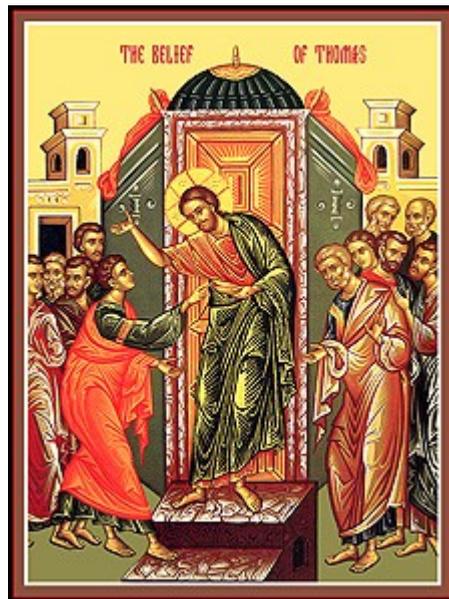


St. George Antiochian  
Orthodox Church  
Lowell, Massachusetts



**NEW SUNDAY OR ANTI-PASCHA**  
SUNDAY OF THOMAS THE APOSTLE, CALLED "THE TWIN"

*April 15, 2017*

**ST. GEORGE ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH**  
The Most Reverend Metropolitan JOSEPH  
Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of All North America

The Right Reverend Bishop JOHN, Diocese of Worcester and New England

Rt. Rev. Archmandrite Leonard Faris  
Pastor of St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church

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**WORSHIP SERVICE**

Sunday: Matins (Orthros) Service 9:00 a.m.  
Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

Sunday School: Every other Sunday, 9:30 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.

**Church Office Hours:** Tuesday through Friday, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

Divine Liturgy begins at 10:00 a.m. and we should not arrive late. When we do arrive late and the Epistle or Gospel is being read or the priest is preaching the sermon or the Great Entrance is taking place, please **REMAIN** in the Vestibule until it is finished before entering the Church. At the end of the Divine Liturgy please keep your conversation until the "Coffee Hour". **We should leave the Church in silence.**

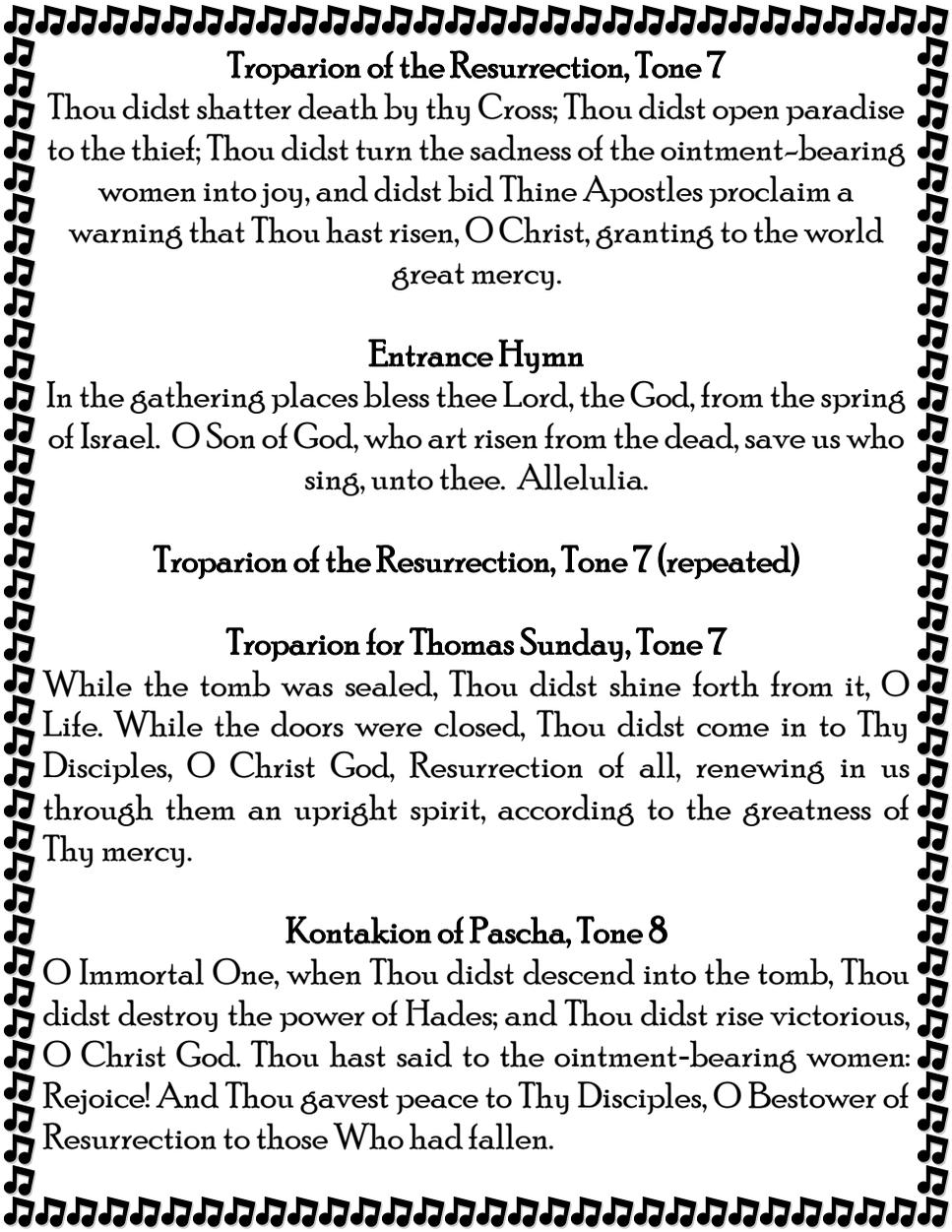
**Important Notice:** The reception of Holy Communion is limited to Orthodox Christians who have prepared themselves by prayer, fasting and recent Confession. Confessions are heard on Sunday mornings during the Matins Service or by special appointment. The Eucharistic Fast begins at midnight on Saturday and ends up with the receiving of Holy Communion. If you are on medication or a young child, you can have a light breakfast before coming to church. If you have any questions, please call Fr. Leonard.

