

DECEMBER 6

St. Nicholas the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia

Priest: Blessed is our God always, now and ever and to the ages of ages.

Chanter: Amen.

Priest: Glory to you, our God, glory to you.

Heavenly king, comforter, Spirit of the Truth, who are everywhere present and fill all things, treasury of good things and giver of life, come and tabernacle in us, and cleanse us from every impurity, and save our souls, O Good One.

Reader: Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. (3)

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

All-holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse our sins. Master, pardon our transgressions. Holy One, watch over and heal our infirmities, for your name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. (3)

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

Our Father, Who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

Priest: For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit now and ever and to the ages of ages.

Reader: Amen. Lord, have mercy. (12)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages. 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! (3 times)

THE LITANY OF PEACE

Deacon: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Chanter: 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 another, and our whole life to Christ God.

Chanter: 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.

Chanter: Amen.

KATHISMA

Chanter: Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
For the Lord knows the way of the righteous but the way of the wicked will perish. Alleluia!

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Serve the Lord with fear and rejoice in Him with trembling. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Blessed are all who take refuge in Him. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Arise, O Lord! Save me, O my God! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Salvation belongs to the Lord, Your blessing be upon your people. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

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! (3)

THE LITTLE LITANY

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

Chanter: Lord, have mercy.

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

Chanter: 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.

Chanter: To you, O Lord.

Priest: For yours is the dominion, and yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages.

Chanter: Amen.

"Lord I Call..." Tone 2

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! Bring my soul out of prison, that I may give thanks to Your name! 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 (Joseph of Arimathea)*
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 Avlavius,
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!”

* Music for the stichera for St. Nicholas from the Department of Liturgical Music and Translations can be downloaded at www.oca.org.

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.*

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!*

Tone 2 *(With what crowns)*

What crowns of praise shall we weave for 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.*

What crowns of praise shall we weave for 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. (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 confirmed on us, and the truth of the Lord endures forever.*

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 (for the Forefeast, by Byzantius)

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!
You shepherds, abiding in the fields, bear witness to the fearful wonder,
And 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, //
O 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:

In the evening, in the morning, and at noon, we praise, bless, give thanks, and pray to you, Master of all, Lord who love mankind. Make our prayer arise straight like incense before you, and let not our hearts incline to words or thoughts of evil, but deliver us from all who seek after our souls, for toward you, Lord, Lord, are our eyes and in you we have hoped, our God, do not put us to shame, 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. Amin.

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: Amin.*

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: Let us attend!
Priest : Peace to all!
Reader: And to your spirit!
Deacon: Wisdom!

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

SUNDAY EVENING

Deacon: The prokeimenon in the eighth tone: Behold now bless the Lord all you servants of the Lord!
Choir: Behold now bless the Lord all you servants of the Lord!
Deacon: All who stand in the house of the Lord, in the courts of the house of our God.
Choir: Behold now bless the Lord all you servants of the Lord!
Deacon: Behold now bless the Lord
Choir: all you servants of the Lord!

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: When I called, you heard me, God of my righteousness, in affliction you enlarge 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 shepherds me, and I will lack nothing. In a place of pasture, there he made me tabernacle.
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, give ear 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 have lifted up my eyes to the mountains, whence my help will 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.

FRIDAY EVENING

Deacon: The prokeimenon in the seventh tone: You, O God, are my helper and your mercy shall go before me.

Choir: You, O God, are my helper and your mercy shall go before me.

Deacon: Set me free from my enemies, O God, and ransom me from those who rise up against me.

Choir: You, O God, are my helper and your mercy shall go before me.

Deacon: You, O God, are my helper

Choir: and your mercy shall go before me.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

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.

THE AUGMENTED LITANY

Deacon: Let us all say from our whole soul and from our whole mind, let us say.

Chanter: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Lord ruler-of-all, God of our fathers, we pray you, hear and have mercy.

Chanter: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Have mercy on us, O God, according to your great mercy, we pray you, hear and have mercy.

Chanter: Lord, have mercy. (3) *(and after each petition)*

Again we pray for pious and right-glorifying Christians.

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

Again we pray for our brethren, priests, ieromonks, deacons, ierodeacons, and monastics, and for all our brotherhood in Christ.

Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, care, and the pardon and remission of the sins of the servants of God all pious and right-glorifying Christians who dwell in or visit this town, and the members, stewards, founders, and benefactors of this holy church.

Again we pray for the blessed and ever-remembered founders of this holy house and for all our right-glorifying fathers and brethren who are in their rest before us who piously lie asleep here and everywhere.

Again we pray for those who bring offerings and those who make acceptable sacrifices in this holy and all-venerable temple, for those who labor, those who sing, and all the people standing here, awaiting the great and rich mercy that is from you.

Priest: 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.

Chanter: Amen.

Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this evening without sin.

Blessed are you, O Lord God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is your name forever. Amen.

