

6 DECEMBER
+ Wonderworker and Bishop Nicholas (Nikólaos) of Myra C4

VESPERS

Lord I have cried

Tone 2

O Lord, I have cried to you, listen to me;

O Lord, listen to me.

O Lord, I have cried to you, listen to me;

Note the voice of my plea when I cry to you.

O Lord, listen to me.

² Let my prayer be directed before you like incense,
the raising of my hands be an evening sacrifice.

O Lord, listen to me.

S6: O Lord, if you mark offences, who will stand?

But there is forgiveness with you.

O Nicholas, bishop of Christ who lived in Myra. You were revealed as myrrh, anointed with the myrrh of the mind and make fragrant with myrrh those who keep your memorial with faith and love. O father, you free them from misery, danger and affliction through your prayers to Christ.

S5: O Lord, I have waited for you for your name's sake;

my soul has waited for your word,

my soul has hoped in the Lord.

O holy Nicholas, genuine servant of Christ, you are truly a protector of your faithful flock. Whenever you were asked for assistance you joyfully helped those who wanted your aid. Now you are prepared by day or night to save us from every distress and sorrow.

S4: Let Israel hope in the Lord

from morning watch until night,

from morning watch.

When you appeared in a dream to King Constantine and Avlávios, you warned them, "Immediately free from prison those whom you have unjustly shut up, for they are innocent and did not commit murder as you allege. O King, listen to me, otherwise I will address the Lord."

S3: For there is mercy with the Lord

and abundant redemption with him.

He will redeem Israel from all his offences.

O glorious Nicholas, the holy preacher of Christ, you are the great and fervent protector of those *who are* in danger, *whether* on land *or* at sea, *whether* far off or near, for you are a most compassionate and powerful intercessor. Therefore, as we assemble, we cry aloud, "Pray to the Lord that we may be saved from every danger."

S2: Every nation, praise the Lord;

every people, acclaim him!

What crowns of praise shall we weave for the bishop? Although he lived in Myra, he reaches out in spirit to all those who sincerely love him. He is the consolation for all in affliction, the refuge for all in danger, the tower of godliness and the champion of the faithful. The greatly merciful Christ has laid low the arrogance of the enemy for his sake.

S1: For his mercy is strengthened over us

and the truth of the Lord remains for ever.

With what songs can we praise the holy bishop Nicholas? He wrestled with evil. He was a champion in holiness, a great leader, a shield and a teacher of the Church. He made plain heretical errors and opposed Arius. Christ worked through him in his great mercy.

Glory: Tone 6

O feast-lovers, let us gather and sing the praises of the beautiful ornament of bishops, the glory of the fathers, the fount of wonders and the great protector of the faithful. Let us say, "Rejoice, O guardian of the people of Myra, their chief and honourable adviser, pillar which cannot be moved! Rejoice, O light filled with brightness which makes the ends of the world shine with wonders! Rejoice, O

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divine delight of the afflicted and fervent advocate for those who suffer from injustice. And now, all-blessed Nicholas, never cease to plead with Christ our God for those who honour the high feast of your memorial with faith and love.

Both now:

O cave, get ready, for the ewe lamb comes who bears Christ in her womb. O manger, receive the *Lord* who by a word has released the inhabitants of earth from lawlessness. O shepherds who stay in the fields, bear witness to the fearful wonder. O Wise Men from Persia, offer the King gold, myrrh and incense, for the Lord has appeared from a virgin mother. She bent over him like a servant, worshipped him as he lay in her arms and said to him, "How were you sown as seed in me? O my Saviour and God, how have you grown within me?"

Entrance

Phos Ilarón

P/D: Wisdom! Stand upright!

O Jesus Christ, joyful light of the holy glory
of the immortal, heavenly, holy, blessed Father,
when we come to the setting of the sun
and see the light of evening,
we praise God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

For it is right at all times to worship you
with voices of praise,

O Son of God *and* Giver of life.

Therefore the world glorifies you.

Prokeímenon

Of the Day

Prophecy 1

From the Book of Proverbs (Composite)

Prophecy 1

Blessed is the man who has found wisdom.

