

26th Sunday after Pentecost (Dec 6/19)
Commemoration of Saint Nicholas, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia

VESPERS: Tone 1

P. Regular Beginning

C. Lord I have cried...

1. **Accept** our evening prayers, O **Holy** Lord,/ and grant us remission **of** our sins,/ for only Thou hast shown forth unto the world// the Resurrection.
2. **Walk** about Zion, ye **people**,/ and encompass her./ Give glory therein to Him Who is risen **from** the dead./ For **He** is our God// Who hath delivered us from our iniquities.
3. **Come** ye people, praise and **worship** Christ,/ glorifying His Resurrection **from** the dead:/ for He is Our God, Who hath delivered the world// from the beguiling of the **enemy**.
4. Ye **heavens** be glad, sound the **trumpets**,/ ye foundations **of** the earth./ Shout for joy ye **hills**, for lo!/ Emmanuel hath **nailed** our sins to the Cross,/ and He, the Giver of life, hath put death to death by raising **Adam** up,// because He **loveth** mankind.

Stichera for Saint Nicholas (Tone 2)

5. Dwelling bodily in **Myra**,/ thou wast truly **shown** to be myrrh,/ having been **anointed** with noetic chrism, O holy Nicholas, hierarch of Christ;/ and thou dost perfume the faces of those who with **faith** and love/ ever celebrate thy most glorious **memory**,/ freeing them from misfortunes, perils and **sorrows**// by thy prayers to God, O **father**.
6. As a true namesake of **victory**,/ to the faithful people thou hast shown thyself to be mighty amid **perils**,/ O **holy** Nicholas, hierarch of Christ;/ for whenever thou art invoked, thou dost quickly hasten to those who with love have recourse to thy **protection**./ For, appearing to the faithful by **day** and at night,// thou savest them from dangers and evil **circumstances**.
7. In a dream thou didst appear to the Emperor Constantine and to Ablavius,/ and instilling fear in them, thou didst **speak** to them thus:/ "Quickly release those whom ye hold bound in **prison**,/ for they are undeserving of a lawless execution./ But if thou wilt disobey me,// I will petition the Lord and King against thee **when** I pray!"
8. For those of us who find ourselves amid misfortunes as we journey by land or **sail** the seas,/ for those of us who are nearby or **afar** off,/ **thou** art a great and fervent **advocate**,/ an exceeding merciful and mighty intercessor, O holy Nicholas, sacred **preacher** of Christ./ Wherefore, assembling, we cry:// Entreat the Lord, that we may be delivered from every evil **circumstance**.

9. With what songs of hymnody shall we praise the holy **hierarch**,/ the opponent of impiety and champion of **piety**,/ the **leader**, great ally and **teacher**,/ who putteth to shame all the infamous, the destroyer of Arius and his **minions**?/ For his sake hath Christ, Who hath great **mercy**,// cast down the arrogance of the **enemy**.
10. With what hymns of prophecy shall we praise the holy **hierarch**,/ who foresaw things far **distant**,/ and **unerringly** prophesied things afar off as though **they** were near,/ who watcheth over the whole world and delivereth **all** the oppressed,/ who of old appeared to the divinely wise emperor **in** a dream/ and delivered from execution those unjustly **arrested**,// and bestoweth great **mercy**?

Glory... (Tone 6)

Assembling, O ye who love the **feasts** of the Church,/ let us hymn the adornment of hierarchs, the glory of the **fathers**,/ the wellspring of miracles and great defender of the **faithful**,/ saying: Rejoice, O protector of **Myra**,/ honoured primate and steadfast **pillar** of its Church!/ Rejoice, O most radiant beacon, illumining the ends of the earth with **wonders**!/ Rejoice, divine joy of the sorrowful and fervent intercessor **for** the oppressed!/ And now, O blessed **Nicholas**,/ cease not to entreat Christ God in **behalf** of them// that honour thine ever-gladsome and most illustrious memory with **faith** and love.

Both... Dogmatikon (Tone 1)

Let us **praise** the Virgin **Mary**,/ glory of all the world and doorway to **heaven**,/ who begotten of man hast **borne** the Lord:/ and who, adornment of the faithful, is sung by the **angelic** hosts./ For she hath been shown forth as Heaven and Temple of the **Godhead**./ She it is, who breaking down the middle wall of **enmity**,/ ushered in peace and threw the Kingdom **open**./ Therefore with her as **anchor** of our faith,/ we, in the Lord born of her, have a **Defender**./ Make bold therefore, ye people of **God**, make bold,// for He, the Almighty will defeat your **enemies**.

