

December 21

St Thomas

Apostle

St Thomas is primarily known for his doubts – but more important is his final confession 'My Lord and my God'. According to legends he likewise doubted the resurrection of Our Lady, causing her to appear to him and to give him her girdle. Traditionally he has been regarded as the founder of the ancient Christian communities in India.

Red

2 Cl. (Duplex 2 Cl.)

INTROIT: Ps. 138:17

Mihi autem nimis honorati sunt amici tui, Deus : nimis confortatus est principatus eorum. Ps. *ibid.* 1-2: Domine probasti me, et cognovisti me : tu cognovisti sessionem meam, et resurrectionem meam. V. Gloria.

*To me thy friends, O God, are made exceedingly honourable : their principality is exceedingly strengthened. Ps. *ibid.* 1-2: Lord, thou hast proved me, and known me : thou hast known my sitting down and my rising up. V. Glory.*

COLLECT

Da nobis, quæsumus, Domine, beati Apostoli tui Thomæ solemnitatibus gloriari : ut ejus semper et patrociniis sublevemur, et fidem congrua devotione sectemur. Per Dominum.

Grant us, O Lord, we beseech thee, to glory in the solemnity of thy blessed Apostle Thomas : so that we may ever be aided by his protection, and with due devotion imitate his faith. Through our Lord.

EPISTLE: Eph. 2:19-22

Lectio Epistolæ beati Pauli Apostoli ad Ephesios.

Fratres : Jam non estis hospites et advenæ : sed estis cives sanctorum, et domestici Dei : superædificati super fundamentum Apostolorum, et Prophetarum, ipso summo angulari lapide Christo Jesu : in quo omnis ædificatio constructa crescit in templum sanctum in Domino : in quo et vos coædificamini in habitaculum Dei in Spiritu.

A lesson from the Epistle of St Paul the Apostle to the Ephesians.

Brethren: You are no more strangers and foreigners, but you are fellow-citizens with the saints, and domestics of God : built upon the foundation of the Apostles and Prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief cornerstone. In whom all the building being framed together, groweth up into a holy temple in the Lord : in whom you also are built together into an habitation of God in the Spirit.

GRADUAL: Ps. 138:17-18

Nimis honorati sunt amici tui, Deus : nimis confortatus est principatus eorum. V. Dinumerabo eos, et super arenam multiplicabuntur.

Thy friends, O God, are made exceedingly honourable : their principality is exceedingly strengthened. V. I will number them : and they shall be multiplied above the sand.

ALLELUIA: Ps. 32:1

Gaudete justi in Domino : rectos decet collaudatio. *Rejoice in the Lord, O ye just : praise becometh the upright.*

ad libitum: SEQUENCE

Alleluia, nunc decantet universalis Ecclesia
Extollendo laude celsa Apostolorum præconia. *Alleluia, may now the entire Church sing,
To raise up hymns to the Apostles with high praise.*

Quorum princeps per crucem scandit Petrus
alta poli culmina.
Doctor orbis triumphat sub Nerone, urbe in
Romulea. *Peter, their prince, climbs up to the high summit of
heaven through the cross.
The teacher of the world [Paul] triumphs under
Nero, in the city of Romulus.*

Crux Andreae digna confert præmia, / Jacobus
uterque nitet laurea, / Ægeas illum, hos
Judaica gens transmisit ad æthera.
Sunt Matthæo, sunt Joanni collata / duo clara
gratiarum munera / Hyrtacus illum necat,
hunc suas Jesus vocat ad epulas. *The cross bestows on Andrew the worthy prize, /
Both James shine with laurel, / the Ægeans sent
one into heaven, the Jews the other.
Two bright gifts of graces / are given to Matthew and
John: / Hyrtacus kills one, the other is called by
Jesus to his banquet.*

Philippus, Christi gratia docens, prædicans in
Scythia.
Thomas confossus lancea, cursum consummat
in India. *Philip preached in Scythia, teaching through Christ's
grace.
Thomas, stabbed by a lance, completes his race in
India.*

Simon et Judas dum sacra Persis ostendunt
monita,
Fusus sanguis ambos stola perlustravit
purpurea. *When Simon and Jude were showing the holy admo-
nitions to the Persians,
The blood they shed decorated both with a purple
garment.*

Bartholomæus dat Indis vitæ dogmata;
Matthiæ culmen dedit sors apostolica. *Bartholomew gives the Indians the doctrines of life.
The fate of the Apostles brought Matthias to the
summit.*

Plaudat ergo tellus, plaudat cælorum curia, / et
hac die sacra plaudat præsens familia /
honoranda sacrosancta Apostolorum merita. *Thus the earth shall applaud, the heavenly court
shall applaud, / and on this day the holy house-
hold present here / shall applaud, to honour the
holy merits of the Apostles.*

Hi sunt candelabra ante Deum lucentia, / hi
prælati, celsa summi Regis in curia, / hi sal
terræ, hi lux mundi, hi clara cæli lumina. *They are the candlesticks shining before God, / they
the princes, high in the court of the supreme King,
/ they the salt of the earth, they the light of the
world, they the bright stars of heaven.*

Jam palma, jam corona, jam promissa olim
mensa illis est apposita.
O quanta, quam præclara, quam jocunda cele-
brantur illorum solemnia. *Already the palm, already the crown, already the
long-promised banquet is placed before them.
O how many of their feasts, how famous, how wel-
come, are celebrated.*

His nostra sint solemnia,
Sint vota, sint præconia,

Sint grata laudum carmina.