From the Book of Proverbs (Composite)

The memory of the just is with eulogies, and the blessing of the Lord is on his head. Blessed is the man who has found wisdom, and the mortal who knows prudence. For it is better to travel for her, than for treasures of gold and silver. She is more valuable than precious stones. (Nothing evil can resist her; she is well known to all who approach her.) All price is not worthy of her. From her mouth proceeds justice, and she carries law and mercy in her mouth. O children, listen to me, and I will speak solemn truths. Blessed is the man who will keep my ways, for my ways are ways of life, and prayer is prepared by the Lord. Therefore, O men, I warn, and utter my voice to human sons. For I, wisdom, have lived with counsel and knowledge, and have called on understanding. I am counsel; I am prudent and strong. I love those who are friendly with me; and those who seek me will find grace. O simple, understand subtlety, and uneducated, take heart. Listen to me, for I will speak solemn truths, and will unfold right words from my lips. For my throat will muse on truth, and false lips are an abomination before me. All the words of my mouth are with justice; there is nothing in them wrong or perverse. They are all evident to those who understand, and right to those who find knowledge. For I will teach you truth, so that your hope may be in the Lord, and you will be filled with spirit.

Prophecy 2

Aphorisms - Poetic

From the Book of Proverbs (10:31-11:12)

The mouth of the just distils wisdom, but the tongue of the unjust will perish. ³² The lips of just men drop grace, but the mouth of the ungodly is perverse. ¹ False balances are an abomination before the Lord, but a just weight is acceptable to him. ² Wherever pride enters, there will also be disgrace, but the mouth of the lowly meditates on wisdom. ³ When a just man dies he leaves regret, but the destruction of the ungodly is speedy and causes joy. ^{4 5} Justice traces out

blameless paths, but ungodliness encounters unjust dealing. ⁶ The justice of upright men frees them, but offenders are caught in their own destruction. ⁷ At the death of a just man his hope does not perish, but the boast of the ungodly perishes. ⁸ A just man escapes from a snare, but the ungodly man is delivered up in his place. ⁹ In the mouth of the ungodly there is a snare to citizens, but the discernment of just men is prosperous. ¹⁰ In the prosperity of just men a city prospers, ¹¹ but by the mouth of ungodly men it is overthrown. ¹² A man without understanding sneers at his fellow citizens, but a sensible man is quiet.

Prophecy 3

God has visited his chosen ones.

From the Wisdom of Solomon (4:7-15)

Although the just may be overtaken with death, yet he will be at rest.

⁸ For honourable age is not in length of time, nor what is measured by the number of years. ⁹ But wisdom is the gray hair to people, and an unspotted life is old age. ¹⁰ He pleased God, and was loved by him, so that living among sinners he was taken up. ¹¹ He was snatched, in case evil should alter his understanding, or deceit charm his soul. ¹² For the bewitching of waywardness obscures things that are honest, and the wandering of desire undermines the simple mind. ¹³ Since he was made perfect in a short time, he completed long years, ¹⁴ for his soul pleased the Lord, therefore he hurried to take him away from among the wicked. ¹⁵ The people saw, and did not understand, neither did they perceive that grace and mercy is with his saints, and that he has visited his chosen ones.

Ektení

Prayer

O Lord, allow us this night to be guarded from sin. Blessed are you, O Lord, God of our fathers! Praised and glorified be your name for ever. Amen. O Lord, let your mercy be on us, for we have hoped in you. Blessed are you, O Lord; teach me your statutes. Blessed are you, O Master; make me understand your statutes. Blessed are you, O Holy *One*; enlighten me with your statutes. O Lord, your mercy lasts for ever; do not overlook the work of your hands. To you belongs worship, to you belongs praise, to you belongs glory, to the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, both now and ever, and to ages of ages. Amen.

Plirotiká

Prayer

P: Peace be with you all. R: And with your spirit

D: Bow down your heads to the Lord. R: To you, O Lord.

P: For blessed and glorified is the power of your Kingdom, of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages. *Amen*

Lití

Tone 6

O good and faithful worker in the vineyard of Christ, you endured hardship from daily labour. You did not complain about those who worked less than you. You increased the talent which had been given to you. Therefore the gates of heaven opened for you and now you share in the joy of the Lord. O holy Nicholas, pray for us.