- P. Wisdom. Aright!
 C. O Joyful Light...
 P. Prokimenon. The Lord is King...
 P. Wisdom!

R. The reading from the Book of Proverbs

The memory of the just is praised, and the blessing of the Lord is upon his head. Blessed is the man who hath found wisdom, and the mortal who knoweth prudence. For it is better to traffic for her, than for treasures of gold and silver. And she is more valuable than precious stones: no precious thing is equal to her in value. For length of existence and years of life are in her right hand; and in her left hand are wealth and glory: out of her mouth righteousness proceedeth, and she carrieth law and mercy upon her tongue. Harken to me, O children, for I will speak solemn truths. Blessed is the man who shall keep my ways; for my outgoings are the outgoings of life, and in them is prepared favor from the Lord. Ye, O men, do I exhort; and utter my voice to the sons of men. I, wisdom, have built up; upon counsel, knowledge and understanding have I called. Counsel and safety are mine; prudence is mine, and strength is

mine. I love those that love me; they that seek me shall find grace. O ye simple, understand subtlety, and ye that are untaught, imbibe knowledge. Harken unto me again; for I will speak solemn truths. For my throat shall meditate truth; and false lips are an abomination before me. All the words of my mouth are in righteousness; there is nothing in them wrong or perverse. They are all evident to those that understand, and right to those that find knowledge. For I will instruct you in truth, that your hope may be in the Lord, and ye may be filled with the Spirit.

R. The reading from the Book of Proverbs:

The mouth of the righteous droppeth wisdom: but the tongue of the unjust shall perish. The lips of men drop grace: but the mouth of the ungodly is perverse. False balances are an abomination before the Lord: but a just weight is acceptable unto Him. Wherever pride entereth, there will also disgrace: but the mouth of the humble doth meditate wisdom. The integrity of the upright shall guide them, but the overthrow of the rebellious shall spoil them. Possessions shall not profit in the day of wrath, but righteousness will deliver from death. When a just man dieth, he leaveth regret: but the destruction of the ungodly is speedy and causeth joy. Righteousness traceth out blameless paths: but ungodliness encountereth unjust dealing. The righteousness of upright men delivereth them: but transgressors are caught in their own destruction. At the death of a just man his hope doth not perish: but the boast of the ungodly perisheth. A righteous man escapeth from a snare, and the ungodly man is delivered up in his place. In the mouth of ungodly men is a snare for citizens: but the understanding of righteous men is prosperous. In the prosperity of righteous men a city prospereth, but at the destruction of the wicked there is exultation. At the blessing of the upright a city shall be exalted, but by the mouths of ungodly men it is overthrown. A man void of understanding sneereth at his fellow citizens: but a sensible man is quiet.

R. The reading from the Wisdom of Solomon: (Wis 4:7-15)

Though the righteous be prevented with death, yet shall he be in rest. For honorable age is not that which standeth in length of time, nor that is measured by number of years. But wisdom is the gray hair unto men, and an unspotted life is old age. He pleased God, and was beloved of Him; so that, living among sinners, he was translated. Yea, speedily was he taken away, lest that wickedness should alter his understanding, or deceit beguile his soul. For the bewitching of naughtiness doth obscure things that are honest; and the wandering of lust doth undermine the simple mind. He, being made perfect in a short time, fulfilled a long time; for his soul pleased the Lord: therefore hastened He to take him away from among the wicked. This the people saw, and understood not, neither laid they up this in their minds: that His grace and mercy is with His saints, and that He doth visit His chosen.

P. Augmented Litany

R. Vouchsafe...

P. Litany of Fervent Supplication

C. Litya Prayers

First sticheron is that of the temple, then:

(Tone 2)

Christ God hath revealed thee to thy flock as a rule of faith and model of **meekness**,/ O holy hierarch **Nicholas**./ For which **cause**, as thou emittest sweet fragrance in **Myra**,/ thy divine corrections shine forth in splendor **everywhere**,/ O intercessor for the orphans and **widows**.// Wherefore, pray thou unceasingly, that He **save** our souls.

O father Nicholas, the shrine of thy **relics**,/ like a phial, enricheth **Myra** with myrrh./ And, appearing to the emperor in a vision **during** sleep,/ therein thou didst **free** from death, fetters and prison those unjustly **held** condemned./ Now, as then, do thou ever appear in **visions**,// praying **for** our souls.

O father Nicholas, even though the land of Myra hath fallen **silent**,/ yet the whole world, which hath been enlightened by thee with the sweet fragrance of thy myrrh and the multitudes of thy **miracles**,/ crieth **out** in hymns of goodly **laudation**;/ and we, saved by thee from **condemnation**,/ cry out with those in Myra, **chanting**:// Pray thou, that our **souls** be saved!

