



*** *Thomas Sunday* ***

2nd Sunday after Pascha

The Holy Priest-Martyr Antipas, Bishop of Pergamos in Asia (81-96) – Antipas is mentioned as a faithful martyr in Revelation 2:13. He was appointed bishop of Pergamos by the Apostle John. He was martyred for his faith on April 11.

**** Sunday, April 11th, 2021 ****

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Easter Season Greeting

Christ Is Risen! - Indeed He Is Risen!

Chrystos Voskres! - Voistynu Voskres!

Христос Воскрес! - Воістину Воскрес!

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The Most Holy Trinity Parish Public Liturgical Services Postponed Until May 13, 2021 (or further notice)

Please join in live-streamed coverage of liturgical services:

Holy Eucharist Cathedral (New Westminster) – Divine Liturgy at 8:30 a.m. (Eng.) & 10:30 a.m. (Ukr.)

<https://www.facebook.com/holyeucharistcathedral/>

Youtube https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPp1JaDotlj_4h3aAJq0Srg

St. Nicholas Parish, (Victoria) - Divine Liturgy at 10:00 a.m.

via [Facebook](#) or [Website](#)

St. George Parish (Prince George) - Divine Liturgy: 8:30 a.m. – (in Ukrainian) & 10:00 a.m. (in English) - Facebook page or at parish webpage (www.sgparish.ca)

After the priest has exclaimed, “Blessed be the Kingdom...” and the people have responded, “Amen,” the clergy sing the Paschal Troparion once and the people repeat it. Then, the clergy sing the first half, and the people conclude it.

Paschal Troparion - Christ is risen from the dead, * trampling death by death, * and to those in the tombs * giving life.

Troparion, Tone 7: While the tomb was sealed, O Christ God, You dawned as life from the sepulchre, and while the doors were shut, You came to Your disciples, the Resurrection of all, renewing a right spirit in us through them, according to Your great mercy.

+Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever. Amen.

Kontakion, Tone 8: With his searching hand, Thomas explored Your life-giving side, O Christ God. For when You entered while the doors were shut, he called out to You with the rest of the Apostles: You are my Lord and my God!

Prokeimenon, Tone 3: Great is our Lord and great is His strength;* and of His knowledge there is no end.

verse: Praise the Lord, for a psalm is good; may praise be sweet to our God.

Epistle: A reading from the Acts of the Apostles
(Acts 5:12-20):

In those days, many signs and wonders were done among the people through the apostles. And they were all together in Solomon’s Portico. None of the rest dared to join them, but the people held them in high esteem. Yet more than ever believers were added to the Lord, great numbers of both men and women, so that they even carried out the sick into the streets, and laid them on cots and mats, in order that Peter’s shadow might fall on some of them as he came by. A great number of people would also gather from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those tormented by unclean spirits, and they were all cured. Then the high priest took action; he and all who were with him (that is, the sect of the Sadducees), being filled with jealousy, arrested the apostles and put them in the public prison. But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors, brought them out, and said, “Go, stand in the temple and tell the people the whole message about this life.”



Alleluia, Tone 8: Come, let us sing joyfully to the Lord, let us acclaim God our Saviour.

verse: For God is the great Lord and the great king over all the earth.

Gospel: John 20:19-31:

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said



to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe." A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing, you may have life in his name.

Hymn to the Mother of God

The Angel cried out to the One full of Grace: O chaste Virgin, rejoice! And again I say, Rejoice! Your Son has risen from the tomb on the third day, and raised the dead. Let all people rejoice! Shine, shine, O new Jerusalem, for the glory of the Lord has risen upon you! Exult now and be glad, O Sion! And you, O chaste Mother of God, take delight in the resurrection of your Son.

Communion Hymn - Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem. * Praise your God, O Sion. * Alleluia, alleluia, * alleluia. (Psalm 147:1)

Instead of "Blessed is He Who comes..." we sing:

Christ is risen from the dead, * trampling death by death, * and to those in the tombs* giving life.

