

**Vespers with Divine Liturgy for our holy father among the saints,
Nicholas, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia, the Wonderworker**

Deacon: Master, bless!

Priest: Blessed is the kingdom of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

Come, let us worship God our King.

Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ, our King and our God.

Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ Himself, our King and our God.

Psalm 103

Reader: Bless the LORD, O my soul! O LORD my God, you are very great! You are clothed with honor and majesty, who cover yourself with light as with a garment, who have stretched out the heavens like a tent, who have laid the beams of your chambers on the waters, who make the clouds your chariot, who ride on the wings of the wind, who make the winds your messengers, fire and flame your ministers.

You set the earth on its foundations, so that it should never be shaken. You covered it with the deep as with a garment; the waters stood above the mountains. At your rebuke they fled; at the sound of your thunder they took to flight. The mountains rose, the valleys sank down to the place which you appointed for them. You set a bound which they should not pass, so that they might not again cover the earth.

You make springs gush forth in the valleys; they flow between the hills, they give drink to every beast of the field; the wild asses quench their thirst. By them the birds of the air have their habitation; they sing among the branches. From your lofty abode you water the mountains; the earth is satisfied with the fruit of your work. You cause the grass to grow for the cattle, and plants for man to cultivate, that he may bring forth food from the earth, and wine to gladden the heart of man, oil to make his face shine, and bread to strengthen man's heart.

The trees of the LORD are watered abundantly, the cedars of Lebanon which he planted. In them the birds build their nests; the stork has her home in the fir trees. The high mountains are for the wild goats; the rocks are a refuge for the badgers.

You have made the moon to mark the seasons; the sun knows its time for setting.

You make darkness, and it is night, when all the beasts of the forest creep forth. The young lions roar for their prey, seeking their food from God. When the sun rises, they get them away and lie down in their dens. Man goes forth to his work and to his labor until the evening.

O LORD, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures. Yonder is the sea, great and wide, which teems with things innumerable, living things both small and great. There go the ships, and Leviathan which you formed to sport in it. These all look to you, to give them their food in due season.

When you give to them, they gather it up; when you open your hand, they are filled with good things. When you hide your face, they are dismayed; when you take away their breath, they die and return to their dust. When you send forth your Spirit, they are created; and you renew the face of the ground.

May the glory of the LORD endure for ever, may the LORD rejoice in his works, who looks on the earth and it trembles, who touches the mountains and they smoke!

I will sing to the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have being. May my meditation be pleasing to him, for I rejoice in the LORD.

Let sinners be consumed from the earth, and let the wicked be no more!
Bless the LORD, O my soul! Praise the LORD!

The sun knows its time for setting. You make darkness and it is night. O Lord, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all!

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Glory to you, O God! (*thrice*)

The Litany of Peace

Deacon: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (*and after each petition*)

For the peace from above and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

For the peace of the whole world, for the stability of the holy Churches of God, and for the union of all, let us pray to the Lord.

For this holy house and for those who enter it with faith, reverence, and the fear of God, let us pray to the Lord.

For our Archbishop and Father _____, for the honorable priesthood, the diaconate in Christ, for all the clergy and the people, let us pray to the Lord.

For the civil authorities of this country, and those serving in its armed forces, let us pray to the Lord.

For this city, for every city, monastery, and countryside, and for those who in faith dwell in them, let us pray to the Lord.

For good temperance of the air, abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful seasons, let us pray to the Lord.

For travelers by land, sea, and air, the sick, the suffering, the imprisoned, and for their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and necessity, let us pray to the Lord.

Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by your grace.

Remembering our all-holy, pure, most blessed, and glorious Lady, the Birthgiver of God and Ever-Virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us offer ourselves and one other, and our whole life to Christ God.

Choir: To you, O Lord.

Priest: For to you is due all glory, honor, and worship, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

Psalm 140 (In the appointed tone)

Lord, I call upon You, hear me!

Hear me, O Lord!

Lord, I call upon You, hear me!

Receive the voice of my prayer,

when I call upon You!

Hear me, O Lord!

Let my prayer arise in Your sight as incense,

and let the lifting up of my hands be an evening sacrifice!

Hear me, O Lord!

Reader: Set a guard over my mouth, O Lord Keep watch over the door of my lips. Incline not my heart to any evil, To busy myself with wicked deeds. In company with men who work iniquity; And let me not partake of their delights! Let a good man strike or rebuke me in kindness, But let the oil of the wicked never anoint my head; for my prayer is continually against their wicked deeds. When they are given over to those who shall condemn them, Then they shall learn that the word of the Lord is true. As a rock which one cleaves and shatters on the land, So shall their bones be strewn at the mouth of the grave. But my eyes are toward you, O Lord God; In you I seek refuge; leave me not defenseless. Keep me from the trap which they have laid for me, And from the snares of evildoers. Let the wicked together fall into their own nets, While I escape.