(Tone 4)

O father Nicholas, as the phial of the all-holy **Spirit**,/ thou pourest forth the sweet fragrance of divine perfume in **Myra**;/ for, having **emulated** the apostles of Christ, thou travellest the world over in the report of thy **miracles**./ Wherefore, appearing during sleep to those afar off and to **those** nearby,/ thou deliverest from death those who were to be executed through an unjust **sentence**,/ and most gloriously savest from misfortunes many who call **upon** thee./ Wherefore, by thy supplications, from besetting evils free us **also**,// who ever **praise** thee.,

(Tone 8)

The **fruit** of thy valiant deeds hath illumined the hearts of the faithful, O venerable **father**./ For who, hearing of thy boundless humility, hath not marveled at thy **patience**,/ thy solicitude toward the poor, thy consolation of the **sorrowful**?/ Thou hast taught all in godly manner, O holy hierarch **Nicholas**,/ and hast now been crowned with a never-**fading** wreath.// Pray thou in **behalf** of our souls.

Throughout this fleeting life thou didst hasten to praise the Lord, O **Nicholas**,/ and He hath glorified thee in the true life in **heaven**./ Wherefore, having acquired boldness **before** Him,// pray that He **save** our souls.

Glory... (Tone 6)

O good and faithful **servant**,/ husbandman of the **vineyard** of Christ:/ thou didst bear the burden of the day and didst increase the talent **entrusted** to thee;/ and thou didst not envy those who came **after** thee./ Wherefore, as the portals of heaven are **open** to thee,/ enter thou into the **joy** of the Lord,// and intercede for us, O holy **Nicholas**.

Both... of the Forefeast (Tone 6)

Hold festival, O **Sion**!/ Be glad, O Jerusalem, thou **city** of Christ!/ Receive the Creator Who is contained in the cave and the **manger**!/ Open **unto** me thy gates,/ and, entering therein, I shall behold Him Who holdeth all creation in His hand,/ wrapped as a babe in **swaddling**-clothes:/ the

Lord and **Bestower** of life,/ Whom the angels hymn with unceasing **voices**,//
and Who **saveth** our souls.

P. *Litya prayers in back of Church*

APOSTICHA: (Tone 1)

1. We were set **free** by Thy **passion**, O Christ,/ and we were redeemed from
corruption by Thy **Resurrection**.// Unto Thee, O Lord, be **glory**.

V. The Lord is King,/ and hath put on glorious **apparel**.

2. Let the **creation** exult, the **heavens** make glad,/ the nations clap their
hands with joy:/ For Christ our Saviour, because He **loveth** mankind,/
hath **nailed** our sins to the Cross,/ put death to death and given us
life by raising fallen **Adam**,// father of **all** mankind.

V. He hath made the world so sure/ that it **cannot** be moved.

3. O **Thou** Who art beyond all **understanding**,/ King of **heaven** and earth,/
for love of mankind hast been of Thine own Will **crucified**:/ Hell was
filled with bitterness when it **met** Thee below/ and the souls of the
just at receiving **Thee** rejoiced./ And when he saw Thee, the Creator,
in the depths, **Adam** rose up./ What a **wonder** this is:/ That the life
of all men should **taste** death/ in His desire to give light to the world
that **cries** and says:// Glory unto Thee, O Lord, risen **from** the dead.

V. Holiness becometh Thine house/ O Lord, **forever**.

4. The **myrrh**-bearing women bringing **spices**,/ hastened mourning **to** Thy
tomb,/ and when they found Thy immaculate Body gone and learnt from the
angel/ of the unprecedented and all-glorious **wonder**,/ they said to the
Apostles: "The Lord is **risen**,// granting the world great **mercy**."

Glory... (Tone 6)

O **man** of God,/ faithful servant and minister **of** the Lord,/ man of
divine desires, chosen **vessel**,/ pillar and foundation **of** the Church,/ heir
of the **kingdom**:// Cease thou never to cry unto the Lord in **our** behalf.

Both... of the Forefeast (Tone 6)

O Virgin who knewest not **wedlock**,/ from whence **hast** thou come?/ Who
begat thee? Who is thy **mother**?/ How is it that thou bearest the Creator **in**
thine arms?/ How is it that thy womb was not subject to **corruption**?/ O the
great, all-glorious and awesome mysteries which we see wrought in **thee** on
earth,/ O most **holy** one!/ We make ready fitting recompense for **thee** on
earth:/ the cave; and we ask that the star be given from **heaven**,/ and that
magi come from the lands of the **East** to the West,/ to behold the **Salvation**
of men,// Who is wrapped in swaddling-bands in the **manger**.

