

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2020

TONE 1

26th Sunday after Pentecost / St. Nicholas the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia

STICHERA

V. (10) Bring my soul out of prison, that I may give thanks to Your name! Tone 1

Accept our evening prayers, O holy Lord!

Grant us remission of sins, //

for You alone have manifested the Resurrection to the world.

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

Encircle Zion

and surround her, O people!

Give glory in her to the One Who rose from the dead!

For He is our God, //

Who has delivered us from our transgressions!

V. (8) Out of the depths I cry to You, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice!

Come, O people,

let us hymn and fall down before Christ,

glorifying His Resurrection from the dead!

For He is our God, //

Who has delivered the world from the Enemy's deceit!

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

Be glad, O heavens!

Sound trumpets, O foundations of the earth!

Sing in gladness, O mountains!

Behold Emmanuel has nailed our sins to the Cross!

Granting life, He has slain death. //

He has resurrected Adam as the Lover of mankind.

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

Tone 2 Podoben

Having dwelt after the sense in Myra,

Thou hast shown forth as myrrh, O Saint Nicholas,

Thou bishop of Christ,

Anointed with the myrrh of the mind:

Thou dost make fragrant with myrrh the faces of those who keep thine all-glorious memorial

With faith and with love, loosing them O Father,

By thine intercessions to Christ //

From misery, danger, and affliction

V. (5) For Your Name's sake I wait for You, O Lord. My soul has waited for Your word; my soul has hoped on the Lord.

Thou, O Saint Nicholas, servant indeed of Christ
Hast been truly shown forth to the faithful people as victor,
Strong in temptation, and worthy of thy name.
For being called to all places,
Thou art swift to approach those who
run with love under thy protection.
And making thyself visible to the faithful by day and by night,
Thou dost save them from temptation//
And calamity.

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

Thou hast appeared in a dream to the Emperor Constantine
and to Avlabios,
putting fear into them, thou hast thus said,
"Set free with all speed
Those ye hold unjustly bound in prison
For they are not guilty of lawless murder.
Moreover, shouldst thou disobey me,
When I pray to God//
I shall raise a complaint against thee, O king."

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

O Saint Nicholas, the glorious,
Thou holy preacher of Christ,
Thou art a great and warm protector of those in danger:
Whether they be far or near,
Both on earth and sailing the seas,
For thou art a most compassionate and mighty intercessor.
Therefore, assembling, we cry aloud:
Pray to the Lord//
That we may be delivered from all calamity.

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

What crowns of praise shall we weave the bishop?
Who was at Myra in the flesh
And reaches out in spirit
Towards all who sincerely love him.
He is the couns'ler of all in affliction
The refuge of all in danger,
The tower of godliness, the champion of the faithful
For whose sake Christ who has great mercy//
Laid low the arrogance of the adversary.

V. (1) *For His mercy is confirmed on us, and the truth of the Lord endures forever.*

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.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; Tone 6 (for St. Nicholas)

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 1 (Theotokion - Dogmatikon)

Let us praise the Virgin Mary!

The gate of heaven, the glory of the world!

The song of the angels, the beauty of the faithful!

She was born of man, yet gave birth to God!

She was revealed as the heaven, as the temple of the Godhead!

She destroyed the wall of enmity!

She commenced the peace; she opened the Kingdom!

Since she is our foundation of faith,

our defender is the Lord Whom she bore!

Courage! Courage! O People of God!

For Christ will destroy our enemies //

since He is all powerful.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

The Reading is from Proverbs. Selection.[25]

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.

The Reading is from Proverbs. [10:31-32 & 11:1-12]

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 their 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.

The Reading is from the Wisdom of Solomon. [4:7-15]

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.

LITYA

Tone 2 Christ our God has revealed you to your flock, O Bishop Nicholas,
as an example of faith and an image of meekness.

For you brought a sweet fragrance into Myra,
shining brightly by your divine acts of virtue,
as the advocate of orphans and widows.//

Therefore never cease to intercede that our souls may be saved!

O Father Nicholas,
the shrine of your fragrant relics graces Myra abundantly.
And as you appeared in a dream to the emperor,
setting free those unjustly condemned to prison, death and bonds,//
so now also you visibly intercede for our souls.

O Father Nicholas,
should the city of Myra be silent,
yet the whole world, enlightened by the fragrance of your myrrh and many wonders,
joined by those condemned and saved by you, raises hymns of praise?
Together with the people of Myra we also cry aloud in songs://
“Intercede that our souls may be saved!”

Tone 4 O Father Nicholas, you are the fragrant temple of the all-Holy Spirit,
a fountain flowing with the myrrh of gladness, the divine spices of Christ.
For you have gone out into all the earth
as an imitator of the Apostles,
through the telling of your wonders.
You have appeared in dreams to people far and near,
delivering those who were to die unjustly from the sword,
and saving from dangers those who call on you.
As we praise you unceasingly,//
set us free from approaching calamities by your intercessions!