*For those shall be our feasts,
Our vows, our hymns,*

May the songs of praises be welcome.

GOSPEL: *Jn. 20:24-29*

Sequentia Sancti Evangelii secundum Joannem.

In illo tempore : Thomas, unus ex duodecim, qui dicitur Didymus, non erat cum eis, quando venit Jesus. Dixerunt ergo ei alii discipuli : Vidi-mus Dominum. Ille autem dixit eis : Nisi vide-ro in manibus ejus fixuram clavorum, et mittam digitum meum in locum clavorum, et mittam manum meam in latus ejus, non credam. Et post dies octo, iterum erant discipuli ejus intus, et Thomas cum eis. Venit Jesus januis clausis, et stetit in medio, et dixit : Pax vobis. Deinde dicit Thomæ: Infer digitum tuum huc, et vide manus meas, et affer manum tuam, et mitte in latus meum : et noli esse incredulus, sed fidelis. Respondit Thomas, et dixit ei : Dominus meus, et Deus meus. Dixit ei Jesus : Quia vidisti me, Thoma, credidisti : beati, qui non viderunt, et crediderunt.

Continuation of the holy Gospel according to St John.

At that time: Thomas, one of the twelve, who is called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came. The other disciples therefore said to him: We have seen the Lord. But he said to them: Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the place of the nails, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe. And after eight days, again his disciples were within, and Thomas with them. Jesus cometh, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst and said: Peace be to you. Then he saith to Thomas: Put in thy finger hither, and see my hands, and bring hither thy hand, and put it into my side; and be not faithless, but believing. Thomas answered, and said to him: My Lord and my God. Jesus saith to him: Because thou hast seen me, Thomas, thou hast believed : blessed are they that have not seen, and have believed.

OFFERTORY: *Ps. 18:5, 2*

In omnem terram exivit sonus eorum : *et in fines orbis terræ verba eorum. ✠ Cæli enarrant gloriam Dei : et opera manuum ejus annuntiat firmamentum. *Et in fines.

*Their sound hath gone forth into all the earth : *and their words unto the ends of the world. ✠ The heavens shew forth the glory of God, and the firmament declareth the work of his hands. *And their words.*

SECRET

Debitum tibi, Domine, nostræ reddimus servi-tutis, suppliciter exorantes : ut, suffragiis beati Thomæ Apostoli, in nobis tua munera tuearis, cujus honoranda confessione laudis tibi hostias immolamus. Per Dominum.

We render to thee our bounded service, O Lord, and we humbly beseech thee to preserve in us thy gifts, through the prayers of the blessed Apostle Thomas, in honour of whose glorious confession we offer thee this sacrifice of praise. Through our Lord.

PREFACE

Of the Apostles

Vere dignum et justum est, æquum et salutare : Te, Domine, suppliciter exorare, ut gregem tuum, pastor æterne, non deseras : sed per beatos Apostolos tuos continua protectione custodias. Ut iisdem rectoribus gubernetur, quos operis tui vicarios eidem contulisti præesse pastores.

It is truly meet and just, right and salutary, humbly to pray thee, O Lord, the eternal shepherd, to abandon not thy flock; but through thy blessed Apostles to keep a continual watch over it; that it may be governed by those same rulers whom thou didst set over it as shepherds and as thy vicars. And therefore with

Et ideo cum Angelis et Archangelis, cum Thronis et Dominationibus, cumque omni militia cælestis exercitus, hymnum gloriæ tuæ canimus, sine fine dicentes :

the Angels and Archangels, with the Thrones and Dominions, and with all the hosts of the heavenly army, we sing a hymn to thy glory, evermore saying:

COMMUNION: *Jn. 2:7-11*

Mitte manum tuam, et cognosce loca clavorum : et noli esse incredulus, sed fidelis.

Put in thy hand, and know the place of the nails : and be not incredulous, but believing.

POST-COMMUNION

Adesto nobis, misericors Deus : et, intercedente pro nobis beato Thoma Apostolo, tua circa nos propitiatus dona custodi. Per Dominum.

Be present with us, O merciful God, and through the intercession of the blessed Apostle Thomas mercifully preserve thy gifts bestowed upon us. Through our Lord.