C. St. Symeon's Prayer

R. Trisagion

C. Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos

x2

C. Troparion for Saint Nicholas (Tone 4)

The truth of things revealed thee to thy flock/ as a rule of faith, a model of meekness and teacher of abstinence;/ wherefore, thou hast attained the heights through humility/ and riches through poverty.// O hierarch Nicholas our father, entreat Christ God, that our souls be saved.

P. Blessing of loaves.

C. Amen. Blessed be the Name of the Lord... x3
Psalm 33:1-10

MATINS: Tone 1

P. Regular Beginning

P. Great Ectenia

C. God is the Lord...

C. Sunday Troparia (Tone 1) x2

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews;/ While the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure Body;/ Thou didst rise on the third Day, O Saviour/ granting life to the world./ The powers of heaven therefore cried to Thee, O Giver of life./ Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ!/ Glory to Thy kingdom!// Glory to Thy dispensation, O Thou Who lovest mankind!

Glory... Troparion for Saint Nicholas (Tone 4)

The truth of things revealed thee to thy flock/ as a rule of faith, a model of meekness and teacher of abstinence;/ wherefore, thou hast attained the heights through humility/ and riches through poverty.// O hierarch Nicholas our father, entreat Christ God, that our souls be saved.

Both... Theotokion (Tone 4)

The mystery hidden from all ages/ and unknown to the **angels**/ was made manifest to those on earth through Thee, O Theotokos:/ God took flesh in a union without **confusion**/ and for our sakes willingly **accepted** the Cross;/ and thereby He raised the **first** formed man// and saved our **souls** from death.

Lord Have Mercy 3x

Glory...

R. Now...

R. Kathisma II

P. Small Ectenia

R. Sessional Hymns:

The soldiers guarding Thy tomb, O Saviour, became as dead men because of the radiance of the angel who appeared before them, proclaiming the resurrection to the women. We glorify Thee, the Destroyer of corruption, and we bow down before Thee, our one God Who hast risen from the grave.

V. Arise, O Lord my God, let Thy hand be lifted high; forget not Thy paupers to the end.

Nailed to the Cross of Thine own will, and laid in the tomb as one dead, O compassionate Bestower of life, by Thy death Thou didst break the dominion of death, O Mighty One; for the gatekeepers of hades trembled

before Thee, and Thou didst raise up with Thyself the dead of ages past, in that Thou alone lovest mankind.

G/B... At the sound of Gabriel's voice calling out to thee: "Hail, Virgin," the Master of all things became incarnate in thee, thou the Holy Tabernacle, as David the righteous said. In bearing thy Creator, thou hast shown thyself to surpass the vastness of the heavens. Glory unto Him Who dwelt in thee. Glory unto Him Who from thee came forth. Glory unto Him, Who by thy childbirth hath set us free.

R. Kathisma III
P. Small Ectenia

R. Sessional Hymns:

Very early the women arrived at the tomb and, beholding the appearance of the angel, they trembled. The tomb shone forth life, and the miracle filled them with awe. Wherefore, going to the disciples, they proclaimed the resurrection: Christ hath made hell captive, in that He alone is mighty and powerful; and destroying the fear of damnation by the Cross, He hath raised up with Himself all who had fallen prey to corruption!

V. I will confess Thee, O Lord, with my whole heart, I will tell of all Thy wonders.

Thou wast nailed to the Cross, O Life of all, and wast reckoned among the dead, O immortal Lord. Thou didst rise on the third day, O Saviour, with Thee raising Adam up from corruption. Wherefore, the hosts of heaven cried out to Thee, O Christ, Bestower of life: Glory to Thy resurrection! Glory to Thy condescension, O Thou Who alone lovest mankind!

G/B... O Mary, precious receptacle of the Master, raise us up who have fallen into the chasm of grievous despondency, transgressions and sorrows; for thou art salvation, help and mighty intercession for sinners, and thou savest thy servants.

C. Polyeleos
P. Megalynarion (once only by clergy)

We magnify thee, O Holy Hierarch Nicholas, / and we honor thy holy memory, // for thou dost pray for us to Christ our God.

C. Evlogitaria (Blessed art Thou, O Lord...)
P. Small Ectenia

R. Ypakoe:

The repentance of the thief stole paradise, and the lamentation of the myrrh-bearers announced joy: for Thou didst arise, O Christ God, granting great mercy to the world.

R. Sessional Hymns for St. Nicholas

Dwelling bodily in Myra, O hierarch, thou wast shown to be noetically anointed with the myrrh of the Spirit, O father Nicholas. Wherefore, thou hast perfumed the world with the myrrh of thy wonders, pouring forth ever-flowing myrrh through thy memory and thy discourses, which are redolent of myrrh.

