

2nd Sunday After  
Pascha  
(Sunday of Thomas)  
April 19, 2026



First Matins Gospel Reading:  
Matthew 28:16-20  
Epistle Reading:  
Acts 5:12-20  
Gospel Reading:  
John 20:19-31  
Byzantine Music Tone:  
Second



On April 19, the Orthodox Church Commemorates:

The holy Hieromartyr Pafnutius

On this day we also commemorate the holy Martyr Theodore, who was in Perga, Pamphylia.

On this day the holy woman Martyr Philippa, the mother of St. Theodore, died by the sword.

On this day, Saints Socrates and Dionysius died when they were run through with a spear.

On this day we also commemorate our devout father George the Confessor, Bishop of Pissidia.

On this day we also commemorate our father among the saints Tryphon, Archbishop of Constantinople. The Synaxis in his honor is celebrated in the Most Holy Great Church.

On this day we also commemorate the holy and glorious monastic Martyr Agathangelos of Esphigmenou Monastery (Mt. Athos).

On this day, devout Saint Symeon, one time Abbot of the holy Monastery of Philotheou on Mt. Athos, and founder of Holy Trinity Monastery on Mt. Phlamurion, known for having only one garment and for going barefoot, died in peace.

**ON THIS DAY, THE SECOND SUNDAY OF PASCHA, WE AGAIN CELEBRATE THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST, AND ALSO ST. THOMAS' TOUCHING OF THE LORD'S BODY.**

SINCE LOCKS OF WOMB NOR TOMB DO NOT IMPEDE YOU,  
THEN HOW WOULD LOCKED DOORS BLOCK YOU, O SAVIOR?

*By the intercessions of Your Apostle Thomas, O Christ our God, have mercy on us. Amen.*

A Message For Our Visitors:  
Welcome to Saint George!

Thank you for visiting us! We invite you to join us for Coffee Hour at the Hall next door, following the Divine Liturgy. If you are a newcomer, please introduce yourself to one of the priests or the Parish Council Members (Located at the Candle Stand) so that we can greet and welcome you properly. We are glad to have you with us today!

FIRST MATINS GOSPEL READING:  
Matthew 28:16-20

At that time, the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. And when they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age. Amen."

Epistle: Acts 5:12-20

Prokeimenon: Great is our Lord, and great is his power.

Verse: Praise the Lord, for the Lord is good.

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."

Α' Εωθινόν Εὐαγγελίον:  
Κατὰ Ματθαῖον 28:16-20

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, οἱ ἑνδεκα μαθηταὶ ἐπορεύθησαν εἰς τὴν Γαλιλαίαν, εἰς τὸ ὄρος, οὗ ἐτάξατο αὐτοῖς ὁ Ἰησοῦς. Καὶ ἰδόντες αὐτόν, προσεκύνησαν αὐτῷ· οἱ δὲ ἐδίστασαν. Καὶ προσελθὼν ὁ Ἰησοῦς, ἐλάλησεν αὐτοῖς, λέγων· Ἐδόθη μοι πᾶσα ἐξουσία ἐν οὐρανῷ καὶ ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς. Πορευθέντες οὖν, μαθητεύσατε πάντα τὰ ἔθνη, βαπτίζοντες αὐτοὺς εἰς τὸ ὄνομα τοῦ Πατρὸς, καὶ τοῦ Υἱοῦ, καὶ τοῦ Ἁγίου Πνεύματος· διδάσκοντες αὐτοὺς τηρεῖν πάντα ὅσα ἐνετειλάμην ὑμῖν. Καὶ ἰδοὺ, ἐγὼ μεθ' ὑμῶν εἰμι πάσας τὰς ἡμέρας, ἕως τῆς συντελείας τοῦ αἰῶνος. Ἀμήν.

Ἀπόστολος: Πράξεις 5:12-20

Προκείμενον: Μέγας ὁ Κύριος ἡμῶν, καὶ μεγάλη ἡ ἰσχύς αὐτοῦ.

Στιχ: Αἰνεῖτε τὸν Κύριον, ὅτι ἀγαθός.