Tone 8 The fruit of your brave deeds, O holy Father,
has enlightened and brought joy to the hearts of the faithful.
Who cannot wonder at your measureless patience and humility,
at your graciousness towards the poor,
at your compassion for the afflicted?
O Bishop Nicholas, you have divinely taught all things well,//
and now, wearing your unfading crown, you intercede for our souls!

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

O good and faithful servant,
worker of the vineyard of Christ,
you have both borne the burden of the day, and increased the talent given to you.
You have not shown envy towards those coming after you,

therefore the gate of heaven has been opened to you.
Enter into the joy of your Lord and intercede for us, O saint Nicholas,
for in the course of this temporal life
you have run the race to the praise of the Lord,
Who has given you glory in the true and heavenly life!//
Since you have boldness before Him, pray that our souls may be saved!

now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. **Tone 6** *(for the Forefeast of the Nativity of Christ)*

Triumph, O Zion!
Rejoice, Jerusalem, city of Christ our God!
Receive the Creator contained within a cave and a manger!
Open the gates to me;
I will enter to see a Child wrapped in swaddling clothes,
Who upholds the creation in the palm of His hand,
Whose praises the Angels sing with unceasing voice://
the Lord and Giver of Life, Who saves the human race.

When the singers have completed the stichera, the deacon says:

God, save your people and bless your inheritance, watch over your world in mercy and compassions, lift up the horn of right-glorifying Christians and send down upon us your rich mercies, through the intercessions of our all-pure lady the Birthgiver of God and ever-virgin Mary, by the power of the precious and life-creating Cross, by the protections of the honorable bodiless powers of heaven, through the supplications of the honorable, glorious prophet, forerunner and baptist John, of the holy, glorious, and all-laudable apostles, of our fathers among the saints, great hierarchs and teachers of the world Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian and John the Golden-mouth; Athanasius and Cyril, John the Merciful, patriarchs of Alexandria, Nicholas of Myra, the wonderworker whose remembrance we fulfill, and Spyridon the bishop of Trimythous, the wonderworker; of the holy glorious and right-victorious martyrs, of the holy glorious great martyrs George the trophy-bearer, Demetrios the myrrh-streamer, Theodore the Recruit and Theodore the Commander, of our venerable and God-bearing Fathers, of the holy and righteous ancestors of God Joachim and Anna, and of all your saints, we implore you, only Lord full of mercy, hear us the sinners who pray to you and have mercy on us.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (x3)

Again we pray for our rulers, that the Lord our God works together with them and makes them prosper in all.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (x3)

Again we pray for our Archbishop and father (name).

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (x3)

Again we pray for every Christian soul distressed and weary, in need of God's mercy and help, for the protection of this holy house and those who dwell in it, for the peace and stillness of the whole world, for the stability of the holy Churches of God, for the salvation and help of our fathers and brothers who with diligence and fear of God labor and serve, for those who are absent and those who are abroad, for the healing of those who lie in infirmity, for the repose, blessed memory and remission of sins of all our right-glorifying fathers and brethren gone before us, who piously lie asleep here and everywhere, for deliverance of the imprisoned, and for our brethren who are in ministries, and for all who serve and have served in this holy house, let us say:

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (x3)

Again we pray that this holy house, and every monastery, city, and countryside be kept from pestilence, famine, earthquake, flood, fire, sword, invasion of enemies, civil war, and sudden death; that our good God who loves mankind be gracious, favorable, and conciliatory, and turn away and dispel all the wrath and illness stirred up against us, and deliver us from his looming righteous threat, and have mercy on us.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (x3)

Again we pray that the Lord God will hear the voice of our supplication, of the sinners, and have mercy on us.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (x3)

Priest: Hear us, God, our Savior, the hope of all the ends of the earth and of those who are far off upon the sea; and be gracious, Master, be gracious to us, upon our sins, and have mercy on us. For you are a merciful God and love mankind, and to you we send up glory, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

Priest: Peace to all.

Choir: And to your spirit.

Deacon: Let us bow our heads to the Lord.

Choir: To You, O Lord.

All bow their heads as the priest says the following prayer aloud:

Master full of mercy, Lord Jesus Christ our God, through the intercessions of our all-pure Lady the Birthgiver of God and ever-virgin Mary, by the power of the precious and life-creating Cross, by the protections of the honorable bodiless powers of heaven, through the supplications of the honorable, glorious prophet, forerunner and baptist John, of the holy, glorious, and all-laudable apostles, of our fathers among the saints, great hierarchs and teachers of the world Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian and John the Golden-mouth; Athanasius and Cyril, John the Merciful, patriarchs of Alexandria, Nicholas of Myra, the wonderworker, whose remembrance we fulfill, and Spyridon the bishop of Trimythous, the wonderworker; of the holy glorious and right-victorious martyrs, of the holy glorious great martyrs George the trophy-bearer, Demetrios the myrrh-streamer, Theodore the Recruit and Theodore the Commander, of our venerable and God-bearing Fathers, of the holy and righteous ancestors of God Joachim and Anna, and of all your saints, make our supplication acceptable, grant us remission of our trespasses, shelter us in the shelter of your wings, drive away from us every enemy and adversary, make our life peaceful, Lord, have mercy on us and on your world and save our souls, for you are good and love mankind.