Thou intercedest for the faithful, protecting and preserving them, O blessed one, and manifestly delivering them from all sorrow, O most comely glory and boast of hierarchs, venerable Nicholas.

Glory... O ye faithful, let us all piously praise the God-bearing Nicholas, the all-wise hierarch, as a fervent ally and defender amid misfortunes and sorrows, sent by God; for he prayeth to the Lord in behalf of those who with faith celebrate and hymn his divine memory.

Both... Quickly accept our supplications, O Mistress, most immaculate Lady, and bear them to thy Son and God. From evil circumstances deliver those who have recourse unto thee. Crush thou the wiles and cast down the arrogance of the ungodly who array themselves against thy servants, O all-pure one.

Hymn of Degrees: (Antiphon One)

When I am sorrowful, hearken unto my pain, O Lord. Unto Thee do I cry. Unceasing divine desire befitteth those in the wilderness, who are beyond this vainglorious world.

G/B... Worship and glory are due the Holy Spirit, as also to the Father and the Son. Wherefore, let us hymn the single dominion of the Trinity.

Hymn of Degrees: (Antiphon Two)

Thou hast brought me up to the mountains of Thy laws, O God. Illumine me with the virtues, that I may hymn Thee.

Taking me in Thy right hand, O Word, preserve and protect me, that the fire of sin may not consume me.

G/B... By the Holy Spirit is every creature restored, returning to its primal state; for He is equal in power with the Father and the Son.

Hymn of Degrees: (Antiphon Three)

My spirit was glad and my heart rejoiceth for those who said to me: Let us enter into the courts of the Lord.

There is great fear in the house of David, for there, when the thrones are set up, all the tribes and nations of the earth will be judged.

G/B... It is meet and fitting to offer honour and worship, glory and power unto the Holy Spirit, as to the Father and the Son, for the Trinity is a unity in nature, but not in Persons.

P. Prokimenon:

Now will I arise, saith the Lord, / I will establish them in salvation, I will be manifest therein.

V. The words of the Lord are pure words.

C. Let every breath praise the Lord.

P. GOSPEL #4

C. Having Beheld the Resurrection of Christ...

R. Psalm 50

C. Glory... Now... Have mercy on me... Jesus having risen...

P. Save, O God, Thy People...
Anointing.

Canticle One

Irmos: Thy victorious right arm/ hath in godly manner been glorified in strength;/ for as almighty, O Immortal One,/ it smote the adversary,// fashioning anew the path of the deep for the Israelites.

Glory to Thy Holy Resurrection, O Lord.

O Thou Who in the beginning didst divinely fashion me out of dust with Thine all-pure hands, Thou didst stretch out Thine arms upon the Cross, calling forth from the earth my corrupt body, which Thou hadst received from the Virgin.

Thou didst assume mortality for my sake and didst surrender Thy soul unto death, O Thou Who by Thy divine breath didst instill my soul within me; and having loosed the everlasting bonds, thou didst glorify it with incorruption, raising it up with Thee.

Theotokion

Rejoice, O wellspring of grace! Rejoice, O ladder and door of heaven! Rejoice, O lampstand and golden jar, thou unquarried mountain, who for the world gavest birth unto Christ, the Bestower of life.

Most Holy Theotokos, Save us.

What fitting hymnody can our weakness offer thee, who alone art full of grace, to whom Gabriel hath mystically taught us to chant: "Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, Mother unwedded!"?

Immeasurable is the depth of thine incomprehensible birthgiving, O most pure one; wherefore, with undoubting faith we make offering unto thee in purity, saying: Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, Mother unwedded!

Holy Father Nicholas, pray to God for us.

Standing, crowned, before the throne of Christ with the angelic armies, O all-wise Nicholas, grant me the enlightenment which illumineth the darkness of my soul, that, rejoicing, I may praise thy memory, O most blessed one.

The Lord Who glorifieth all who glorify Him hath given thee to the faithful as a refuge delivering from perils those who have recourse to thy protection, who call upon thee with faith and love, O Nicholas.

Theotokion

The most wicked serpent, instilling in me the desire to make myself equal with the Creator, took me captive; but through thee, O most pure one, I have been restored and truly deified, for thou gavest birth to Him Who hath deified me, O Mother of God.

Holy Father Nicholas, pray to God for us.

Though my tongue and lips are at a loss, O Nicholas, I have come to bring this meager praise and entreaty to thy godly excellence; but, as thou art a bestower of riches, render God the Saviour merciful to me.

