♣ Oct 06: The Holy and Glorious Apostle Thomas

Text from "The Divine Liturgy: An Anthology for Worship"; Pg. 705

Troparion (Tone 2): O disciple of Christ and member of the apostolic council, your lack of faith proclaimed Christ's resurrection, and your touch confirmed His holy passion. O Thomas, worthy of all praise, pray even now that He grant us peace and great mercy.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. Now and for ever and ever. Amen.

Kontakion (Tone 4): Filled with the grace of wisdom, Your apostle and genuine servant, O Christ, cried out to You in his change of heart: You are my God and Lord.

Prokimenon (Tone 8): Their utterance has gone forth into all the earth, and their words unto the ends of the world (Ps 18:5).

verse: The heavens tell the glory of God, and the firmament declares the work of His hand (Ps 18:2).

Epistle: (1 Co 4:9-16) (Feast): *Brethren*, for I think that God has exhibited us apostles as last of all, as though sentenced to death, because we have become a spectacle to the world, to angels and to mortals. We are fools for the sake of Christ, but you are wise in Christ. We are weak, but you are strong. You are held in honour, but we in disrepute. To the present hour we are hungry and thirsty, we are poorly clothed and beaten and homeless, and we grow weary from the work of our own hands. When reviled, we bless; when persecuted, we endure; when slandered, we speak kindly. We have become like the rubbish of the world, the dregs of all things, to this very day.

I am not writing this to make you ashamed, but to admonish you as my beloved children. For though you might have ten thousand guardians in Christ, you do not have many fathers. Indeed, in Christ Jesus I became your father through the gospel. I appeal to you, then, be imitators of me.

Alleluia: The heavens shall confess Your wonders, O Lord, and Your truth in the church of the saints (Ps 88:6).

verse: God is glorified in the assembly of the saints. (Ps 88:8).

Gospel: (Jn 20:19-31) (Feast): On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' 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 them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'

But Thomas (who was 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 he said to them, 'Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.'

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, 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. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.' 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 have come to believe.'

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Communion Verse: Their utterance has gone forth into all the earth, and their words unto the ends of the world (Ps 18:5). Alleluia! (3x)