*Thank you,  
Father Leonard*

**Prayer Requests and Bulletin News:** All prayer requests and articles for the weekly bulletin must be submitted each week by **Noon, Tuesday;** emailed to Fr. Leonard at [fatherfaris@comcast.net](mailto:fatherfaris@comcast.net) or call 978-452-4816, otherwise, the requests and articles will be published the following week.

**IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT**

If anyone is in the hospital it is the duty of the family to inform the priest so that he can visit the patient. Also, if anyone is homebound and would like to receive Holy Communion, he/she or a family member should contact Fr. Leonard to make arrangements to bring the Sacrament to the shut-in. Fr. Leonard is always happy to bring the Sacraments to those in Hospitals, Nursing Homes or at home. Thank you and God bless!

A decorative border of musical notation, consisting of a series of eighth notes on a staff, frames the entire page. The notes are arranged in a rectangular shape, with the top and bottom edges being straight lines of notes, and the left and right edges being slightly curved to follow the page's shape.

**Troparion of the Resurrection, 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 great mercy.

**Entrance Hymn**

In the gathering places bless thee Lord, the God, from the spring of Israel. O Son of God, who art risen from the dead, save us who sing, unto thee. Allelulia.

**Troparion of the Resurrection, Tone 7 (repeated)**

**Troparion for Thomas Sunday, Tone 7**

While the tomb was sealed, Thou didst shine forth from it, O Life. While the doors were closed, Thou didst come in to Thy Disciples, O Christ God, Resurrection of all, renewing in us through them an upright spirit, according to the greatness of Thy mercy.

**Kontakion of Pascha, Tone 8**

O Immortal One, when Thou didst descend into the tomb, Thou didst destroy the power of Hades; and Thou didst rise victorious, O Christ God. Thou hast said to the ointment-bearing women: Rejoice! And Thou gavest peace to Thy Disciples, O Bestower of Resurrection to those Who had fallen.