As a heavenly man thou wast shown to be angelic upon the earth, a ready defender of widows, an avenger of the oppressed, and a helper amid misfortunes for all who are sorrowful, O father Nicholas.

Glory... I honour the uncreated Trinity--the Father, the Son and the Spirit--the simple Being, the Godhead, the indivisible Essence, which existeth naturally in three Hypostases, distinguished as to Person and Hypostasis.

Both... Without seed didst thou conceive the Word Who is One of the Trinity, O most immaculate one, and thou gavest birth to Him in the flesh, remaining a virgin after birthgiving, as thou wast before. Ever entreat Him in our behalf, in that He is thy Son and God.

C. Katavasia (Tone 1)

Christ is born, glorify Him./ Christ is from heaven receive Him./ Christ is on earth, be ye lifted up./ Sing unto the Lord, all the earth./ And praise Him with joy, ye people;/// For He hath glorified Himself.

Canticle Three

Irmos: Thou, Who alone hast known the weakness of human nature,/ having in Thy mercy formed Thyself therein:/ Thou girdest me about with power from on high,/ that I may chant to Thee:/ Holy is the living temple of Thine ineffable glory,// O Thou Who lovest mankind!

Glory to Thy Holy Resurrection, O Lord.

As God, O Good One, Thou hast taken pity on me who have fallen; and it being Thy good pleasure to come down to me, Thou hast by Thy crucifixion raised me up to cry unto Thee: Holy is the Lord of glory, immutable in goodness!

As enhypostatic Life, O Christ, clothing Thyself in me who have become corrupt, in that Thou art the God of lovingkindness, and descending to my mortal dust, O Master, Thou didst destroy the dominion of death; and having risen after three days of death, Thou hast clothed me in incorruption.

Theotokion

Conceiving God in thy womb through the all-holy Spirit, O Virgin, thou didst remain unconsumed; for the bush which burned without being consumed clearly, to Moses the Law-giver, proclaimed thee beforehand, who received the unbearable Fire.

Most Holy Theotokos, Save us.

O Virgin, following the sayings of the prophets, we truly call thee the light cloud; for the Lord came upon thee to cast down the handiworks of the falsehood of Egypt and to enlighten those who worship them.

Accounted worthy to perceive the transcendent Mind as far as he was able, Gabriel offered thee a cry of joy, O immaculate Virgin, openly announcing the conception of the Word and proclaiming His ineffable birth.

Holy Father Nicholas, pray to God for us.

O blessed Nicholas, as thou art the true disciple of the Master, thou savest those who have recourse to thee from grievous misfortunes and bitter death.

Cleanse thy servants, granting them remission of sins, in that Thou art good, through the mediations before Thee of Nicholas, Thy favorite, O greatly Merciful One.

Theotokion

Quell thou the turmoil of my soul, O all-pure one, and guide thou my life, O most holy one who gavest birth to God, in Whom my heart hath been established.

Holy Father Nicholas, pray to God for us.

Having acquired in thy heart tablets inscribed with many virtues by the immortal and all-pure finger of Christ God, O Nicholas, sweetness greater than that of honey or the honey-comb poureth forth from thy lips.

Thou livest even after death, manifestly appearing in dreams, and thou didst all-gloriously deliver the young men from death, crying aloud to the emperor: "Do no harm to these men, who have been slandered by vainglorious jealousy!"

Glory... Be merciful, O most Holy Trinity our God, unto me who have defiled my life with immeasurable transgressions, O Father, Son and living Spirit, Who preservest me wholly and ever unwounded by sorrow.

Both... O Theotokos, thou givest thy servants hope of salvation. Stand forth in thy speedy supplications to preserve and help us amid wants and perils, for thou art the boast of us, the faithful, O Ever-virgin.

C. Katavasia (Tone 1)

To the Son Who was begotten of the Father/ without change before all ages,/ and in the last times was without seed made flesh of the Virgin,/ to Christ our God let us cry aloud:// Thou hast raised up our horn, holy art Thou, O Lord.

P. Small Ectenia

C. Kontakion, Tone 3 (Special Melody... 'Today the Virgin...')

In Myra thou wast shown to be a performer of the sacred mysteries,/ O holy one,/ for, fulfilling the Gospel of Christ,/ thou didst lay down thy life for thy people, O venerable one,/ and didst save the innocent from death.// Wherefore, thou hast been sanctified as a great initiate of the grace of God.

R. Ikos

With songs let us now hymn the holy hierarch, the pastor and teacher of the people of Myra, that we may be enlightened by his prayers. For, lo! he hath been shown to be wholly pure, incorrupt of spirit, offering to Christ the immaculate and pure sacrifice which is right acceptable to God, as a hierarch pure in soul and body. Wherefore, as a true intercessor of the Church and champion thereof, he is a great initiate of the grace of God.