Ἐν ταῖς ἡμεραῖς ἐκείναις, διὰ δὲ τῶν χειρῶν τῶν ἀποστόλων ἐγίνετο σημεῖα καὶ τέρατα ἐν τῷ λαῷ πολλά· καὶ ἦσαν ὁμοθυμαδὸν ἅπαντες ἐν τῇ στοᾷ Σολομῶντος. Τῶν δὲ λοιπῶν οὐδεὶς ἐτόλμα κολλᾶσθαι αὐτοῖς, ἀλλ' ἐμεγάλυνεν αὐτοὺς ὁ λαός· μᾶλλον δὲ προσετίθεντο πιστεύοντες τῷ κυρίῳ, πλήθη ἀνδρῶν τε καὶ γυναικῶν· ὥστε κατὰ τὰς πλατείας ἐκφέρειν τοὺς ἀσθενεῖς, καὶ τιθέναι ἐπὶ κλινῶν καὶ κραββάτων, ἵνα ἐρχομένου Πέτρου κἂν ἡ σκιά ἐπισκιάσῃ τινὶ αὐτῶν. Συνήρχετο δὲ καὶ τὸ πλῆθος τῶν πέριξ πόλεων εἰς Ἱερουσαλὴμ, φέροντες ἀσθενεῖς καὶ ὀχλουμένους ὑπὸ πνευμάτων ἀκαθάρτων, οἵτινες ἐθεραπεύοντο ἅπαντες. Ἀναστάς δὲ ὁ ἀρχιερεὺς καὶ πάντες οἱ σὺν αὐτῷ - ἡ οὔσα αἵρεσις τῶν Σαδδουκαίων - ἐπλήσθησαν ζήλου, καὶ ἐπέβαλον τὰς χεῖρας αὐτῶν ἐπὶ τοὺς ἀποστόλους, καὶ ἔθεντο αὐτοὺς ἐν τηρήσει δημοσίᾳ. Ἄγγελος δὲ κυρίου διὰ τῆς νυκτὸς ἤνοιξεν τὰς θύρας τῆς φυλακῆς, ἐξαγαγὼν τε αὐτοὺς εἶπεν, Πορεύεσθε, καὶ σταθέντες λαλεῖτε ἐν τῷ ἱερῷ τῷ λαῷ πάντα τὰ ῥήματα τῆς ζωῆς ταύτης.

## DISMISSAL HYMNS-KONTAKIA OF THE DAY

### *Apolytikion of the Feast, Grave Tone*

The tomb being sealed, You rose from the sepulcher, O Christ God, the Life. And the doors being shut, You came to the disciples, O resurrection of all. Through them You renew a right spirit within us, according to Your great mercy.

### *Κοντάκιον Κυριακῆς Θωμᾶ Ἦχος πλ. δ'.*

Τῇ φιλοπράγματι δεξιᾷ, τὴν ζωοπάρουχόν σου πλευράν, ὁ Θωμᾶς ἐξηρεύνησε Χριστέ ὁ Θεός· συγκεκλεισμένων γὰρ τῶν θυρῶν ὡς εἰσῆλθες, σὺν τοῖς λοιποῖς Ἀποστόλοις ἐβόα σοι· Κύριος ὑπάρχεις καὶ Θεός μου.

### *Kontakion of Pascha, Plagal 4th Tone*

Though You went down into the tomb, O Immortal One, yet You brought down the dominion of Hades; and You rose as the victor, O Christ our God; and You called out "Rejoice" to the Myrrh-bearing women, and gave peace to Your Apostles, O Lord who to the fallen grant resurrection.