Apósticha

Tone 5

Hail, O saintly bishop, pure home of the virtues, holy example of the divine priesthood, great shepherd and bright light bearing the name of victory! You are compassionate to those who call on you in prayer and bear up the pleas of the weak. You are a rescuer and protector for those who honour your glorious memory with faith. Plead with Christ to grant our souls great mercy.

S1: The death of his saints is precious in the Lord's sight. Ps 115

Hail, most sacred mind, pure dwelling of the Trinity, pillar of the Church, support of the faithful, help of the fallen, star which continually disperses temptations and afflictions through the radiance

of your prayers; *you are* well-pleasing to God. O bishop Nicholas, you are a calm haven where those who flee are saved from the threatening wave of life. Plead with Christ to grant our souls great mercy.

S2: O Lord, your priests will clothe themselves with justice; and your holy ones will rejoice. Ps 131

Hail, for you are filled with divine zeal! O Nicholas, *you are* a fountain which pours out myrrh abundantly in Myra and refreshes souls while you expel the stench of passions. Through fearful visions and warnings in dreams, you saved those who were about to die unjustly from an evil sentence. You were a scythe cutting the weeds of error and a fan to winnow the chaff of Arius' teaching. Plead with Christ to grant our souls great mercy.

Glory: Tone 2

O man of God, faithful servant, minister of the Lord, man of desire, chosen vessel, pillar and support of the Church, inheritor of the Kingdom, do not stop your pleading for us before the King.

Both now:

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 *Lady*, we see great and fearful mysteries on earth fulfilled in you. We adorn the cave as a house worthy of you and ask the heavens to send us a star, for see, the Wise Men proceed from the east to the west because they want to see the Salvation of mortal men who shines in your arms as a pillar of flame.

Song of Simeon

B/P: O Master, now let your servant depart in peace

according to your word,
² for my eyes have seen your salvation,
which you have prepared before all peoples,
³ a light of revelation for *the* nations
and *the* glory of your people Israel.

Triságion Prayers

Apolytikia

Tone 4

Your deeds truly revealed you to your flock as a model of faith, an icon of gentleness and a teacher of self-control. Therefore you have achieved the heights through humility and riches through poverty. O devout father Nicholas intercede with Christ God to save our souls.

Tone 4

O Theotokos, the mystery hidden from eternity and unknown to the angels, is made known to those on earth through you. God was incarnate from you by union without confusion and of his own will freely endured the cross for us. He raised the first-formed man and has saved our souls from death.

Dismissal

ORTHROS

God is the Lord Ps 117

R: God is the Lord and has appeared to us.

Blessed is the one who comes in the Lord's name. Ps 117

S1: Thank the Lord, for he is good,
for his mercy lasts for ever.

S2: All the nations surrounded me,
but I opposed them in the Lord's name.

S3: This *is* the Lord's doing
and it is wonderful in our eyes.

Apolytikia

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Small Litany

P: For yours is the might, and yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory of the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages. *Amen*

Kathisma 1

Tone 1

O wise Nicholas, you have shone on the earth with the rays of your miracles. You move every tongue to the glory and praise of the *Lord* who glorified you on earth. O chosen one among the fathers, pray to him that those who honour your memory with faith and love may be rescued from every anguish.

Glory: Both now:

O holy Mary, since you received the Master, raise us up, for we have fallen into an abyss of deep despair, failure and affliction. You are the salvation, help and strong advocate of sinners; you save your servants.

Kathisma 2

Tone 4

O blessed *and* holy Nicholas, you plead for, protect and guard the faithful; you clearly save them from every affliction, for you are the most eminent glory of bishops.

Glory: Both now:

You are the invincible advocate of those in need and the ready intercessor for those who seek you. Rescue me from danger and do not turn away from me, for you are the helper of all.

Polyeleos

Kathisma 3

Tone 4

O Nicholas, you have become a supremely zealous defender of the Church of Christ; you refute with grace the blasphemous beliefs of heretics. In every state you have appeared as a model of Orthodoxy and pray for all those who follow your divine teaching and advice.

Glory: Both now:

O Lady, hurry to receive our prayers and bring them before your Son and God. O pure Queen, rescue from every trouble those who turn to you. Destroy the schemes of the Evil One and avert the fury with which the enemy attacks your servants.

