

## October 6

### Holy and Glorious Apostle Thomas

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#### Great Vespers

##### KATHISMA READING

*"Blessed is the man..."* is sung.

##### AT PSALM 140

*In Tone 4*

6. Your hand probed the side of the Lord,  
finding the perfection of all goodness and joy.  
Like a sponge you have thirsted for the water of life,  
the fount of blessing and everlasting gladness.  
Now you wash away ignorance from the minds of men  
giving us to drink of the knowledge of the Lord.

5. Your hand probed the side of the Lord,  
finding the perfection of all goodness and joy.  
Like a sponge you have thirsted for the water of life,  
the fount of blessing and everlasting gladness.  
Now you wash away ignorance from the minds of men  
giving us to drink of the knowledge of the Lord.

4. By your doubt overcome by faith,  
you have strengthened our faintheartedness.  
You proclaim to all men: behold my Lord and my God!  
He took flesh and came to earth for us, enduring crucifixion and death!  
We take refuge in His side pierced with the lance  
joyfully drawing the water of life from the spring of salvation.

3. By your doubt overcome by faith,  
you have strengthened our faintheartedness.  
You proclaim to all men: behold my Lord and my God!  
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We take refuge in His side pierced with the lance  
joyfully drawing the water of life from the spring of salvation.

2. Most blessed Thomas,  
for the Godly-minded you are a fountain of divine knowledge:  
you have touched the side of the Master of all:  
an act of boldness taught you that He is two natures in one person.

You cried out: You are both my Master and my eternal God!  
The Lord of glory who took flesh for my sake.

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*In Tone 6, Glory...*

Apostle Thomas, faithful servant of the Lord,  
witness of His wondrous incarnation,  
you have sounded the depths of divine wisdom  
with the Cross as your staff and measure;  
you have rescued us from the abyss of delusion.  
The net of your teachings has captured many souls:  
enlightening the inhabited earth with the knowledge of God  
radiantly illumining the Indies.  
Now you delight in the glory of Christ our God:  
pray that He may have mercy on our souls!

*Now...*

Who would not call you blessed, O Virgin most holy?  
Who would not sing a hymn of praise  
to the glory of your giving birth without pain or travail?  
The Only-begotten Son Himself,  
begotten of the Father before all ages,  
was made flesh out of you in a manner  
that cannot be explained, O Woman most pure!  
And for our sake, He Who is God by nature  
assumed the nature of a man.  
He is not divided into two persons;  
He is understood to have two natures  
without commixion or confusion.  
O noble and blessed Woman,  
intercede with Him that He may mercy on our souls.

## **READINGS**

1 John 1:1-7

James 1:1-12

Jude 1-7, 17-25

## APOSTICHA

*In Tone 4*

Blessed apostle Thomas,  
you are a pearl of great price drawn from the sea of doubt.  
Christ, the merciful Lover of man,  
has fashioned your poverty and homeless wandering into riches and splendor.  
Celebrating your memory, we rejoice,  
blessing you unto all ages, O faithful one!

*Their proclamation has gone out into all the earth and their words to the ends of the universe!*

Holy apostle Thomas,  
the blessed disciple who saw God in the flesh:  
you have made the Indies shine as bright as the sun.  
You enlightened the people revealing them to be children of the light and the day.  
You overthrew their idols by the power of the Holy Spirit.  
You led men to partake of the perfect love of God,  
for through you they became the glory and honour of the Church,  
so may we also be saved through your intercessions!

*The heavens declare the glory of God and the firmament proclaims His handiwork.*

Your hand, directed with fearful boldness,  
dared to probe the wounds of the immortal Lord of glory.  
Most glorious wonder! Your doubt was transformed into faith.  
You cried out: You are my Lord and my God!  
I glorify You, Lover of mankind, who by Your passion  
has caused freedom from passion to flow for all those who believe in you!

*In Tone 6, Glory...*

You gazed on the divine mysteries of Christ, Apostle Thomas,  
and mystically you have been declared to be a spiritual mixing bowl,  
in which the souls of believers rejoice;  
for with the divine net of the Spirit  
you drew peoples from the deep of ignorance;  
therefore you came from Sion as a river of grace,  
welling up with your inspired doctrines into the whole creation.  
And so, imitating the passion of Christ,  
you were pierced in the side and entered the darkness of incorruption;  
implore Him to have mercy on our souls.

*Now...*

Christ the Lord, our Creator and Redeemer,  
came forth from your womb, O most pure Virgin.

He clothed Himself in our human flesh  
to set us free from the original curse of Adam.  
Therefore, O Mary, we praise you, without ceasing,  
as the true Virgin Mother of God,  
and we sing with the angels:  
Rejoice, O Lady, advocate, protector, and salvation of our souls.

## **TROPARIA**

*In Tone 2*

O disciple of Christ and member of the apostolic council,\* your lack of faith proclaimed Christ's resurrection,\* and your touch confirmed His holy passion.\* O Thomas, worthy of all praise,\* pray even now that He grant us peace and great mercy.

*Glory... Now...*

O Mother of God, the mysteries which surround you are exceedingly glorious,\* and beyond the power of understanding.\* For you retained the seal of purity,\* and your virginity remained inviolate;\* yet you are acknowledged, without doubt,\* to be the Mother who gave birth to the true God.\* We beg you, therefore, to entreat Him to save our souls