

April 11

**Thursday of St. Thomas;
Commemoration of the Holy Hieromartyr Antipas,
Bishop of Pergamum
(5th Class)**

VESPERS

Stichera for the Resurrection (Tone 2)

6. Without leaving the bosom of the Father, O Christ, You appeared on earth bearing our flesh in Your infinite mercy, Having suffered death on the Cross, You rose on the third day and although the doors were closed, You entered, being the all-powerful God. Joyfully touching Your lifegiving side, Thomas glorified You as his Lord and his God.
5. Nailed to the Cross, You were pierced by a soldier's lance. O Christ, You tasted bitterness and suffered death. You were placed in a tomb and shattered the bonds of Hades, lifting up with You all those who had been dead throughout the ages. And without breaking the locks on the doors, You appeared to Your disciples to confirm their faith in Your Resurrection.
4. O Pascha, the feast we celebrate these days! O mystical Passover, Passover of God, O Pascha of salvation! O Passover through which Christ leads us from death to eternal life! O Pascha, driving away all pain from our hearts! O Passover granting joy to the disciples! O Pascha, you made Thomas cry out: "You have despoiled the Kingdom of Hades! You are truly my Lord and my God!"

For Antipas (Tone 2)

3. You drank deeply of the grace of the knowledge of Christ from the inexhaustible fountains of John, who had reclined upon the breast of the Master and was sent to preach God the Word. You have passed on those living streams to all, as you followed in the way of the Apostles. Having confidence in the presence of God, intercede for all those who praise your name.
2. Having lived gloriously and acquiring the treasure of the virtues, O venerable Antipas, you left all things and set off to the Lord like Abraham of old, filled with honor by your good fight. Thus you gained glory on high where you rejoice with the disciples of Christ and intercede for us who honor your martyrdom with faith.
1. Since you received from the inexhaustible gifts of the Paraclete the grace of healing, deign to visit and heal the sufferings of our souls and bodies. Calm all pain and infirmity, O venerable father; and save from danger and shame all those who honor your memory as they glorify the Lord.
- v. Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Dogmatikon (Tone 4)

What a wondrous mystery! Unbelief becomes a deeply committed faith as Thomas says, "Unless I see, I will not believe!" When he had touched Your side, he acknowledged You to be the Son of God, the incarnate Lord, who suffered in the flesh. He proclaimed Your Resurrection from the dead and cried out in the presence of all with a loud voice: "My Lord and my God, glory to You!"

"O Joyful Light..." Prokimenon of Wednesday evening.

APOSTICHA (*Tone 1*)

1. By Your suffering, we have been saved from suffering. O Christ; and by Your Resurrection, we have escaped corruption. O Lord, glory to You!

All: Their voice has gone forth over the whole world, and their words to the limits of the universe.

2. The harp of the Apostles, is filled with sweet harmonious music as it is played by the Holy Spirit. It banished the mysteries and worship inspired by demons. As it sang of the one and only Lord, it delivered the people from the error of idolatry, teaching them to bow down in worship before the consubstantial Trinity.

All: God is wonderful among His saints, the God of Israel.

3. O martyrs worthy of all praise, although the earth did not conceal your bodies in burial, Heaven has welcomed you. The gates of Paradise were opened to you, and there you rejoice in the Tree of Life. Intercede with Christ that He grant our souls peace and great mercy!

All: Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Dogmatikon (*Tone 4*)

What a wondrous mystery! That grass can touch fire and not be consumed; for Thomas put his hand into the fire of the side of Jesus Christ our God, and he was not consumed in touching Him. He changed his doubt into the fervor of faith, and shouted from the depth of his heart, "O Master who are risen from the dead, You are my God! Glory to You!"

TROPARION OF ANTIPAS (*Tone 4*)

You brought an end to the error of idolatry and overcame the power of the devil, O Antipas. In the presence of the enemies of the Lord, you preached with the boldness of Christ. Therefore as you stand in the choir of the angels on high glorifying the Lord of All, you pray for us who honor you and grant us a share in your gifts as a healer. O hieromartyr Antipas, intercede with Christ our God for the salvation of our souls.

OR TROPARION OF ANTIPAS (*Tone 1*)

O faithful, come let us now honor the wise Antipas, the great and swift healer of severe afflictions. He is the celebrated hierarch and first bishop of Pergamum, the companion of the martyrs, who pours forth divine myrrh. Let us cry aloud with faith: Glory to Christ who gave you glory! Glory to Him who crowned you! Glory to Him who through you performs healings for all!

- v. Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

TROPARION OF THOMAS (*Tone 7*)

While the tomb was sealed, You shone forth from it, O Christ our Life; and while the doors remained closed, You stood among Your Disciples, O Resurrection of all; and through them You restored a new spirit in us according to Your great mercy.