the angel of the Lord stood by him and a light shone in the cell. He tapped Peter on the side and awakened him, saying: ‘Get up quickly.’ The chains fell from his wrists”<sup>1</sup>. The chains were preserved by Christians as much for the memory of this great Apostle as well as for their healing power, for many of the sick were healed by touching them as well as with the towel of the Apostle Paul, “then when the face cloths or aprons that touched his skin were applied to the sick, their diseases left them and the evil spirits came out of them”<sup>2</sup>. Juvenal, the Patriarch of Jerusalem, gave these chains as a gift to the Empress Eudocia, the exiled wife of the Emperor Theodosius the Younger. She divided them into two and sent one half to the Church of the Holy Apostle in Constantinople and the other half to her daughter Empress Eudoxia in Rome, the wife of Valentian. Eudoxia built the Church of St. Peter

1 Acts 12:7

2 Acts 19:12

and deposited these chains in it, together with those chains with which Peter was shackled before his death under Emperor Nero.

On this day, we also commemorate Peusippos and Neonilla, and the martyrs of Cappadocia; and Hieromartyr Damaskinos of Hilandar monastery on Athos. By the intercessions of Thy Saints, O God, have mercy upon us. Amen.

## Upcoming Events

<b>Monday</b>	Orthros & Divine Liturgy for St. Anthony the Great	08:30 Holy Trinity
<b>Tuesday</b>	Orthros & Divine Liturgy for Sts. Athanasios & Cyril of Alexandria	08:30 Holy Trinity
	<i>Paraklesis</i>	18:00 Holy Trinity
<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](#).



✉: 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>