

December 6 – SAINT NICHOLAS THE WONDERWORKER, ARCHBISHOP OF MYRA IN LYCIA

FIRST ANTIPHON. PSALM 91.

It is good to give thanks to the Lord; to sing praises to Your name, O most High.

Refrain: Through the prayers of the Mother of God, O Savior, save us.

To declare Your mercy in the morning, and Your faithfulness every night.

Refrain: Through the prayers of the Mother of God, O Savior, save us.

To show that the Lord is upright, and there is no unrighteousness in Him.

Refrain: Through the prayers of the Mother of God, O Savior, save us.

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

Amen.

Refrain: Through the prayers of the Mother of God, O Savior, save us.

SECOND ANTIPHON. PSALM 92.

The Lord is King, He is clothed with majesty; the Lord is clothed with strength, He has girded Himself.

Refrain: Through the prayers of Your saints, O Savior, save us.

The world also is established, so that it cannot be moved.

Refrain: Through the prayers of Your saints, O Savior, save us.

Your decrees are very sure; holiness befits Your house, O Lord, forevermore.

Refrain: Through the prayers of Your saints, O Savior, save us.

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

Amen.

Only-begotten Son...

THIRD ANTIPHON. PSALM 94

O come, let us sing unto the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation.

Refrain: O Son of God, Who are wondrous in Your saints, save us who sing to You: Alleluia!

Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving, let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise.

Refrain: O Son of God, Who are wondrous in Your saints, save us who sing to You: Alleluia!

For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods.

Refrain: O Son of God, Who are wondrous in Your saints, save us who sing to You: Alleluia!

In His hand are the deep places of the earth; the strength of the hills is His also.

Refrain: O Son of God, Who are wondrous in Your saints, save us who sing to You: Alleluia!

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 The Virgin today comes to the cave / To give birth ineffably to the Word before the age. / Dance, world who hear this! / Glorify, with angels and the shepherds, / Him who willed to be manifest, / A new child, the God before the ages.

The prokeimenon in the seventh tone: The righteous shall rejoice in the Lord and shall hope in Him. (*Psalm 63:11a*)

v. Hear my voice, O God, when I pray to You! (*Psalm 63:1a*)

THE READING IS FROM THE EPISTLE OF THE APOSTLE PAUL TO THE HEBREWS. (13:17-21)

Brethren: Obey your leaders and submit to them; for they are keeping watch over your souls, as men who will have to give account. Let them do this joyfully, and not sadly, for that would be of no advantage to you. Pray for us, for we are sure that we have a clear conscience, desiring to act honorably in all things. I urge you the more earnestly to do this in order that I may be restored to you the sooner. Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in you that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory to the ages of ages. Amen.

Tone 4 Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

v. Your priests shall clothe themselves with righteousness, and Your saints shall rejoice. (*Psalm 131:9*)

v. For the Lord has chosen Sion; He has desired her for His habitation. (*Psalm 131:14*)

GOSPEL: Luke 6:17-23

COMMUNION HYMN

The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance, he shall not fear evil tidings. (*Psalm 111:6*) Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

SAINT NICHOLAS (December 6) This Saint lived during the reign of Saint Constantine the Great, and reposed in 330, As a young man, he desired to espouse the solitary life. He made a pilgrimage to the holy city Jerusalem, where he found a place to withdraw to devote himself to prayer. It was made known to him, however, that this was not the will of God for him, but that he should return to his homeland to be a cause of salvation for many. He returned to Myra, and was ordained bishop. He became known for his abundant mercy, providing for the poor and needy, and delivering those who had been unjustly accused. No less was he known for his zeal for the truth. He was present at the First Ecumenical Council of the 318 Fathers at Nicaea in 325; upon hearing the blasphemies that Arius brazenly uttered against the Son of God, Saint Nicholas struck him on the face. Since the canons of the Church forbid the clergy to strike any man at all, his fellow bishops were in perplexity what disciplinary action was to be taken against this hierarch whom all revered. In the night our Lord Jesus Christ and our Lady Theotokos appeared to certain of the bishops, informing them that no action was to be taken against him, since he had acted not out of passion, but extreme love and piety. The Dismissal Hymn for holy hierarchs, The truth of things hath revealed thee to thy flock ... was written originally for Saint Nicholas. He is the patron of all travellers, and of sea-farers in particular; he is one of the best known and best loved Saints of all time. **from goarch.org**