Psalm 141 I cry with my voice to the Lord, With my voice I make supplication to the Lord. I pour out my complaint before him, I tell my trouble before him. When my spirit is faint, You know my way! In the path where I walk, They have hidden a trap for me. I look to my right and watch, But there is none who takes notice of me; No refuge remains to me, No man cares for me. I cry to you, O Lord; I say: you are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living. Give heed to my cry; For I am brought very low! Deliver me from my persecutors; For they are too strong for me!

v. (10) Bring my soul out of prison, that I may give thanks to Your name!

v. (9) The righteous will surround me; for You will deal bountifully with me.

*v. (8) Out of the depths I cry to You, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice! **Tone 2 Podoben***

O Nicholas, living in Myra,

you were anointed with spiritual myrrh,

and were revealed to be truly myrrh, O bishop of Christ.

You make fragrant with myrrh those who keep your memorial with faith and love, freeing them from misery, danger and affliction, // by your intercessions to Christ, O holy Father.

v. (7) Let Your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

O Holy Nicholas, the servant of Christ,

as a true namesake of victory,

you were shown to the faithful people to be strong amid temptations and grief.

Called from all places, you are swift to come to those who turn with love to your protection.

Appearing by day and night to the faithful,//

you save them from dangers and temptations.

v. (6) If You, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with You.

You appeared in a dream to the Emperor Constantine and his counselor

Avlabius,

speaking to them, and putting them in fear:

“Set free at once those you hold unjustly bound in prison,

for they are not guilty of lawless murder!

And if you do not listen to my words, O King,//

I will beseech the Lord and intercede against you!”

v. (5) For Your name's sake I have waited for You, O Lord, my soul has waited for Your word; my soul has hoped on the Lord.

O Glorious Nicholas, the holy preacher of Christ,

you are the great and fervent protector of those in danger,

those on land and sea, far off or near;

for you are a most compassionate and mighty intercessor.

Therefore, as we assemble, we cry aloud://

“Pray to the Lord that we may be delivered from all danger!”

v. (4) From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch let Israel hope on the Lord.

What crowns of praise shall we weave the Bishop?

Although he lived in Myra,

he reaches out in spirit to all who sincerely love him.

He is the consolation of all in affliction, the refuge of all in danger,

the tower of godliness, the champion of the faithful,//

for whose sake the greatly merciful Christ has laid low the arrogance of the

Enemy.

v. (3) For with the Lord there is mercy and with Him is plenteous redemption, and He will deliver Israel from all his iniquities.

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He is the consolation of all in affliction, the refuge of all in danger,

the tower of godliness, the champion of the faithful,//

for whose sake the greatly merciful Christ has laid low the arrogance of the Enemy.

v. (2) Praise the Lord, all nations! Praise Him, all peoples!

What songs of praise shall we sing to the Bishop?

He wrestled against godlessness

and was the champion of godliness,

a great leader, shield and teacher of the Church,

who put all inglorious heresy to shame,

the destroyer and fierce opponent of Arius,

whose arrogance was overthrown by Christ,//

Who grants to the world great mercy.

v. (1) For His mercy is abundant towards us; and the truth of the Lord endures for ever.

With what songs of prophecy shall we praise the Bishop?

He foresaw things afar and clearly announced them in advance,

foretelling them as though they were taking place.

He looked around the whole world, making injustice cease;

he appeared in dreams to the emperor wise in God,

and delivered from an unjust execution those who had been in bonds,//

for he is rich in God's great mercy.

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; **Tone 6***

You that love the feasts,

let us gather and sing the praises of the fair ornament of bishops,

the glory of the Fathers, the fount of wonders and the great protector of the faithful.

Let us say: "Rejoice, guardian of the people of Myra,

their chief and honored counselor and the pillar that cannot be moved!
Rejoice, light filled with brightness!
You make the ends of the world shine with wonders.
Rejoice, divine delight of the afflicted,
the fervent advocate of those who suffer from injustice!
And now, all-blessed Nicholas, never cease praying to Christ our God//
for those who honor the high feast of your memorial with faith and love!"

now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. Tone 6

O cave, make ready, for the Ewe Lamb comes, bearing Christ in her womb!
O manger, receive Him Who by a word has released the dwellers of earth from
lawlessness!
Shepherds, abiding in the fields, bear witness to the fearful wonder!
You magi from Persia, offer to the King gold, myrrh and frankincense,
for the Lord has appeared from a Virgin Mother!
And she, bending over Him as a handmaiden,
worshipped Him as He lay in her arms, saying to Him:
"How were You sown as seed in me?
How have You grown within me, //
my Deliverer and my God?"