Small Litany

P: For blessed is your name, and glorified is your kingdom, of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages. *Amen*

Anaváthmi Ps 128 Tone 4

1: Many passions have fought against me from my youth, but help me and save me, O my Saviour. *X2*

2: Those who hate Zion will be shamed by the Lord; they will be withered like grass by the fire. *X2*

Glory:

3: Every soul lives through the Holy Spirit, is exalted in purity and illuminated by the Triune Unity in a sacred mystery.

Both now:

4: The streams of grace pour out through the Holy Spirit; they water all creation and produce life.

Prokeímenon Ps 115 Tone 4

R: The death of his saints is precious in the sight of the Lord.

S: What shall we give back to the Lord?

Gospel Dialogue

P/D: Let us pray to the Lord. *Lord have mercy*

P: For you, O God, are holy *and* rest in the Holy Place. We send up glory to you, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages. *Amen*.

R: Let everything with breath praise the Lord. *X3*

Praise God in his saints;

praise him in the firmament of his power. *Ps 50*

P/D: And that we may be counted worthy to listen to the Holy Gospel, let us pray to the Lord our God. *Lord have mercy X3*

P/D: Wisdom. Stand up. Let us listen to the Holy Gospel.

P: Peace be with you all. *And with your spirit*

P: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

P/D: Let us attend

R: Glory to you, O Lord, glory to you.

Gospel

From the Holy Gospel according to John (10:1-9)

The Lord said to those who followed him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, the one who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber; ² but the one who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. ³ To him the gatekeeper opens; the sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴ When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. ⁵ A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers." ⁶ This figure Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. ⁷ So Jesus again said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. ⁸ All who came before me are thieves and robbers; but the sheep did not heed them. ⁹ I am the door; if anyone enters by me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture."

R: Glory to you, O Lord, glory to you.

Psalm 50

O God, have mercy on me in your abundant mercy and wipe out my offence through your great compassion.

⁴ Wash me thoroughly from my lawless act and cleanse me from my sin.

⁵ For I know my lawlessness and my sin is always before me.

⁶ I have sinned against you alone and done this evil before you

^{6b} so that you might be justified in your words and overcome when you are judged.

⁷ For see, I was conceived in lawlessness and my mother gave birth to me in sin.

⁸ For see, you have loved truth and revealed to me the hidden and secret *things* of your wisdom.

⁹ You will sprinkle me with hyssop and I will be clean; you will wash me and I will become whiter than snow.

¹⁰ You will make me hear about joy and gladness; the humbled bones will rejoice.

¹¹ Turn your face from my sins and wipe out all my lawlessness.

¹² O God, create a pure heart within me and renew an upright spirit within me.

¹³ Do not banish me from your presence or remove your Holy Spirit from me.

¹⁴ Restore the joy of your salvation to me and make me firm with your directing Spirit.

¹⁵ I will teach the lawless your ways and the ungodly will return to you.

¹⁶ O God, set me free from the guilt of blood; O God of my salvation,

my tongue will rejoice in your justice.

¹⁷ O Lord, you will open my lips

and my mouth will proclaim your praise.

¹⁸ For if you had wanted sacrifice, I would have given it; you will not be pleased with burnt offerings.

¹⁹ Sacrifice for God is a broken spirit;

God will not despise a broken and humbled heart.

- ²⁰ O Lord, be good to Zion in your pleasure
and let the walls of Jerusalem be built.
- ²¹ Then you will be pleased with a sacrifice of justice,
with an offering and burnt sacrifices;
then they will offer calves on your altar.

Glory: Tone 6

O merciful *Lord*, wipe out the abundance of our sins through the intercessions of our father Nicholas.

Both now:

O merciful *Lord*, wipe out the abundance of our sins through the intercessions of the Theotokos.

Have mercy: Tone 6

O good and faithful worker in the vineyard of Christ, you endured hardship from daily labour. You did not complain about those who worked less than you. You increased the talent which had been given to you. Therefore the gates of heaven opened for you and you now share in the joy of the Lord. O holy Nicholas, pray for us.