## Ἀπολυτικά - Κοντάκια τῆς Ἡμέρας

### *Ἀπολυτικίον τῆς Ἑορτῆς, Ἦχος βαρύς*

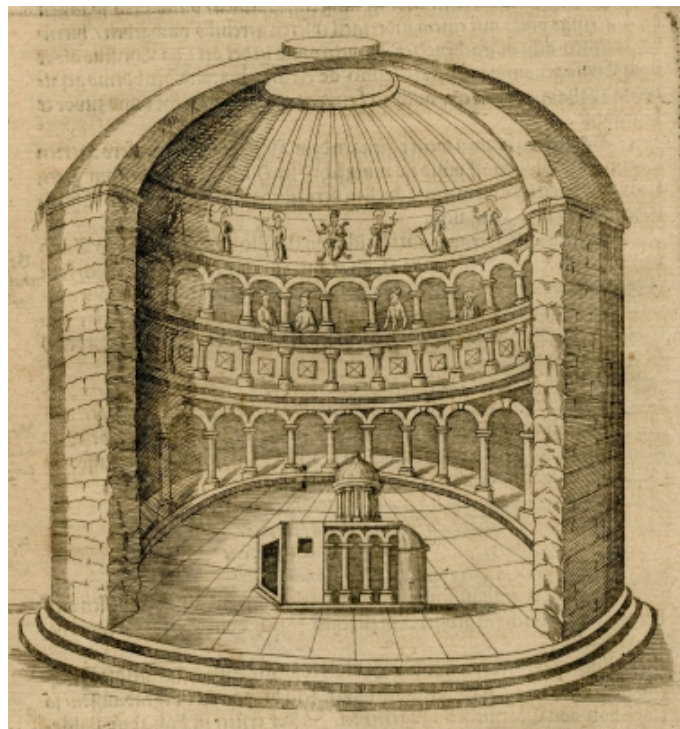
Ἐσφραγισμένου τοῦ μνήματος, ἡ ζωὴ ἐκ τάφου ἀνέτειλας Χριστέ ὁ Θεός· καὶ τῶν θυρῶν κεκλεισμένων, τοῖς Μαθηταῖς ἐπέστης, ἡ πάντων ἀνάστασις· Πνεῦμα εὐθὲς δι' αὐτῶν ἐγκαινίζων ἡμῖν, κατὰ τὸ μέγα σου ἔλεος.

### *Kontakion For the Sunday of Thomas Mode pl. 4.*

With his enterprising hand, Thomas examined Your life-supplying side, O Christ our God. When You entered while the doors were shut, with the other Apostles he cried out to You and said, "You are my Lord and my God!" [GOASD]

### *Κοντάκιον, Ἦχος πλ. δ'.*

Εἰ καὶ ἐν τάφῳ κατῆλθες Ἀθάνατε, ἀλλὰ τοῦ ᾄδου καθεῖλες τὴν δύναμιν· καὶ ἀνέστης ὡς νικητής, Χριστέ ὁ Θεός, γυναιξὶ Μυροφόροις φθεγζάμενος, Χαίρετε, καὶ τοῖς σοῖς Ἀποστόλοις εἰρήνην δωρούμενος, ὁ τοῖς πεσοῦσι παρέχων ἀνάστασιν.