R. Sessional Hymns

Having ascended to the summit of the virtues and been illumined by the divine splendors of miracles therefrom, O father, thou wast truly shown to be an all-radiant pastor for the world, and an invincible intercessor for us amid perils. Wherefore, having all-gloriously vanquished the enemy, thou didst drive falsehood away and didst save men from sin. O Nicholas, entreat Christ God, that He grant remission of sins unto those who with love honour thy holy memory.

Glory... The Abyss of mercy hath shown thee to be a river pouring forth healings in abundance and an inexhaustible wellspring of miracles, O Nicholas; for those who are bitterly afflicted with grievous ailments and cruelly tormented by the vexations of life truly find the curative healing of all suffering in thy fervent defense. Wherefore, we cry aloud to thee: Entreat Christ God, that He grant remission of transgressions unto those who with love celebrate thy holy memory.

Both... All of us, the generations of men, bless thee as the Virgin who, alone among women, gavest birth without seed to God in the flesh; for the fire of the Godhead made His abode within thee, and thou didst nurture the Creator and Lord with milk as a babe. Wherefore, we, the race of angels and men, cry out to thee together: Entreat Christ God, that He grant remission of offenses unto those who with faith worship thine all-holy birthgiving.

Canticle Four

Irmos: Gazing with the eyes of foresight upon thee,/ the mountain overshadowed by the grace of God,/ Habbakuk prophesied that the Holy One of Israel would come forth from thee,// for our salvation and restoration.

Glory to Thy Holy Resurrection, O Lord.

Who is this Saviour Who issueth forth from Edom, wearing a crown of thorns, His robe stained red, lifted up upon the Tree? He is the Holy One of Israel, Who is come for our salvation and restoration!

Behold, ye disobedient people, and be ashamed! For He Whom ye madly asked Pilate to lift up on the Cross as a malefactor hath destroyed the power of death and risen as God from the tomb!

Theotokion

O Virgin, we know thee to be the tree of life; for it is no fruit deadly for men to eat which thou hast put forth, but the delight of everlasting Life, for the salvation of us who hymn thee.

Most Holy Theotokos, Save us.

We hymn thy great and awesome mystery, for, hiding Himself from the captains of the armies of heaven, He Who Is descended upon thee like rain upon the fleece, for our salvation, O all-hymned one.

O most hymned Theotokos, thou Holy of holies, expectation of the nations and salvation of the faithful: from thee hath the Deliverer, Lord and Bestower of life shone forth, Whom do thou entreat, that thy servants be saved.

Holy Father Nicholas, pray to God for us.

Having in purity drawn nigh to the rays of the Spirit, thou becamest a light-bearer, illumining the ends of the world, interceding for all, and saving all who have recourse to thee with faith.

As of old thou didst appear, delivering the young men from death, O venerable Nicholas, so now save me from every evil circumstance, from perils and misfortunes, O most blessed one.

Thou didst shine forth with the effulgence of the virtues, O most blessed one, as a most excellent emulator of thy Master; and, invoked, thou savest those who glorify thee with reverence and love.

Theotokion

Incarnate, the Master of creation came upon thee, saving me wholly, in that He is compassionate. Wherefore, we, the faithful, glorify thee as Theotokos.

Holy Father Nicholas, pray to God for us.

At the mere invocation of thy name, those who call upon thee are truly delivered with all speed from all the counsels of the enemy, O sacred Nicholas. As of old thou didst deliver the soldiers, so also save us from every grievous circumstance.

Standing before the throne of God, cease thou never to make earnest supplication in behalf of all of us, thy faithful servants, O wise and wondrous Nicholas, that we may be delivered from everlasting fire, from the enemy, from the wicked tongue, and from affliction.

Glory... I honour and venerate the principality of the unoriginate Godhead--the Father, the Son, and the most Holy Spirit--which accomplisheth all things, is one, indivisible, ever distinguished in three characters and Persons: the single undivided Kingship.

Both... Thou alone art truly more honourable than those on earth and those in heaven, O Theotokos, for thou didst conceive in thy womb the Creator of all, clothed in material flesh, giving birth to Him without seed. O what a new sight!

C. Katavasia (Tone 1)

A rod from the root of Jesse/ and blossom therefrom, O Christ,/ Thou didst spring forth from the Virgin;/ from the mountain overshadowed and

densely wooded hast Thou come,/ incarnate of her who knew not man,/ O Thou
praised and immaterial God.// Glory to Thy power, O Lord!

