

# Sunday of the Holy Cross

2023-03-19

## 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 7)**

Thou didst shatter death by Thy Cross, Thou didst open paradise to the thief; Thou didst turn the sadness of the ointment-bearing women into joy. And didst bid Thine Apostles proclaim a warning, that Thou hast risen O Christ, granting to the world the Great Mercy

## ***Apolytikion* of the Holy Cross (Tone 1)**

O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance and, to Thy faithful people, grant victory over the enemy and, by the power of Thy Cross, protect all those who follow Thee.

## ***Apolytikion* of St. Thomas (Tone 3)**

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

## ***Kontakion* of Sundays in Great Lent (Tone 8)**

To thee, the Champion Leader, do I offer thanks of victory, O Theotokos, thou who hast delivered me from terror; but as thou that hast that power invincible, O Theotokos, thou alone can set me free: from all forms of danger free me and deliver me, that I may cry unto thee: Hail, O Bride without Bridegroom.

## **Epistle**

### **Hebrews 4:14–5:6**

Brethren, since we have a great High Priest, Who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast the confession. For we do not have a High Priest Who is unable to sympathize with our infirmities, but one Who has been in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore draw near with boldness to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy, and may find grace to help in time of need. For every high priest, being taken from among the people, is appointed on behalf of the people in things pertaining to God,

that he may offer up both gifts and sacrifices for sins; who can have compassion on the ignorant and on those who are erring, since he himself also is encompassed with infirmity. Because of this he is bound, as for the people so also for himself, to offer up for sins. And no one takes the honor upon himself, but as being called by God, as was Aaron. So Christ also did not glorify Himself to become a High Priest, but it was by the One saying to Him, “Thou art My Son, today I have begotten Thee.” As He says also in another place, “Thou art a Priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek.”

## **Gospel**

### **Mark 8:34–9:1**

The Lord said, “If any man would come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me. For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel’s will save it. For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? For what can a man give in return for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of man also be ashamed, when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels.” And Jesus said to them, “Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God come with power.”

## **Synaxarion**

On 19 March, in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the Martyrs Chrysanthos, Daria, and those with them of Rome; and the Martyr Pancharios of Nicomedia.

On this same day, the Third Sunday of the Fast, we keep the feast of the Veneration of the honorable and life-creating Cross.

Let the whole world entire worship the Cross  
through Which it truly knew to worship Thee, O Word.

Every hard and strenuous work is accomplished with great difficulty, which appears especially in the middle of such work;

for the effort in this performance brings with it fatigue which makes the accomplishment of the rest difficult. Having arrived with God's grace at the middle of the Fast, our compassionate Mother—the Holy Orthodox Church—thought fit to reveal to us the Holy Cross as the joy of the world and power of the faithful to help us carry on the struggles of the divine Fast.

By its power, O Christ God, preserve us from the crafty designs of the evil one and account us worthy to worship Thy divine Passion and life-giving Resurrection, as we achieve the course of the Forty Days with ease, and have mercy on us, as Thou alone art good and the Lover of mankind. Amen.

## Upcoming Events

<b>Monday</b>	Great Compline	18:00	St. Thomas
<b>Tuesday</b>	Bible Study	19:00	St. Thomas
<b>Wednesday</b>	Presanctified Divine Liturgy	18:00	Holy Trinity
	Potluck Dinner and Education	19:30	Holy Trinity
<b>Friday</b>	Great Vespers	18:00	St. Thomas
<b>Saturday</b>	Orthros & Divine Liturgy for the Annunciation	08:30	Holy Trinity
	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](#).

# 2023 LENTEN SERIES

## Wednesday, March 29 *Planning a Funeral*

A representative from Meyer Brothers Funeral Homes will discuss what goes into planning a funeral and the many advantages of pre-need planning.

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