Intercession

P/D: O God, save your people and bless your inheritance. Visit your world with mercy and compassion; exalt the horn of Orthodox Christians and send down on them your rich mercy, through the prayers of our all-pure Lady, Theotokos and Ever-virgin Mary, by the power of the honourable and life-giving cross, through the protection of the honourable bodiless powers of heaven, through the prayers of the honourable, glorious, prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John, of the holy, glorious, all-praised apostles, of the holy, all-praised and victorious martyrs, of our holy and God-bearing fathers, of the holy and just forebears of God, Ioachim and Anna, of Nicholas the wonderworker, and of all the saints. We ask you, only merciful Lord, "Listen to us sinners as we pray to you, and have mercy on us."

Lord have mercy. X12

Through the mercy, compassion and love for the human race of your uniquely-fathered Son, with whom you are blessed, together with the all-holy, good and life-giving Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages. *Amen.*

Kontáktion

Tone 3

O holy one, you revealed yourself as a priest in Myra, for you fulfilled the Gospel of Christ by giving up your soul for your people and saving the innocent from death. Therefore you are blessed as one who has become wise in the grace of God.

Íkos

Let us now sing songs in praise of the bishop who was a shepherd and teacher for the people of Myra, so that we also may be filled with light through his intercession. For see, he was revealed as *a man* utterly pure and undefiled in spirit. He offered a sacrifice *which was* acceptable to God *and was* without spot or blemish, since he himself was a priest cleansed in soul and body. Therefore he was indeed a leader and champion of the Church; he was blessed as one who has become wise in the grace of God.

Synaxáriorion

Today we remember our father among the saints Nicholas the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra in Lykia, who lived in the Fourth Century. He attended the First Oecumenical Council and vigorously opposed Arianism. He devoted himself to charitable work in his busy seaport. On the Sixth he finished his earthly existence.

Together with him we remember:
Bishop Theóphilos of Antioch C2
Nicholas of Pátara
Metropolitan Máximos of Kiev C14
New Martyr Nicholas of Karamánon in Asia Minor C17
New Martyr Grigol of Georgia C20

O God, have mercy on us through their holy prayers. Amen.

Katavasías

1: Christ is born, glorify him! Christ is from heaven, receive him!
Christ is on earth, be raised! All the earth, sing to the Lord! All you people, praise him with joy, for he has been glorified!

3: Let us cry out to Christ our God, to the Son begotten of the Father before all ages and incarnate from the Virgin without seed in these latter days, "O Lord, you have raised our horn and are holy."

4: O Rod of the stem of Jesse and Flower which bloomed from a virgin, O all-praised Christ, you have come from the mountain covered with darkness. You have been made flesh from her who did not know marriage. O God not formed from matter, O Lord, glory to your might!

5: God of peace and Father of mercies, you have sent us the Angel of Great Council who grants us peace. So we are guided to the light of the knowledge of God. O Lover of the human race, we wake early from the night and praise you.

6: The sea-monster threw out Jonah unharmed as it had received him, like a baby from the womb. When the Word came to live in the Virgin and was made flesh, he came out, yet preserved her incorrupt, for he himself was not subject to decay and he kept his mother free from harm.

7: The children brought up together in godliness, despised the unjust command, and were not afraid of the threat of fire, but as they stood in the midst of the flames, they sang, "Blessed are you, O God of our fathers!"

8: Let us praise, bless and worship the Lord.
The furnace which was moist with dew was the image of a wonder beyond nature, for it did not burn the children whom it had received, just as the fire of divinity did not consume the Virgin's womb when it entered. So let us raise the song, "Let the one whole creation bless the Lord and exalt him above all for ever!"

Ode 9

My soul glorifies the Lord
and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Saviour. R:

R: *You are* more honourable than the Cherubim
and beyond compare more glorious than the Seraphim.
You gave birth to God the Word without defilement;
O true Theotokos, we glorify you.

²For he has regarded his servant's humility;
see, from now all generations will call me blessed. R:

³For the Almighty has accomplished great *things* for me
and his name is holy.

His mercy is from generation to generation
on those who fear him. R:

⁴He has accomplished strength with his arm
and scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. R:

⁵He has put down the mighty from *their* thrones
and exalted the humble.

