

# St. Thomas the Apostle

July 3



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Biblical figure

St. Thomas was one of the Twelve Apostles. He followed Jesus even though he knew it was dangerous. Many fellow Jews wanted to kill Jesus because of His great works and the words that He spoke. But Thomas was loyal and brave. When Jesus traveled to Bethany to raise Lazarus from the dead, Thomas knew that he was in even greater danger because many of Jesus' enemies were there. He decided to go with Jesus anyway, even though he thought he might die. He told the other Apostles, "Let us also go to die with him."

When Jesus was arrested and crucified, Thomas was heartbroken. He was not with the other Apostles when Jesus appeared to them after His Resurrection. The other Apostles joyfully told Thomas that Jesus had risen from the dead!

But Thomas did not believe them.

It was too much to hope that the Master he loved was alive. The Apostles must have been mistaken. He said, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in His hands and put my finger into the nail marks and put my hand into His side, I will not believe."

The next time Jesus appeared to the Apostles, Thomas was there. Jesus knew what Thomas had said, and told him to place his fingers in His nail marks, and his hand at His side.

Thomas uttered a heartfelt, "My Lord, and My God."

Thomas's faith in Jesus was restored at the sight of his Master. Jesus told him that those who believe but do not see are blessed all the more.

At His Ascension, Jesus commanded the Apostles to spread the Good News to the ends of the earth. Thomas traveled all the way to India. There, he founded a Church and baptized many people in Jesus' name. St. Thomas the Apostle died a glorious martyr in India preaching about Jesus, the Master that he loved.

St. Thomas the Apostle, help me to believe in Jesus even if I do not see Him!