

# GREAT VESPERS

Second Sunday after Pascha - Thomas Sunday  
Our Venerable Father John the Ancient Hermit (c. 800)

## At Psalm 140

### In Tone 1

*Lead my soul forth from prison\* that I may give thanks to Your name.*

The doors being shut and the disciples assembled,\* You appeared to them as almighty, Jesus, our God.\* You stood in their midst giving them peace;\* You granted the Holy Spirit to them,\* commanding them to wait in Jerusalem\* until clothed with the power from on high.\* Therefore we cry to You:\* Our Illumination and Resurrection and peace, glory to You!

*The just shall gather around me\* when You have been good to me.*

The doors being shut and the disciples assembled,\* You appeared to them as almighty, Jesus, our God.\* You stood in their midst giving them peace;\* You granted the Holy Spirit to them,\* commanding them to wait in Jerusalem\* until clothed with the power from on high.\* Therefore we cry to You:\* Our Illumination and Resurrection and peace, glory to You!

*Out of the depths I cry to You, O Lord;\* O Lord, hear my voice!*

Eight days after Your Resurrection, Lord,\* You came to Your apostles\* proclaiming: Peace be with you all!\* To the doubting disciple, You showed Your hands and side.\* He believed and cried to You:\* My Lord and my God, glory to You!

*Let Your ears be attentive\* to the voice of my prayer.*

Eight days after Your Resurrection, Lord,\* You came to Your apostles\* proclaiming: Peace be with you all!\* To the doubting disciple, You showed Your hands and side.\* He believed and cried to You:\* My Lord and my God, glory to You!

*If You mark iniquities, Lord, who can stand?\* But with Your forgiveness is that You may be revered.*

Thomas, who is called the twin,\* was not with the disciples, Christ,\* when You came to them through closed doors.\* Therefore he doubted their word.\* You did not reject him for his faithlessness!\* When he saw Your side and the wounds in Your hands and

feet,\* his faith was made certain!\* Having desired to see You,\* he confessed You to be truly God, not only man,\* crying: My Lord and my God, glory to You!

*I have waited for You as You have commanded; my soul patiently relies on Your promise,\* for it has trusted in the Lord.*

Thomas, who is called the twin,\* was not with the disciples, Christ,\* when You came to them through closed doors.\* Therefore he doubted their word.\* You did not reject him for his faithlessness!\* When he saw Your side and the wounds in Your hands and feet,\* his faith was made certain!\* Having desired to see You,\* he confessed You to be truly God, not only man,\* crying: My Lord and my God, glory to You!

*From the morning watch until night\* let Israel trust in the Lord.*

The disciples were assembled on the eighth day,\* and the Saviour appeared to them!\* He gave them peace and said to Thomas:\* Come, apostle! Feel my hands, which were pierced by the nails!\* Most wonderful doubt of Thomas!\* It brought the hearts of the faithful to knowledge!\* My Lord and my God, glory to You!

*For with the Lord there is mercy, and with Him there is plentiful redemption;\* and He shall redeem Israel from all its iniquities.*

The disciples were assembled on the eighth day,\* and the Saviour appeared to them!\* He gave them peace and said to Thomas:\* Come, apostle! Feel my hands, which were pierced by the nails!\* Most wonderful doubt of Thomas!\* It brought the hearts of the faithful to knowledge!\* My Lord and my God, glory to You!

### In Tone 2

*Praise the Lord, all the nations;\* proclaim His glory, all you people.*

After Your rising, Lord,\* though the doors were shut,\* You came to Your assembled disciples.\* You granted them peace.\* Even Thomas believed, seeing Your hands and side!\* He confessed You as Lord and God,\* Who save those who hope in You, Lover of mankind!

*Strong is the love of the Lord for us;\* eternally will His truth endure.*

When the doors were shut,\* Jesus stood in the midst of His disciples.\* He calmed their hearts and granted them peace.\* Then He spoke to the apostle Thomas:\* Do you not believe that I am risen from the dead?\* Bring your hands here, and touch My side!\* Be no longer an unbeliever!\* Proclaim My passion and My Resurrection to all,\* that everyone may join your cry:\* My Lord and my God, glory to You!

*In Tone 6, Glory... Now...*

When the doors were shut,\* Jesus came to his disciples.\* The apostle Thomas was not with them,\* so he spoke these words:\* Unless I see the Master myself,\* unless I see His side flowing with baptismal blood and water,\* unless I see those wounds which have healed all mankind,\* unless I see not a spirit, but flesh and bones,\* I will not believe.\* Glory to You, O Lord,\* for You confirmed Thomas in faith,\* and have trampled death by death!

### **Litya**

*In Tone 4*

Lord, shining with the splendour of Your divinity,\* You came through closed doors to Your disciples,\* showing Your pierced side, the wounds from the nails,\* dispelling all sadness and sorrow!\* O friends, see that I am not a spirit, but truly man!\* The disciple who did not believe, You commanded to see,\* saying: Prove to yourself, then come and believe!\* He touched Your side with his own hand and cried in faith and fear:\* My Lord and my God, glory to You!

*In Tone 8*

Touch my side with your hand, O Thomas.\* Come and feel the scars of the nails.\* Know in faith and do not be faithless, but believing!\* Thomas, when he touched the Master, cried:\* You are my God and Lord,\* O compassionate one, glory to You!

*Glory... Now...*

The disciples were assembled and the doors were closed.\* Jesus appeared in the midst and said to Thomas:\* Come, see and feel the marks of the nails,\* stretch out your hand and touch My wounds.\* Do not disbelieve,\* but in faith proclaim my Resurrection from the dead!

### **Aposticha**

*In Tone 4*

Glorious wonder!\* Doubt bore certain faith!\* Thomas said: unless I see, I shall not believe!\* By touching His side, he blessed the incarnate Son of God \* Who suffered in the flesh,\* and he proclaimed the resurrected God,\* crying out with joy: My Lord and my God, glory to You!

*O praise the Lord, Jerusalem! Zion, praise your God!*

Glorious wonder!\* Thomas placed his hand on the fiery side of Jesus Christ, God!\* He was not scorched by this,\* his doubt changed to certain faith and he cried fervently:\* You are my Master and God,\* resurrected from the dead.\* O Lord, glory to You!

*He has strengthened the bars of your gates; He has blessed your sons within you.*

Glorious wonder!\* John the apostle leaned on the Saviour's breast,\* and Thomas was made worthy to touch his side.\* The one thus understood the depths of theology;\* the other was privileged to announce the mystery of the Resurrection to us,\* crying: My Lord and my God, glory to You!

*In Tone 5, Glory... Now...*

How great is the multitude of your compassion, Lover of mankind!\* Because of Your long-suffering You were struck by the Jews,\* You were examined by an apostle and touched by those who denied You!\* How are You incarnate?\* How are You crucified?\* You have not known sin!\* Make us understand like Thomas that we may call out to You:\* My Lord and my God, glory to You!

### **Troparion**

*In Tone 7: When 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. (3)*