

**Orthodox Parish of St Martin & St Helen
Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of the
British Isles and Ireland
Patriarchate of Antioch and all the East**

Charity number: 1192469

Sunday 19 April 2026. Issue 25.

**Tone undefined
Second Sunday of Pascha (Thomas Sunday)**

**Epistle Reading
Acts (5:12-20)**

Prokeimenon in Tone III

Great is the Lord and great is His strength. His understanding is beyond measure.

Verse: Praise ye the Lord, for the Lord is good. Sing praises unto his name for it is pleasant.

In those days, many signs and wonders were done among the people by the hands of the apostles; and they were all with one accord in Solomon's porch. None of the rest dared to join them, but the people magnified them. 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 cities around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all healed. But the chief priest rose up and all who were with him, that is, the sect of the Sadducees, and filled with jealousy they laid their hands on 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."

Alleluia.

Verse 1: Come, let us greatly rejoice unto the Lord; let us shout unto the God our saviour.

Verse 2: For the Lord is a great God, and a great king above all gods.

Gospel Reading John (20:19-31)

In the evening on that [same] day (the first day of the week), and as the doors [of the place] where the disciples were assembled were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. At this, the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Then again, Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I also send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and told them, "Receive the Holy Spirit! If you forgive anyone's sins, they are forgiven; if you retain anyone's sins, they are retained." However, Thomas, 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 Thomas replied, "Unless I see in his hands the print of the nails and put my hand into his side, I will not believe!" After eight days, his disciples were inside once again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them, and he said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands! Place your hand here and put it into my side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing!" And Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen, and have believed." Now Jesus accomplished many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. However, these ones are written, so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing, you may have life in his Name.

Thomas Sunday
Troparion

From the sealed tomb, Thou didst shine forth, O Life! Through closed doors Thou didst come to Thy Disciples, O Christ God. Renew in us, through them, an upright spirit, by the greatness of Thy mercy, O Ressurrection of all!

St Martin the Merciful
Troparion

In signs and in miracles thou wast renowned throughout the land of Gaul. By grace thou art a light for the world, O Martin, Bishop blessed of God. Deeds of mercy and compassion filled thy life with their splendours, teaching and wise counsel were thy riches and treasures, which still thou dost dispense freely to those who honour thee.

St Helen
Troparion

We behold thee, glorious Helen, with thy God-inspired son, in the joys of the kingdom of Heaven, and we magnify Christ, for he hath revealed to us thine honoured festival, giving light more brilliant than the sun. Therefore we cry in faith: O People, exalt Christ above all forever!

Thomas Sunday
Kontakion

Thomas probed thy life-bestowing side with his eager right hand, O Christ God; and when thou didst come to the apostles, the doors being closed, he cried to thee: Thou art my Lord and my God.

Thomas Sunday

The Sunday after Pascha is the Sunday of St. Thomas, also known as Second Sunday or Antipascha (“opposite” Pascha, i.e., at the other end of Bright Week). Historically, this day in the early Church was the day that the newly-baptized Christians removed their robes and entered once again into the life of this world.

This day is also known as Antipascha. This does not mean “opposed to Pascha,” but “in place of Pascha.” Beginning with this first Sunday after Pascha, the Church dedicates every Sunday of the year to the Lord’s Resurrection. Sunday is called “Resurrection” in Russian, and “the Lord’s Day” in Greek. The Orthodox Church dedicates every Sunday of the year to the Lord’s Resurrection starting on this Sunday, the eighth day of the paschal celebration, the last day of Bright Week.

Liturgically, the Church remembers the Apostle Thomas’ vision of Christ after eight days. At that time 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” (John 20:26-29).

As with all the services until the feast of Ascension the Paschal Troparion is sung, and the epistle readings are taken from the Book of Acts, telling us of the first Christians who lived in communion with the Risen Lord. Finally, the gospel readings are from the Gospel of John, considered by many to be a gospel written particularly for the newly baptised.

Source: Orthodox Wiki

Services this week

Thursday 23 April, 8:10am

**Great Martyr George, Hours and Holy Liturgy, St Helen’s
Chapel.**