Choir: Amen.

Priest: Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, Mary full of grace, the Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb, for you have borne the Savior of our souls. (x1)

Choir: Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, Mary full of grace, the Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb, for you have borne the Savior of our souls. (*twice*)

The priest takes one of the loaves from the five loaves and with it makes the sign of the cross over the loaves.

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: Lord Jesus Christ our God, who blessed the five loaves in the wilderness and with them fed the five thousand, yourself also bless these loaves, the wheat, the wine and the oil, and multiply them in this holy city and in the whole world; and sanctify your faithful servants who will partake of them. For it is you who bless and sanctify all things, Christ our God, and to you we send up glory, together with your unoriginate Father and your all-holy, and good, and life-creating Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

The priest takes one of the loaves and sings in Tone 7:

Priest: Rich men have turned poor * and gone hungry; * but they that seek the Lord * shall not be deprived of any good thing. (*once*)

Choir: Rich men have turned poor * and gone hungry; * but they that seek the Lord * shall not be deprived of any good thing. (*twice*)

APOSTICHA

Tone 1 We have been freed from sufferings
by Your suffering, O Christ.

We have been delivered from corruption
by Your Resurrection.//

O Lord, glory to You!

V. *The Lord is King; He is robed in majesty!*

Let creation rejoice!

Let the heavens be glad!

Let the nations clap their hands with gladness,
for Christ our Savior has nailed our sins to the Cross.

Slaying death, He has given life.//

He has resurrected fallen Adam as the Lover of man.

V. For He has established the world, so that it shall never be moved.

As King of heaven and earth,
You were voluntarily crucified in Your love for man.
Hell was angered when it met You below.
Adam rose seeing You, the Creator, under the earth.
O wonder! How has the Life of all tasted death?
You enlightened the world which cries://
O Lord, Who rose from the dead, glory to You!

V. Holiness befits Your house, O Lord, forevermore!

The myrrhbearing women came with haste to Your tomb,
bearing myrrh and lamenting.
Not finding Your most pure body,
they learned from the angel of the new and glorious wonder.
They told the Apostles://
“The Lord is risen, granting the world great mercy.”

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

O man of God and faithful servant,
minister of the Lord and man of desires,
chosen vessel, pillar and foundation of the Church,
inheritor of the Kingdom,//
let your supplication for us to the Lord be unceasing!

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

O unwedded Virgin, from where have you come?
Who has given you birth?
Who is your mother?
How can you carry your Creator in your arms?
How is your womb free from corruption?
Most holy one, we see great and fearful mysteries upon earth fulfilled in you;
we adorn the cave as a house worthy of you;
we ask the heavens to send us a star,
for behold, the Magi proceed from the East to the West,
desiring to see the Salvation of mortal men//
shining in your arms as a Pillar of Flame.

TROPARIA

Tone 1 When the stone had been sealed by the Jews,
while the soldiers were guarding Your most pure body,
You rose on the third day, O Savior,
granting life to the world.

The powers of heaven therefore cried to You, O Giver of Life:
“Glory to Your Resurrection, O Christ!
Glory to Your Kingdom!//
Glory to Your dispensation, O Lover of mankind!”

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, Tone 4 Troparion (St. Nicholas)

In truth you were revealed to your flock as a rule of faith,
an image of humility and a teacher of abstinence;
your humility exalted you;
your poverty enriched you.
O Hierarch Father Nicholas,
entreat Christ our God//
that our souls may be saved!

now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. Tone 4 Resurrectional Dismissal Theotokion

The mystery hidden from all eternity,
unknown even by Angels,
through you, Theotokos, is revealed to those on earth:
God incarnate by union without confusion.
He voluntarily accepted the Cross for us,
by which He resurrected the first-created man,//
saving our souls from death.

APOLYSIS

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: The blessing and mercy of the Lord come upon you with his grace and love for mankind,
always, now and ever and to the ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

Priest: Glory to You, Christ God our Hope, glory to you.

Choir: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages
of ages. Amen. Lord, have mercy; Lord, have mercy; Lord, have mercy. Father, bless!

Priest: He who is risen from the dead, Christ our true God, ...

Choir: Amen.

Priest: Through the prayers of our holy fathers, Lord Jesus Christ God, have mercy on us.

Choir: Amen. (*here sing "Beneath your compassion..."*)