## THE EPISTLE

*Great is the Lord, and great is His power. Praise the Lord, for the Lord is good.*

### **The Reading from the Acts of the Saintly and Pure Apostles. (5:12-20)**

In those days, many signs and wonders were done among the people by the hands of the Apostles. And they were all together in Solomon's Portico. None of the rest dared join them, but the people held them in high honor. And more than ever believers were added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women, so that they even carried out the sick into the streets, and laid them on beds and pallets, that as Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on some of them. The people also gathered from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all healed. But the high priest rose up and all who were with him, that is, the party of the Sadducees, and filled with jealousy they arrested the Apostles and put them in the common prison. But at night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out and said, "Go and stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this Life."

## THE GOSPEL

### **The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John. (20:19-31)**

On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being shut where the Disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the Disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I send you." And 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; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, called the Twin, 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 in His hands the print of the nails, and place my finger in the mark of the nails, and place my hand in His side, I will not believe." Eight days later, His Disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. The doors were shut, but 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; and put out your hand, and place it in my side; do not be faithless, but believing." 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 believe." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the Disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His Name.





## ALTAR BREAD

Today's Altar Bread is offered for the health and safety of Emma Steele and family on her birthday. May God bless Emma and her family with peace, good health and happiness!

## Easter Flower Fund

Donated by:

Elaine A. Simon

For the Health & Safety of:

Elaine A Simon, Team Simon,  
Millie, Julie, and Maria

In Loving Memory of:

Fred Simon



## COFFEE HOUR

Today's Coffee Hour is being sponsored by the St. George Ladies Society for the health and safety of all St. George parishioners and their families. May God bless all the ladies with peace, good health and happiness!!

## THANK YOU

Special thanks to Amad and Alexa Tayebi for their very generous donation to the Folk Festival.



## ST. GEORGE

One of the most beloved saints in the world is Saint George, but how many of us can actually say we know anything about him? We might make some conclusions from looking at his icon, where we find a soldier on a horse attacking a dragon/serpent. St. George was born in the late 3<sup>rd</sup> century. His father was from Cappadocia (in modern day Turkey) and his mother was from Palestine. St. George's father was martyred, so his mother moved back to Palestine and raised St. George there with good education and in pious faith. St. George joined the army as soon as he could. He quickly earned ranks and was stationed in Nicomedia as a guard attached to Roman Emperor Diocletian. Diocletian was one of the most ruthless emperors for Christian persecution. St. George was asked to persecute the Christians but he would not and he showed that he was a Christian. Diocletian then ordered the torture and execution of St. George.

St. George survived several attempts to kill him. The first torture was him being placed on a wheel and as the wheel turned, St. George was pierced all over his body, but an angel came and healed him. They put him in a pit and covered him with lime and three days later they dug him out and he was unharmed. They put him in iron shoes with hot nails. Then they whipped him brutally. They poisoned him. After all of this, Diocletian asked by what power he was able to survive all this and he said that Christ had saved him. Diocletian asked about what kind of stuff Christ had done and St. George mentioned all the miracles, including Christ's resurrections. Intrigued by the idea of resurrection, they took St. George to a cemetery and through a prayer a body came out of the grave. Eventually St. George was taken to the pagan temple, where he called out the demons that inhabited the idols, which claimed they were not gods. Ultimately he was beheaded on April 23, 303 AD. Wait... Where was the dragon? Well the truth is the tale of St. George and the dragon may just be a tale. As the tale goes, St. George kills the dragon after calling on the name of Holy Trinity. This is probably just a story to represent the battle between Christianity and Satan, the serpent. Regardless, this tradition is so popular, that it is conveyed in almost every icon of St. George. St. George is traditionally celebrated on April 23<sup>rd</sup>, on the anniversary of his death, but often the date of the celebration of St. George moves. When April 23<sup>rd</sup> lands during Lent the feast is moved to the Monday after Pascha, so that we can fully celebrate this great saint of the Church. St. George has a reputation of interceding everyone who asks for him with sincerity. Many Muslim people throughout Turkey visit Churches named after St. George and ask for healing, and many are healed. When I was in Constantinople, the Chora Church has one bust of a saint that was not destroyed, and of course, it was the head of St. George. He is beloved by many and intercedes for all of humanity. May St. George intercede for us.

Sunday	4/22	7:00 pm	Liturgy - Celebrating the name day of St. George here at St. George Reception to follow
Monday	4/23	9:00 am	Matins - Celebrating the name day of St. George at St. George Greek Church
		10:00 pm	Liturgy Reception to follow

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