SUNDAY 6 DECEMBER 2026
+ Wonderworker and Bishop Nicholas (Nikólaos) of Myra C4
27th Sunday Tone 2 & Eothinón 5

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.

S10: Lead my soul from prison that I may acknowledge your name.
Come and worship the Word of God *who was* begotten by the Father before all ages and became incarnate from the Virgin Mary. When he had endured the cross, he was buried, as he himself desired. When he rose from the dead, he saved me, for I had strayed.

S9: The just will wait for me until you reward me.
Christ our Saviour nailed the bond against us to the cross; he made it of no effect and destroyed the power of death. We fall down before his resurrection on the third day.

S8: O Lord, I have cried to you from the depths;
O Lord listen to my voice.
Together with the archangels, let us praise the resurrection of Christ. He is our Saviour and Redeemer. He is coming with awesome glory and mighty power to judge the world which he formed.

S7: Let your ears note the voice of my plea.
The angel proclaimed you as the crucified and buried Master. He said to the women, "Come and see the place where he lay. He has risen, as he said, for he is almighty." Only immortal *Lord*, we worship you. O Christ, Giver of life, have mercy on us.

Tone 2
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 you 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, w*hether* 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 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: Tone 2
The shadow of the Law passed when grace came. As the bush burned, yet was not consumed, so the Virgin gave birth, yet remained a virgin. The Sun of justice has risen instead of a pillar of flame and Christ, the salvation of our souls, instead of Moses.

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

P/D: The Evening Prokeimenon
R: The Lord reigns *and* is clothed with majesty.
S1: The Lord has put on power and clothed himself.
S2: He founded the world, which will not be moved.

Prophecy 1

From the Book of Proverbs (Composite)
From the Book of Proverbs (10:7,6 etc - 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

From the Book of Proverbs (10:31-11:12)
From the Wisdom of Solomon (Proverbs 10:31-11:12)
The mouth of the just distils wisdom; the lips of just men exude grace. The mouth of the wise muses on wisdom, and justice rescues from death. At the death of a just man his hope does not perish; he will eat the fruit of justice with good things. Light is always for the just and they will pour out grace and glory. The tongue of the wise knows what is good, and wisdom rests in their heart. The Lord loves holy hearts, and all those blameless in the way are acceptable with him. The wisdom of the Lord shines on the face of the intelligent, for she goes before those who desire her, in making herself first known to them, and is contemplated easily by those who love her. Whoever seeks her early will have no great toil, and whoever watches for her will quickly be without care. For she goes around seeking those who are worthy of her, and reveals herself favourably to those on the ways. Vice will not prevail against wisdom. Therefore I became a lover of her beauty. I loved her, and sought her from my youth; I desired to make her my bride. The Lord of all things loved her, for she is privy to the mysteries of the knowledge of God, and a chooser of his works. Her labours are virtues, for she teaches temperance and prudence, justice and fortitude, which are such that men can have nothing more profitable in their life. If a man desires much experience, she knows events in the past and infers what is to come. She knows the subtlety of words and can expound enigmas. She foresees signs and wonders, and the events of seasons and times. She is a counsellor for all in goodness. For there is immortality in her, and good repute in the communion of her words. Therefore I prayed to the Lord, implored him, and said with all my heart. O God of *my* fathers, and Lord of mercy, you have made all things by your word, and put together man in your wisdom, that he should have dominion over the creatures which you have made, and order the world according to equity and justice. Give me wisdom that sits beside your throne; and do not reject me from among your children, for I am your servant, and son of your handmaid. Send her from your holy dwelling, and from the throne of your glory, that being present with me, she may teach me, so that I may know what is pleasing to you. Guide me with knowledge and guard me with her glory. For all the thoughts of mortals are miserable, and their thinking unstable.

Prophecy 3

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.*

Apósticha

Tone 2
O Christ our Saviour, your resurrection has enlightened the whole inhabited earth and recalled your creation. O almighty Lord, glory to you!

S1: The Lord reigns *and* is clothed with majesty;
the Lord has put on power and clothed himself. Ps 92
O Saviour, you destroyed the curse of the tree by the tree and killed the majesty of death by your burial. You have enlightened our race through your resurrection. O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to you!