He has satisfied the hungry with good *things*
and dismissed the rich with nothing. R:

⁶He has helped his servant Israel
in remembering his mercy,

as he spoke to our fathers,
to Abraham and his seed for ever. R:

9: I see a strange and most glorious mystery. Heaven is the cave and the cherubic throne is the Virgin. The manger is the place where Christ lay. *He* is the God who cannot be contained and whom we glorify in song.

Small Litany

P: For all the powers of heaven praise you, 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. *Amen*

Exaposteilária

Tone 3

Let us all praise Nicholas, the great pastor, archbishop and the presiding priest of Myra, for he saved a number of men unjustly condemned to death. He was seen in a dream by the emperor and Evlavios, and set aside an unjust sentence.

Glory: Both now:

O Virgin, as you bore Christ, the Wisdom in the flesh, the Word above being and the Physician of all men, heal the deep and constant wounds of my soul, and calm the evil thoughts of my heart.

Praises

Tone 1

Let everything with breath
praise the Lord.

Praise the Lord from the heavens;
praise him in the heights.
To you, O God, is due a song.

Praise him, all his angels;
praise him, all his powers.
To you, O God, is due a song.

S4: Praise him with cymbal and dance;
praise him with strings and flute.

Thrice-blessed Nicholas, you hover over the flower blossoms of the Church like a bird from an angelic nest. You continually call out to God for our sake, for we are surrounded by trials and dangers. You save us by your intercession.

S3: Praise him with tuneful cymbals;
praise him with joyful cymbals.
Let everything with breath praise the Lord.

O father, wise in God, you made the beauty of your priestly vestment shine with the works of virtue. Therefore, O priest, you accomplish for us the miracles of your famous wonders and rescue us from calamities.

S2: My mouth will speak about wisdom;
the thought of my heart will be about understanding. Ps 48

O saint of saints, when you embraced the beauty of invisible things, you understood their awesome glory. Therefore, most holy father, announce their eternal vision in heavenly words to us.

S2: O Lord, your priests will clothe themselves with justice;
and your holy ones will rejoice. Ps 131

O father, you appeared as though in a dream to the devout emperor, in order to pluck from death those who were held in chains. Intercede also for those who worthily praise you, so that we may be saved from distress, trials and dangers.

Glory: Tone 5

Let us sound the trumpet of joy! Let us keep the feast with dancing and rejoicing on the yearly memorial of our God-bearing father. Let emperors and princes run together with the king who, by the dread appearance of *the saint*, was persuaded in a dream to free three soldiers who were held without cause. O pastors and teachers of the Good Shepherd, gather together! Let us come and praise the pastor who was your equal in zeal. Glorify the great bishop, the physician of those in sickness, the rescuer of those in danger, the advocate of sinners, the treasure of the poor, the comforter of those in affliction, the companion of travellers, the pilot of those on the seas, and the great bishop who always warmly comes and responds to us everywhere. As we praise him, let us say, "All-holy Nicholas, come and save us from present anguish; save your flock by your prayers."

Both now:

Let us sound the trumpet of joy! The Queen of Heaven inclines her ear to us and crowns with blessings those who honour her. Let kings

and princes run together! Let them clap their hands at hymns in honour of the Queen who gave birth to the King of all. He appeared on earth to burst the chains of those condemned to death. O pastors and teachers glorify the mother of the Good Shepherd! She is the golden lampstand and the cloud of light. Her womb is more spacious than the heavens. She is the living temple, the cherubic throne of the Master, the jar of manna, the sealed gate of the Word; the divine palace and the refuge of all Christians. Let us bless her with inspired song and implore her, "Make us worthless people worthy of the Kingdom of Heaven, for everything is possible through your mediation."

Great Doxology

Glory to you who have shown us the light!
glory to God in the highest!

Peace on earth and goodwill to men!

² We praise you, we bless you, we worship you,
we glorify you, we thank you for your great glory,

³ O Lord King, heavenly God, almighty Father,
O Lord, only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ,
and you, O Holy Spirit!

⁴ O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sin of the world;

have mercy on us,
for you take away the sin of the world.

⁵ Receive our prayer,
for you sit on the right of the Father,
and have mercy on us.

⁶ For only you are holy, only you are Lord,
O Jesus Christ, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

⁷ I will bless you every day
and always praise your name for ever and ever. Ps 144

⁸ O Lord, allow us this day
to be guarded from sin.