### Gospel: 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.

### Εὐαγγέλιον: Κατὰ Ἰωάννην 20:19-31

Ὦσης ὀψίας τῆ ἡμέρα ἐκείνη τῆ μιᾶ τῶν σαββάτων, καὶ τῶν θυρῶν κεκλεισμένων ὅπου ἦσαν οἱ μαθηταὶ συνηγμένοι διὰ τὸν φόβον τῶν Ἰουδαίων, ἦλθεν ὁ Ἰησοῦς καὶ ἔστη εἰς τὸ μέσον, καὶ λέγει αὐτοῖς· Εἰρήνη ὑμῖν. Καὶ τοῦτο εἰπὼν ἔδειξεν αὐτοῖς τὰς χεῖρας καὶ τὴν πλευρὰν αὐτοῦ· ἐχάρησαν οὖν οἱ μαθηταὶ ἰδόντες τὸν Κύριον. Εἶπεν οὖν αὐτοῖς ὁ Ἰησοῦς πάλιν· Εἰρήνη ὑμῖν, καθὼς ἀπέσταλκέ με ὁ πατήρ, καὶ γὰρ πέμπω ὑμᾶς. Καὶ τοῦτο εἰπὼν ἐνεφύσησε καὶ λέγει αὐτοῖς· Λάβετε Πνεῦμα Ἅγιον. Ἄν τινων ἀφήτε τὰς ἁμαρτίας, ἀφίενται αὐτοῖς, ἂν τινων κρατῆτε, κεκράτηνται. Θωμᾶς δέ, εἷς ἐκ τῶν δώδεκα, ὁ λεγόμενος Δίδυμος, οὐκ ἦν μετ' αὐτῶν ὅτε ἦλθεν Ἰησοῦς· ἔλεγον οὖν αὐτῷ οἱ ἄλλοι μαθηταὶ· Ἐωράκαμεν τὸν Κύριον. Ὁ δὲ εἶπεν αὐτοῖς· Ἐὰν μὴ ἴδω ἐν ταῖς χερσίν αὐτοῦ τὸν τύπον τῶν ἡλῶν, καὶ βάλω τὸν δάκτυλόν μου εἰς τὸν τύπον τῶν ἡλῶν, καὶ βάλω τὴν χεῖρά μου εἰς τὴν πλευρὰν αὐτοῦ, οὐ μὴ πιστεύσω. Καὶ μεθ' ἡμέρας ὀκτώ πάλιν ἦσαν ἔσω οἱ μαθηταὶ αὐτοῦ, καὶ Θωμᾶς μετ' αὐτῶν. Ἐρχεται ὁ Ἰησοῦς τῶν θυρῶν κεκλεισμένων, καὶ ἔστη εἰς τὸ μέσον καὶ εἶπεν· Εἰρήνη ὑμῖν. Εἶτα λέγει τῷ Θωμᾶ· φέρε τὸν δάκτυλόν σου ᾧδε, καὶ ἴδε τὰς χεῖράς μου. καὶ φέρε τὴν χεῖρά σου καὶ βάλε εἰς τὴν πλευρὰν μου, καὶ μὴ γίνου ἄπιστος ἀλλὰ πιστός. Καὶ ἀπεκρίθη ὁ Θωμᾶς, καὶ εἶπεν αὐτῷ· Ὁ Κύριός μου καὶ ὁ Θεός μου. Λέγει αὐτῷ ὁ Ἰησοῦς· Ὅτι ἐώρακάς με πεπίστευκας, μακάριοι οἱ μὴ ἰδόντες, καὶ πιστεύσαντες. Πολλὰ μὲν οὖν καὶ ἄλλα σημεῖα ἐποίησεν ὁ Ἰησοῦς ἐνώπιον τῶν μαθητῶν αὐτοῦ, ἃ οὐκ ἔστιν γεγραμμένα ἐν τῷ βιβλίῳ τούτῳ· ταῦτα δὲ γέγραπται ἵνα πιστεύσητε ὅτι ὁ Ἰησοῦς ἐστὶν ὁ Χριστὸς ὁ υἱὸς τοῦ Θεοῦ, καὶ ἵνα πιστεύοντες, ζωὴν ἔχητε ἐν τῷ ὀνόματι αὐτοῦ.



## HIS EMINENCE'S MESSAGE



My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

**Χριστός ανέστη! Ἀληθῶς ἀνέστη!**

**Christ is Risen! Truly He is Risen!**

As we come to the end of Bright Week, I would like to divide today's message into two thoughts for two Feasts. The first, which we celebrate tomorrow, concerns belief; and the second, for the Sunday of St. Thomas, concerns doubt.

On Bright Friday, we commemorate the Ζωοδόχος Πηγή, or the Theotokos of the Life-Giving Spring. Tradition says that on April 4, 450, a soldier, the future Emperor Leo I, encountered a blind man, thirsting for water in a grove. Taking pity on him, Leo led the

blind man to the shade of a tree, before searching for water. Then, Leo heard a voice tell him not to trouble himself, because the water was right there! Leo was surprised, for there was only him and the blind man. And yet Leo heard the voice say again, "Leo, *Emperor*, go into the grove, take the water which you will find and give it to the thirsty man. Then take the mud and put it on the blind man's eyes ... And build a temple here ... that all who come here will find answers to their petitions." Leo obeyed, and the blind man's sight was restored to him.