Instead of “We have seen the true light...” we sing:

Christ is risen from the dead, * trampling death by death, * and to those in the tombs * giving life.

Instead of “May our mouths be filled...” & “Blessed be the name of the Lord...” we sing three times:

Christ is risen from the dead, * trampling death by death, * and to those in the tombs * giving life.

At the dismissal, instead of “Glory be to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and ever. Amen.” we chant: Christ is risen from the dead, * trampling death by death, * and to those in the tombs * giving life.

After the final Amen, the priest, with cross raised on high, exclaims “Christ is risen” thrice and we respond “Truly, He is risen” each time. Then, the Troparion “Christ is risen” is sung as at the beginning of the Liturgy, but with the addition:

“And to us he has granted life eternal;* we bow down before his resurrection on the third day.”



Thomas Sunday

Today's Gospel is proclaiming the appearance of the risen Lord to His disciples eight days after the Resurrection when Thomas was then present and proclaimed “My Lord and my God” upon seeing the hands and side of Christ. In the Church services for this day, the stress is on the Apostle Thomas' vision of Christ and the significance of the words of Jesus: “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe”.

We don't need to touch Jesus physically to have faith. But upon hearing of Christ, we can be spiritually moved by His presence to follow Him, and trust in His promise that all people will be raised on the day He appoints for judgment. Then we can everlastingly live either in the eternal joy of being reunited with God, or eternally suffer the torment of being without Him.

St. Peter heard and understood, as he writes to his flock: "You did not see Him, yet you loved Him; and still without seeing Him you are filled with a joy so glorious that it cannot be described, because you believe; and you are sure of the end to which your faith looks forward, that is, the salvation of your souls."

This Sunday is also called Antipascha (meaning "in the stead of Pascha," not "in opposition to Pascha") because with this day, the first Sunday after Pascha, the Church consecrates every Sunday of the year to the commemoration of Pascha, that is, the Resurrection of Our Lord, God and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Thomas Sunday Gospel Reflection -

https://instituteofcatholicculture.org/reflections/sunday-gospel-reflection-for-the-second-sunday-of-easter-year-b/?vgo_ee=XcvTTzIRR%2BLHT0RYF0PgjxwUnRnlmwiuCIJkd9A7F3A%3D



**** ANNOUNCEMENTS ****



Dear Parishioners, please be assured of my prayers and well wishes in this ever present time of battle with the coronavirus.

Public church services continue to be postponed. Please participate in online or televised services and remain united with each other in thought, prayer, phone calls, etc.



**** To Ponder *****

"The more you have, the more you are occupied, the less you give. But the less you have, the more free you are. Poverty for us is a freedom. It is not mortification, a penance. It is joyful freedom. There is no television here, no this, no that. But we are perfectly happy." St. Teresa of Calcutta

The Easter Gospel reading from St John 1:1-17 - how to better understand it.

1:1-5 - The Word Became Flesh

“1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things came into being through Him, and without Him not one thing came into being. What has come into being 4 in Him was life,^[a] and the life was the light of all people. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.”

1:1 - In the beginning recalls creation, but speaks of the Creator Himself. As Gen 1:1 introduces the original creation, by itself an incomplete existence, this verse reveals the new creation, a fulfilled and complete existence.

Was the Word (Gr. *logos*): *Was* indicates existence without reference to a starting point. Therefore, ‘*In the beginning was the Word*’ emphasizes (1) the Word’s eternal existence in the Father without beginning, and (2) His oneness with Him in essence. *Logos* signifies wisdom and reason as well as word: the Creator. (“Creation is Gr. *logikos*, participating in the Divine Word.) With the Incarnation, the Logos fully participates in human nature.

The Word was with God: ‘*With*’ in the Greek shows that the Word, the Son, is (1) a distinct Person from the Father, and (2) in the communion with the Father.

The Word was God: The OT prophets saw the Word of God as the presence of the Lord. This phrase reveals He is not only from the Father, He is coeternal with the Father: one divinity with Him. “I and My Father are one” (John 10:30).