The Entrance

[And they go out at once through the northern door, the Deacon going first. And, standing directly in front of the holy doors, the Deacon says: Let us pray to the Lord.

The Priest, bowing his head, says quietly the prayer of the entrance:

Master, Lord our God, who have set upright in the heavens orders and hosts of angels and archangels for the liturgy of your Glory, cause that with our entrance there be an entrance of holy angels, co-liturgizing and glorifying your Goodness with us, for to you is due all glory, honor, and worship, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

The Deacon: Bless, Master, the holy entrance.

The Priest blesses toward the east, saying:

Blessed is the entrance of your holy place, always, now and ever and to the ages of ages. *The Deacon: Amen.]*

Deacon: Wisdom! Upright!

Choir: O Gladsome Light of the holy glory of the immortal Father, heavenly, holy, blessed Jesus Christ. Having come to the setting of the sun and beheld the light of evening, we praise the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit God! At all times you are worthy, you are worthy of praise in songs as Son of God, Giver of Life, therefore the world glorifies you!

Deacon: Wisdom! Let us attend!

Priest : Peace to all!

Reader: And to your spirit!

Then, the appropriate Prokeimenon for the day of the week:

MONDAY EVENING

Deacon: The Prokeimenon in the Fourth Tone: The Lord hears me when I cry out to Him.

Choir: The Lord hears me when I cry out to Him.

Deacon: Whenever I called, the God of my justice heard me.

Choir: The Lord hears me when I cry out to Him.

Deacon: The Lord hears me

Choir: when I cry out to Him.

TUESDAY EVENING

Deacon: The Prokeimenon in the First Tone: Your mercy, O Lord, shall follow me all the days of my life.

Choir: Your mercy, O Lord, shall follow me all the days of my life.

Deacon: The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. In green pastures He gives me repose.

Choir: Your mercy, O Lord, shall follow me all the days of my life.

Deacon: Your mercy, O Lord, shall follow me

Choir: all the days of my life.

WEDNESDAY EVENING

Deacon: The Prokeimenon in the Fifth Tone: O Lord, save me by Your name, and in Your power be a judge for me.

Choir: O Lord, save me by Your name, and in Your power be a judge for me.

Deacon: O God, hear my prayer; listen to the words of my mouth.

Choir: O Lord, save me by Your name, and in Your power be a judge for me.

Deacon: O Lord, save me by Your name,

Choir: and in Your power be a judge for me.

THURSDAY EVENING

Deacon: The Prokeimenon in the Sixth Tone: My help is from the Lord, Who made heaven and earth.

Choir: My help is from the Lord, Who made heaven and earth.

Deacon: I lifted up my eyes to the mountains, from where my help shall come.

Choir: My help is from the Lord, Who made heaven and earth.

Deacon: My help is from the Lord,

Choir: Who made heaven and earth.

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The reading is from Proverbs (selection)

Deacon: Let us attend!

Reader: The memory of a just man is praised, and the Lord's blessing is upon his head. Blessed is one who has found wisdom; a mortal who knows understanding. To import her is better than treasures of gold and silver. She is more valuable than precious stones; nothing of value equals her worth. Justice proceeds from her mouth; she bears law and mercy on her tongue. Therefore, my children, listen to me, for I speak weighty things. And blessed is the one who keeps my ways. For my goings out are the goings out of life, and favour is prepared from the Lord. Therefore I exhort you, and utter my voice to the children of humankind. Because I, Wisdom, have prepared counsel, knowledge and understanding. I have called on them. Counsel and sureness are mine; prudence is mine, strength is mine. I love those who are my friends, while those who seek me will find grace. You innocent, then, understand cunning; you untaught, take it to heart. Listen to me, for I will speak weighty things, and I will open right things from my lips. Because my throat will meditate truth; lying lips are abominable before me. All the words of my mouth are with justice, there is nothing crooked in them nor twisted. They are all straight for those who understand, and right for those who find knowledge. For I teach you what is true, that your hope may be in the Lord and that you may be filled with spirit.

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The reading is from Proverbs (10:31-32, 11:1-12)

Deacon: Let us attend!