⁹ Blessed are you, O Lord God of our fathers!
Praised and glorified be your name for ever. Amen. Daniel 3

¹⁰ O Lord, let your mercy *be* on us,
for we have hoped in you. Ps 32

¹⁶ Blessed are you, O Lord!
Teach me your statutes. X3 Ps 118

¹² O Lord, you have been our refuge
from generation to generation. Ps 89

I said, "O Lord, have mercy on me;
heal my soul, for I have sinned against you." Ps 40

¹⁴ O Lord, I have fled to you;
teach me to do your will, for you are my God. Ps 142

¹⁵ For with you is the source of life
and in your light we will see light. Ps 35

¹⁶ Stretch out your mercy
to those who know you. Ps 35

Triságion

Apolytikion

Tone 4

Your deeds truly revealed you to your flock as a model of faith, an icon of gentleness and a teacher of self-control. Therefore you have achieved the heights through humility and riches through poverty. O devout father Nicholas intercede with Christ God to save our souls.

LITURGY

Antiphon 1 Ps 91 Tone 5

S1: It is good to thank the Lord
and make melody to your name, O Most High.

R: At the prayers of the Theotokos, Saviour, save us!

S2: To announce your mercy in the morning
and your truth by night,

S3: For the Lord our God is upright
and there is no injustice in him.

S4: Glory: Both now:

Antiphon 2 Ps 92 Tone 2

S1: The Lord reigns *and* is clothed with majesty;
the Lord has put on power and clothed himself.

R: Save us, O Son of God. You are wonderful in your saints.
We sing to you, "Alleluia!"

S2: For he founded the world which will not be moved.

S3: O Lord, holiness is right for your house
to length of days.

S4: Glory: Both now:
Monogenes

Antiphon 3 Ps 94 Tone 4

S1: Come, let us rejoice in the Lord,
and shout with joy to God our Saviour.

R: Your deeds truly revealed you to your flock as a model of faith, an icon of gentleness and a teacher of self-control. Therefore you have achieved the heights through humility and riches through poverty. O devout father Nicholas intercede with Christ God to save our souls.

S2: Let us enter his presence with thanksgiving
and gladly cry to him with psalms,
For the Lord is a great God
and a high king over all the earth.

Entrance Ps 94

Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ.
Save us, O Son of God.
You are wonderful in your saints.
We sing to you, "Alleluia!"

Apolytikia

Tone 4

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Of the Church

Kontákion

Tone 3

Today the Virgin comes to the cave where she will ineffably give birth to the pre-eternal Word. O inhabited earth, rejoice when you hear the news! Glorify with the angels and shepherds the one who chose to be revealed as a new born Child, *yet was* God before the ages.

Triságion**Prokeímenon Ps 115 Tone 7**

R: The death of his saints is precious in the Lord's sight.
S: What shall we give back to the Lord
for everything that he has given us?

Apóstolos

From the Letter of Paul to the Hebrews (13:17-21)
Brothers, obey your leaders and submit to them, for they watch on behalf of your souls, as those who will give account, that they may do this with joy, and not with groaning, for that would be unprofitable for you. ¹⁸Pray for us, for we are persuaded that we have a good conscience, desiring to live honourably in all things. ¹⁹I strongly urge you to do this, that I may be restored to you sooner. ²⁰Now may the God of peace, who brought again from the dead the great shepherd of the sheep with the blood of an eternal covenant, our Lord Jesus, ²¹make you complete 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 the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Alleluia Ps 131 Tone 2

S1: Your priests will be clothed with justice
and your holy ones will rejoice.

S2: For the Lord has chosen Zion.

Gospel

From the Holy Gospel according to Luke (6:17-23)

At that time Jesus came down with them and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great crowd 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; ¹⁸ and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. ¹⁹ And all the crowd sought to touch him, for power came forth from him and healed them all. ²⁰ And he raised his eyes on his disciples, and said: "Blessed are you poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. ²¹ "Blessed are you that hunger now, for you shall be satisfied. "Blessed are you that weep now, for you shall laugh. ²² "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! ²³ Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven; for so their fathers did to the prophets."

Communion Ps 111

The just will be in everlasting remembrance. Alleluia!