After his ascension to the throne, Leo kept his vow to God, dedicating a church to the Holy Theotokos. The spring resumed its flow and was responsible for many miracles, including resurrections from the dead, from where it received its name, the Life-Giving Spring. Unfortunately, over time the Church was repeatedly destroyed by the Ottomans and then rebuilt. Presently, after the 1955 pogroms, there is only a small chapel, but the faithful still venerate the intercessions of our Panagia through the spring.

Let us now compare the behavior of this young soldier with that of one of Lord's Disciples. We know from the Gospel accounts of the Resurrection, that the Disciples hid in the Upper Room, and that our Lord appeared to them from behind a locked door, breaking bread, showing them the marks of the nails and the spear, and granting them the gift of remission of sins through the Holy Spirit. (John 20:19-23) We also know that, since Thomas was absent, he was skeptical, saying to the Disciples, "*Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe*" (John 20:25). Our Lord, of course, granted Thomas's request, inviting him to feel the marks of the nails. Thomas then exclaimed, "*My Lord and my God!*" (John 20:27-28) Our Lord however revealed His true purpose, by saying, "*Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.*" (John 20:29)

Young Leo Marcellus could have seen the dried spring and the weeds and walked away. Yet he believed. Out of his love for the blind man, he obeyed the heavenly voice; and it is because of his belief that we have this blessed feast of the Life-Giving Spring to commemorate the intercessions of the Theotokos in our lives.

We honor St. Thomas this Sunday because of his declaration that our Lord was both fully Man and fully God. We can also take strength and comfort as we are subject to human weakness and doubt. However, through the prayers of our Ever-Virgin Mary, may we take this renewing spirit of Bright Week to demonstrate the reality of Christ's Resurrection: following the heavenly voice like Leo, so that we may too, like Thomas, declare that the Risen Jesus is both our Lord and our God.

**+SEVASTIANOS  
Metropolitan of Atlanta**



## Meet our new Online Directory!

St. George is launching Realm Connect, a new software system designed to help us connect and organize communication within our church family.

**Every member will soon receive an invitation** to join Realm and create a personal file for their family, including name, address, email, phone number, and other important details. **You'll have full control** over what information you share, and rest assured, financial information and stewardship pledges are only visible to the Parish Council treasurer and yourself.

Realm will become our **official church directory**, making it easier to stay in touch and involved. Please watch for your invitation from St. George and follow the instructions to join. If you have any questions, reach out to Bethany Martin, program administrator, or Danni Varlan. We look forward to welcoming you to Realm!

ST. GEORGE KNOXVILLE  
PHILOTOCHOS SOCIETY



*General Meeting  
Monday  
April 27th*

5:45 AT THE HOME OF MARIANNE JENNINGS  
6828 OLD KENT DRIVE KNOXVILLE, TN 37919  
RSVP: KNOXVILLEPHILOTOCHOSSOCIETY@GMAIL.COM

## Calendar for the Week

Sunday, April 19, 2026

Sunday of Thomas

8:45 am - Orthros & Divine Liturgy

Wednesday, April 22, 2026

5:30 pm Greek School

7:00 pm Great Vespers for St George

Thursday, April 23, 2026

8:45 am Orthros & Divine Liturgy (St. George)

7:00 pm Paraklesis to St. George

Friday, April 24, 2026

7:00 pm Island Glendi & Dinner

Saturday, April 25, 2026

Baptism

Sunday, April 26, 2026

Sunday of the Myrrhbearing Women

8:45 am Orthros & Divine Liturgy

Spring General Assembly



Saint George Greek Orthodox Church, Knoxville, Tennessee

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Emeritus: Rev. Protopresbyter Fr. Anthony Stratis Email: [franthonystratis@gmail.com](mailto:franthonystratis@gmail.com)

Deacon: Rev. Dn. Mark Smith Choir Director: Dr. George Chngas Chanters: Anthony Martin, Samir Harb, Alex Skoulis

Security Director: David Ferguson