Let your mercy, O Lord, be upon us as we have set our hope on you.

Blessed are you, O Lord, teach me your statutes.

Blessed are you, O Master, let me understand your statutes.

Blessed are you, O Holy One, enlighten me with your statutes.

Your mercy, O Lord, endures forever; Do not despise the works of your hands.

To you is due praise, to you is due a song. To you is due glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

THE LITANY OF VESPERS

Deacon: Let us complete our evening supplication to the Lord.

Chanter: Lord, have mercy.

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

Chanter: Lord, have mercy.

The whole evening, perfect, holy, peaceful, and sinless, let us ask of the Lord.

Chanter: Grant this, O Lord. (*and after each petition*)

An angel of peace, faithful guide, guardian of our souls and bodies, let us ask of the Lord.

Pardon and remission of our sins and transgressions, let us ask of the Lord.

The things good and profitable for our souls, and peace for the world, let us ask of the Lord.

To complete the remaining time of our life in peace and repentance, let us ask of the Lord.

The completions of our life to be Christian, painless, blameless, and peaceful; and a good defense before the fearful judgment seat of Christ, let us ask.

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.

Chanter: To you, O Lord.

Priest: For you are a good 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.

Chanter: Amen.

Priest: Peace to all.

Chanter: And to your spirit.

Deacon: Let us bow our heads unto the Lord.

Chanter: To you, O Lord.

Priest: Lord our God, who bowed the heavens and came down for the salvation of the human race, look upon your servants and upon your inheritance, for to you, the fearful judge who love mankind, have your servants bowed their heads and bent their necks, not awaiting help from men, but looking for your mercy and longing for your salvation; keep them at every moment, both during this present evening and the approaching night from every enemy, from every adverse work of the devil, and from vain thoughts and evil imaginations.

Blessed and glorified be the dominion of your kingdom, of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages.

Chanter: Amen.

LITY

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)*

Triumph, O Sion! / 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.

Deacon: 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, Cyril, and John the Merciful, patriarchs of Alexandria, of our father among the saints Nicholas, archbishop of Myra in Lycia the wonderworker whose remembrance we also fulfill of 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)

Deacon: 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)

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (x3)

Deacon: 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)

Deacon: 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)

Deacon: 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 whose universal lifting up we fulfill, 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, Cyril, and John the Merciful, patriarchs of Alexandria, of our father among the saints Nicholas, archbishop of Myra in Lycia the wonderworker whose remembrance we also fulfill of 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... *(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 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 5 Rejoice, saintly bishop, pure abode of the virtues,
holy example of the divine priesthood,
great shepherd and bright luminary bearing the name of victory!
You are compassionate to those who call on you in prayer,
and you bear the supplications of the weak;
you are a deliverer and protector of those who honor your glorious memory in faith.//
Pray that Christ may grant the world great mercy!

V. Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints. (Ps. 115:6)

Rejoice, most sacred mind,
pure dwelling of the Trinity,
pillar of the Church and support of the faithful,
help of the fallen, star ever dispersing temptations and afflictions
through the radiance of your prayers, well-pleasing to God!
You are a calm haven, O Bishop Nicholas,
where those who flee are saved from the threatening wave of life.//
Pray that Christ may grant our souls great mercy!

V. Your priests shall be clothed in righteousness, and Your saints shall rejoice. (Ps. 131:9)

Rejoice, O Nicholas, for you are filled with divine zeal!
By fearful visions and warnings in dreams
you delivered those about to die unjustly from an evil sentence.
You are a fount pouring forth myrrh abundantly in Myra,
and refreshing souls while expelling the stench of passions.
You were a scythe cutting the weeds of error;
a fan winnowing the chaff of the teachings of Arius.//
Entreat Christ to send our souls great mercy!

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; Tone 6 (by John the Monk)

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** *(for the Forefeast)*

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.

PRAYER OF SAINT SIMEON

Now set free your servant, Master, according to your word in peace, for my eyes have seen your Salvation, Whom you have prepared before the face of all peoples - Light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the Glory of your people Israel.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. (x3)

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

All-holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse our sins. Master, pardon our transgressions. Holy One, watch over and heal our infirmities, for your name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. (x3)

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

Our Father, Who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

Priest: For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit now and ever and to the ages of ages.

Chanter: Amen.

TROPARIA

Tone 4 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,
and your poverty enriched you.
O Hierarch Father Nicholas,
entreat Christ our God//
that our souls may be saved!

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, 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, O 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: Christ our true God, through the intercessions of his all-pure and all-blameless holy Mother, 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 the holy, glorious and right-victorious martyrs, of our venerable and God-bearing Fathers, of our father among the saints Nicholas, archbishop of Myra in Lycia, the wonderworker whose remembrance we also fulfill, of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna, and of all the saints, have mercy on us and save us, as one who is good and loves mankind.

Choir: Amen.

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

Choir: Amen.