1:3 - The Word is co-Creator of all things with the Father (Gen. 1 and Ps. 33:6, 9), not merely an “instrument” or a “servant” of creation. Will, operation, and power are seen to be one in the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Through Him shows the Word is not included in **all things** created by the Father. His eternal birth is by generation from the Father, whereas the works of creation are made. Thus, the heavens and the earth are the works of the One who made them, while the Son alone is born from the Father. Even when He comes in human flesh, the Word forever remains God, the Creator.

1:4 - As the Divine Word incarnate, Christ is also the source of *life* and enlightenment. Because the Word is God, He is life: only God has life in Himself.

And the life was the light: By seeing and participating in Christ's *life*, believers become *light* and children of light (12:36). Moses saw this light in the burning bush (Ex. 3:2), Isaiah it in his heavenly vision (Is. 6:1-5), and Peter, James, and John saw it on the Mount of Transfiguration (Matt. 17:2). In the Divine Liturgy at Easter, light breaks forth from the night at the proclamation of the Resurrection: "Come, take light from the light that is never overtaken by night. Come, glorify Christ, risen from the dead." (*source: biblical commentary*)



Please Pray for health of ... All those affected by the coronavirus, and: Ambrose S., Robert M., Dave & Betty C., Matt D., Alexandra & Oleh K., Miroslaw G., John N., Fr. John N., T.W., Bill P., Thomas H., Bohdan R., Lawrence & Ping B., Peter O., Gladys O., Alex S., Jessica N., Olga P., Sharon B., Zonia R., Brian K., Jayne & Ernie P., Mary W., Sam D., Ray O., Mary E., Sharon & Al L., Joe S., Jeanne R., Emily H., Lisa M., Michael L., Greg H., Melynda S., Ann D., Joyce K., Suzanne C., Clay B., Maria W., Anne D., all sick brothers and sisters in our families and parish community. Please let Fr. Andrzej know if you would like to add names to the prayer list and also notify him about any sick and/or hospitalized parishioners and family members.



New Westminster Eparchy Clergy Zoom Conference – will take place this coming Thursday, April 15th from 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Father Le Jeune 4th Degree Knights of Columbus Assembly – will hold their monthly zoom meeting this coming **Thursday, April 15th, 2021** at 7:00 p.m.



St. Vincent de Paul Society – will hold their Annual General Meeting via zoom on Monday, April 19th at 11:00 a.m.

The Canadian National Week For Life & The Family - will be celebrated from **May 9-16**, with the theme, "Family, the Domestic Church: A Sign of Hope and Life." Material to mark the celebration has been prepared by the

Catholic Organization for Life and Family (COLF), and is available on the CCCB website: <https://www.cccb.ca/national-week-for-life-and-the-family/>

National March For Life 2021 May 13, 2021 – for more information, please follow the link - <https://marchforlife.ca>



Prayer of Spiritual Communion



My Jesus, I believe that You are present in these Holy Gifts!

I love You above all things and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot receive You now, I place before You my whole life and hope, O loving Master; and I ask, pray, and entreat You: Make me worthy to partake in a mystical way and with a pure conscience of Your awesome and heavenly Mysteries: for forgiveness of sins, for the pardon of offenses, for communion of the Holy Spirit, for the inheritance of the kingdom of heaven, for confidence before You, and not for judgment or condemnation.

I embrace You as You enter and abide in me, and I unite myself completely to You. Permeate my soul and body, and never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.



Prayer During the Coronavirus Outbreak



Lord, Our God,
We thank you for the life that is your gift,
For the providence that sustains us,
And for your wisdom that directs the course of our days. The threat of an infection of coronavirus is upon us today. This disease causes fear among us and has claimed lives.
We humbly beg you, loving Lord, dispel our fear and deliver us from this and other diseases.
Heal those who are afflicted and stop the spread of the virus.
Strengthen us in charity to care for one another.
For You are a God of mercy, kindness, and love, and we glorify You Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever.
Amen.