S2: For he founded the world which will not be moved. Ps 92
O Christ, when you were observed as you were nailed to the cross, you restored the beauty of your creatures. The soldiers showed their inhumanity when they pierced your side with a spear. The Hebrews, who did not understand your power, asked for your tomb to be sealed, but you accepted the grave and rose on the third day in the mercy of your compassion. O Lord, glory to you!

S3: O Lord, holiness is right for your house to length of days. Ps 92
O Christ, Giver of life, you willingly endured the passion for the sake of the dead. You descended into Hades as the mighty *Lord* to save those who waited for your coming and granted them the life of Paradise instead of Hades. Grant also to us, who glorify your resurrection on the third day, cleansing from our sins and 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

Apolytíkia

Tone 2
O immortal Life, when you went down to death you destroyed Hades with the lightning flash of your Divinity. When from the depths you raised the dead, all the powers of heaven cried out, “O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to you!”

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.

Apolytíkia

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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*

Kathísma 1

Tone 2
The noble Joseph took down your most pure body from the tree and wrapped it in fine linen. He anointed it with spices and laid it for burial in a new tomb. But, O Lord, you rose on the third day and granted the world great mercy.

Glory:
The angel stood at the tomb and cried to the myrrhbearing women, "Myrrh is correct for the dead, but Christ has revealed himself a stranger to corruption, so proclaim that the Lord is risen and grants the world great mercy."

Both now:

Kathísma 2

You did not prevent the stone of the tomb from being sealed; you rose and granted the rock of faith to everyone. O Lord, glory to you.

Glory:
The choir of the disciples, joined the myrrhbearing women and rejoiced in unison. Therefore, together with them, we keep the feast to glorify and honour your resurrection. O Lord and Lover of the human race, grant your people great mercy through them.

Both now:

Evlogitária

Blessed are you, O Lord; teach me your statutes.
The assembly of angels was amazed when it saw you among the dead. O Saviour, by destroying the power of death, you raised Adam with you and freed everyone from Hades.

Blessed are you, O Lord; teach me your statutes.
The radiant angel cried to the Myrrhbearers from the tomb, "Why do you women mingle myrrh with your tears? Look at the tomb and understand. The Saviour has risen from the tomb."

Blessed are you, O Lord; teach me your statutes.
The Myrrhbearers ran sorrowfully to your tomb very early in the morning, but an angel came to them and said, "The time for sorrow has come to an end. Do not weep, but announce the resurrection to the apostles."

Blessed are you, O Lord; teach me your statutes.
The Myrrhbearers were sorrowful as they approached your tomb, but the angel said to them, Why do you number the Living among the dead? As God he has risen from the tomb."

Glory:
We worship the Father, his Son and the Holy Spirit, the Holy Trinity, one in Being. We cry with the Seraphim, "Holy, Holy, Holy are you, O Lord."

Both now:
O Virgin, because you gave birth to the Giver of Life, you rescued Adam from his sin. You gave Eve joy instead of sadness. The Divine Man who was born from you has restored to life those who had fallen from it.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Glory to you, O God. (X3)
O our God and our hope, glory to you.

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*

Ypakói

Read without note
O Christ our God, the women went to the grave in order to anoint your body after the Passion. They saw angels in the tomb and were afraid, for they heard them say, "The Lord has risen and grants the world great mercy.

Anaváthmi Tone 2

Antiphon 1 Ps 122
O Saviour, I raise the eyes of my heart towards you;
save me with your illumination.
O my Christ, have mercy on us,
for we frequently and at every hour give you grief;
give us the means to turn back to you before the end.
Glory: Both now:
The rule, blessing and control of creation are the Holy Spirit's
for he is God, consubstantial with the Father and the Word.

Antiphon 2 Ps 123
If the Lord were not among us,
who could be protected from the murderous enemy?
O Saviour, do not hand over your servant to their teeth.
They move against me like a lion,
for they also are my enemies.
Glory: Both now:
The first cause of life and regal honour is the Holy Spirit's,
for as God, he gives all creatures power,
and guards them in the Father and the Son.