Reader: The mouth of the just drops wisdom; but the tongue of the unjust will be cut out. The lips of just men know graces; but the mouth of the impious is turned away. A false balance is an abomination before the Lord; but a just weight is acceptable to him. Wherever pride enters, there too dishonour; but the mouth of the humble meditates wisdom. The perfection of the devout will guide them, but the crookedness of the treacherous will carry them off. Property does not profit in the day of wrath, but justice will deliver from death. When a just man dies he leaves regret; ready and welcome the destruction of the ungodly. The justice of the blameless keeps their ways straight, but impiety encounters injustice. The justice of upright men will deliver them, but transgressors are caught by base counsel. When a just man dies his hope does not perish; but the boast of the ungodly perishes. A just man escapes from the hunt, but the ungodly is given up in his place. In the mouth of the ungodly is a snare for citizens, but the perception of the just brings prosperity. By the good things of the just a city is successful, and in the loss of the ungodly there is gladness. By the blessing of the upright a city is exalted, but by the mouth of the ungodly it will be overthrown. One who lacks sense sneer at their fellow citizens, an intelligent man practices stillness.

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The reading is from the Wisdom of Solomon (4:7-15)

Deacon: Let us attend!

Reader: A just man, even if he die early, will be at rest. For an honoured old age is not so for length of time, nor is it measured by the number of years. Understanding is peoples' true grey hairs, and a ripe old age a spotless life. Having become pleasing to God, he was loved; and while living among sinners, he was taken away. He was snatched away lest wickedness pervert his understanding, or trickery deceive his soul. For the witchery of what is paltry dims what is good, and the inconstancy of desire undermines an innocent mind. Made perfect in a short time, he fulfilled long years, for his soul was pleasing to the Lord, therefore he hurried him from the midst of evil. But the peoples saw and did not understand, nor did they lay such a thing to heart, that grace and mercy are with his holy ones, and his presence with his chosen ones.

TROPARION

Tone 4 In truth you were revealed to your flock as a rule of faith, a model of meekness, and teacher of abstinence, so you won the heights by humility, and riches by poverty, O Holy Father Nicholas, intercede with Christ God to save our souls.

KONTAKION

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Tone 3 You were truly a priestly worker in Myra, O holy Nicholas, * for zealously living the Gospel of Christ, * you dedicated your life to your people; * you saved the innocent from death. * Therefore, you have been sanctified * as one who has entered the mystery of God's grace.

Little Litany

Deacon: Again and again in peace let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord have mercy.

Deacon: Help us, save us, have mercy on us and keep us, O God, by Your grace.

Choir: Lord have mercy.

Deacon: Remembering our all-holy, pure, most blessed, and glorious Lady, the Birthgiver of God and Ever-Virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us offer ourselves and one another, and our whole life to Christ God.

Choir: To you, O Lord.

Priest: For you are holy, our God, and to you we send up glory, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever

Deacon: and to the ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

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Choir: (The choir sings the "Holy God..." at the Divine Liturgy)

Deacon: Let us attend!

Priest: Peace to all!

Reader: And to your spirit!

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The prokeimenon in the seventh tone: The righteous shall rejoice in the Lord and shall hope in Him.

Choir: The righteous shall rejoice in the Lord and shall hope in Him.

Reader: Hear my voice, O God, in my meditation; preserve my life from fear of the enemy.

Choir: The righteous shall rejoice in the Lord and shall hope in Him.

Reader: The righteous shall rejoice in the Lord

Choir: and shall hope in Him.

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The reading is from the Epistle of the Apostle Paul to the Hebrews. (13:17-21)

Reader: Brethren, obey those that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they who must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you. Pray for us: for we trust we have a good conscience, in all things willing to live honestly. But I beseech you the rather to do this, that I may be restored to you the sooner. Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory to the ages of ages. Amen.

Priest: Peace to you, reader!

Reader: And to your spirit! Alleluia!

Choir: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Reader: Your priests shall clothe themselves with righteousness, and Your saints shall rejoice.

Choir: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Reader: For the Lord has chosen Sion; He has desired it for His habitation.

Choir: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE. (6:17-23)

At that time, Jesus stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea and Jerusalem and the seacoast of Tyre and Sidon, who came to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. And all the crowd sought to touch him, for power came forth from him and healed them all. And he lifted up his eyes on his disciples, and said: "Blessed are you poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. Blessed are you that hunger now, for you shall be satisfied. Blessed are you that weep now, for you shall laugh. Blessed are you when men hate you, and when they exclude you and revile you, and cast out your name as evil, on account of the Son of man! Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven."

The Divine Liturgy continues from this point in the pew book on pg. 58.

KOINONIKON

The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance, he shall not fear evil tidings.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!