Antiphon 3 Ps 124
Those who put their trust in the Lord are like the Holy Mountain;
they are never shaken by the attacks of Beliar.
Do not let those who live for God
stretch out their hands to lawless deeds,
for Christ will not set aside the rod for his inheritance.
Glory: Both now:
All wisdom streams from the Holy Spirit.
Grace comes from him to the Apostles;
the Martyrs are crowned for their struggles
and the Prophets are given vision.

Prokeímenon Ps 7
R: O Lord my God, rise at the order which you have commanded.
and an assembly of people will gather round you.
S: O Lord my God, I have hoped in you.

Small Litany
For you are the King of Peace and Saviour of our souls, and we send up glory to you, to the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, always, now and for ever, and to the ages of ages. *Amen*

Kontákion
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.

Synaxarion
Today we remember our father among the saints Nicholas the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra in Lykía, 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
New Martyr Nicholas of Karamánon in Asia Minor C17
O God, have mercy on us through their holy prayers. Amen.

Katavasías Xmas 1
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 the one 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 spewed 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 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 entire creation bless the Lord and exalt him above all for ever!”

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 his mighty firmament. 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 John.
P/D: Let us attend
R: Glory to you, O Lord, glory to you.

Eothinón Gospel 5
From the Holy Gospel according to Luke (24:12-35)
At that time Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened. 13 That very day two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, 14 and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. 15 While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them. 16 But their eyes were kept from recognizing him. 17 And he said to them, "What is this conversation which you are holding with each other as you walk?" And they stood still, looking sad. 18 Then one of them, named Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?" 19 And he said to them, "What things?" And they said to him, "Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, 20 and how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up to be condemned to death, and crucified him. 21 But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since this happened. 22 Moreover, some women of our company amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning 23 and did not find his body; and they came back saying that they had even seen a vision of angels, who said that he was alive. 24 Some of those who were with us went to the tomb, and found it just as the women had said; but him they did not see." 25 And he said to them, "O foolish men, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! 26 Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?" 27 And beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself. 28 So they drew near to the village to which they were going. He appeared to be going further, 29 but they constrained him, saying, "Stay with us, for it is toward evening and the day is now far spent." So he went in to stay with them. 30 When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed, and broke it, and gave it to them. 31 And their eyes were opened and they recognized him; and he vanished out of their sight. 32 They said to each other, "Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the scriptures?" 33 And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven gathered together and those who were with them, 34

who said, "The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!" [35] Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of the **bread.**

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

Resurrection Ode

P/R: Now that we have seen the resurrection of Christ, let us worship the holy Lord Jesus, the only sinless one. O Christ, we venerate your cross, and praise and glorify your holy resurrection; for you are our God, and we know no one else apart from you. We address your name. All you faithful, come and venerate Christ's holy resurrection. For see, joy has come into all the world through the cross. Let us always bless the Lord and praise his resurrection. For he has destroyed death by death by enduring the cross for us.

Psalm 50

O God, have mercy on me in your abundant mercy
and wipe out my offence through your great pity.
[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 what is evil before you
[6b] so that you might be right in your words
and overcome when you are judged,
[7] for see, I was conceived in lawlessness
and my mother desired me in sin,
[8] for see, you have loved truth
and shown me the mysteries and secrets 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;
humbled bones will rejoice.
[11] Turn your face from my sins
and wipe out all my lawlessness.
[12] O God, make 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 your saving joy to me
and strengthen me with your directing Spirit.
[15] I will teach the lawless your ways
and the ungodly will return to you.
[16] O God, God of my salvation, free me from bloodshed,
then my tongue will rejoice in your justice.
[17] O Lord, you will open my lips
and my mouth will announce 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 just sacrifice,
with an offering and burnt sacrifices;
then they will offer calves on your altar.

Glory: Tone 6

O merciful *Lord*, blot out the abundance of our offences through the prayers of the apostles.

Both now:

O merciful *Lord*, blot out the abundance of our offences through the prayers of the Theotokos.

Have mercy:

Jesus has risen from the tomb as he foretold
and grants us eternal life and great mercy.

Intercession

Short form

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 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 only-begotten 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.*

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.

[2] For he has regarded his servant's humility;
see, from now all generations will call me blessed. R:
[3] For 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:
[4] He has accomplished strength with his arm
and scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. R:
[5] He 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:
[6] He 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*

Holy is the Lord

Holy is the Lord our God. *X3*
Exalt the Lord our God and worship at his footstool.
for he is holy.

Exposteilária

Tone 5

Christ, the Way and the Life, accompanied Luke and Cleopas after his resurrection. They recognised him at Emmaus in the breaking of the bread. Their hearts were set on fire as he spoke to them on the way. He interpreted to them everything in the Scriptures about his suffering. Let us cry out with them, "The Lord is risen indeed and has appeared to Peter."

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 2
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.

S8: This glory will be for all his holy ones.
O Lord, everything with breath glorifies you. For you, the only Lover of the human race, have destroyed death by your cross and revealed to the peoples your resurrection from the dead.

S7: Praise God in his saints;
praise him in his mighty firmament.
Do the Jews say that the soldiers who guarded the King destroyed him instead? Do they say that the stone did not preserve the Rock of life? Either let them give up the buried *Lord* or adore with us the one *who has* risen with us and say, “Glory to your great mercies! O Saviour, glory to you!”

S6: Praise him for his mighty deeds;
praise him for the abundance of his majesty.
O people, rejoice and be glad! An angel sitting on the stone has announced to us the glad news and said, “Christ, the Saviour of the world, has risen from the dead and filled everything with sweet fragrance.” O people, rejoice and be glad!

S5: Praise him with the trumpet sound;
praise him with lute and harp.
O Lord, before your conception an angel came with the greeting, “Hail!” to the *Lady* who was full of grace and an angel rolled the stone from your glorious tomb at your resurrection. The one announced the signs of joy in place of sorrow, the other proclaimed to us the life-giving Master in place of death. Therefore we cry out to you, “O Lord and Benefactor of all, glory to you!”

Tone 1
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.

S1: 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."

Glory: Tone 7

Both now: Tone 2
O Virgin Theotokos, you are most blessed, for through the One who was born of you, Hades has been captured and Adam recalled. The curse has been annulled, and Eve set free. Death has been slain, so we are given life. Blessed is Christ our God, whose good will it was. Glory to you!

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

Resurrection Troparion

Today salvation has come to the world. Let us sing to the one who rose from the dead, the Author of our life. When he destroyed death by death, he gave us victory and great mercy.

LITURGY

Antiphon 1 Ps 91

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

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 arose from the dead
We sing to you, "Alleluia!"

S2: For he founded the world
which will not be moved.
S3: Your throne *was* made ready in the past;
you are from eternity.
Monogenes

Antíphon 3 Ps 94 Tone 2

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

R: O immortal Life, when you went down to death you destroyed Hades with the lightning flash of your Divinity. When from the depths you raised the dead, all the powers of heaven cried out, "O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to you!"

S2: Let us enter his presence with thanksgiving
and gladly cry to him with psalms,
S3: 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 arose from the dead.
We sing to you, "Alleluia!"

Apolytíkia

Tone 2

O immortal Life, when you went down to death you destroyed Hades with the lightning flash of your Divinity. When from the depths you raised the dead, all the powers of heaven cried out, "O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to you!"

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.

Of the Church

Kontákion Xmas 1

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. [18]Pray for us, for we are persuaded that we have a good conscience, desiring to live honourably in all things. [19]I strongly urge you to do this, that I may be restored to you sooner. [20]Now 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, [21]make 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.

Lk 10 Eng

From the Holy Gospel according to Luke (13:10-17)
At that time Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. [11] And there was a woman who had had a spirit of infirmity for eighteen years; she was bent over and could not fully straighten herself. [12] And when Jesus saw her, he called her and said to her, "Woman, you are freed from your infirmity." [13] And he laid his hands upon her, and immediately she was made straight, and she praised God. [14] But the ruler of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath, said to the people, "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be healed, and not on the Sabbath day." [15] Then the Lord answered him, "You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or his ass from the manger, and lead it away to water it? [16] And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath day?" [17] As he said this, all his adversaries were put to shame; and all the people rejoiced at all the glorious things that were done by him.

Communion Ps 148

Praise the Lord from the heavens;
praise him in the heights. Alleluia!