Canticle Five

Irmos: O Christ, Who hast enlightened the ends of the world/ with
the radiance of Thy coming,/ and illumined them by Thy
Cross:/ With the light of Thy divine knowledge/ enlighten the
hearts of those// who hymn Thee in Orthodox manner.

Glory to Thy Holy Resurrection, O Lord.

The Jews put the great Shepherd and Lord of the sheep to death by the
Tree of the Cross; but the dead buried in hades did He deliver, like sheep,
from the dominion of death.

Having announced peace by Thy Cross and proclaimed remission to those
held captive, O my Saviour, Thou didst put to shame him who hath dominion,
as though he were naked, by Thy divine resurrection showing him to be
impoverished.

Theotokion

Disdain not the requests of those who petition thee with faith, O most
hymned and all-pure one, but accept and convey them to thy Son, the one God
and Benefactor; for thee have we acquired as our intercessor.

Most Holy Theotokos, Save us.

The hosts of heaven are gladdened at the sight of thee, and with them
the companies of men rejoice; for they have been joined together by thy
birthgiving, O Virgin Theotokos, which we glorify as is meet.

Let all the tongues and thoughts of men be moved to the praise of thee
who art truly the adornment of mankind, for the Virgin standeth forth,
clearly raising to glory those who with faith hymn her wonders.

Holy Father Nicholas, pray to God for us.

Enlightened by a godly life, O thrice blessed one, standing forth thou
didst deliver those condemned by an unjust sentence to death, who cried to
Christ God: We know none other God than Thee!

Now beholding everlasting glory in the heavens, and delighting in the
most splendid effulgence of ineffable and divine radiance, protect me by
thine intercessions, O venerable and most honourable favorite of Christ.

Theotokion

That Thou mightest seek out Thine image, which had been buried by the
passions, O Saviour, hiding from the heavenly hosts, Thou didst appear,
incarnate of the Virgin, to those who cry to Thee: We know none other God
than Thee!

Holy Father Nicholas, pray to God for us.

The great metropolis of Myra, the province of Lycia, and all the parts of thy homeland, proclaim thy wonders and miracles, whereby thou deliverest all from pain and sorrow, O divinely blessed father Nicholas.

As the feeder of wisdom and father of orphans, the most excellent help of those in sorrow, the consolation of the grieving, the shepherd and guide of all the lost, O Nicholas, by thy supplications deliver us from misfortunes.

Glory... I manifestly glorify the three independent Persons of the one, indivisible Godhead, equally unoriginate and equally enthroned, by Whom I have been brought out of oblivion into existence; and with the angels I cry: Holy, Holy, Holy art Thou, O Lord!

Both... O pure one, who alone settest salvation and hope before all men and savest them, help us now who cry aloud to thee and ever call upon thee amid grievous circumstances; for we have none other intercessor than thee, after God.

C. Katavasia (Tone 1)

God of peace, the Father of mercies,/ Thou hast sent unto us an Angel of Thy great council,/ Who giveth us peace./ Therefore having been led unto the light of godly wisdom,/ waking early from the night// we do sing praises of Thee, O Lover of mankind.

Canticle Six

Irmos: The uttermost abyss hath engulfed us,/ and there is none to deliver us./ We are accounted as lambs for the slaughter./ Save Thy people, O our God,// for Thou art the strength and correction of the weak!

Glory to Thy Holy Resurrection, O Lord.

We were grievously wounded by the offense of the first-created man, O Lord, but we have been healed by the wounds wherewith Thou wast wounded for us, O Christ; for Thou art the strength and correction of the weak.

Thou hast led us up out of hades, O Lord, having slain the all-devouring monster and set his power at naught by Thy might, O Omnipotent One; for Thou art Life, Light and Resurrection.

Theotokion

The ancestors of our race rejoice in thee, O all-pure Virgin, receiving through thee the Eden which they lost through transgression; for thou wast pure before giving birth and art so after birthgiving.

Most Holy Theotokos, Save us.

As servants the ranks of heaven attend thy birthgiving, marveling, as is meet, at thy seedless parturition, O Ever-virgin; for thou wast pure before birthgiving and art so even after giving birth.

The enemy was slain by thy life-bearing Fruit, O thou who art full of the grace of God; and we who were in bonds have been freed. Wherefore, I cry: Destroy Thou the passions of my heart!

Holy Father Nicholas, pray to God for us.

The crown of victory hath fittingly been placed upon thy head, O Nicholas. As thou art a most excellent victor, save those who call upon thee.

Appearing, O blessed one, save me who am slain by transgressions and engulfed by the threefold billows of the passions, and lead me to the harbor of the will of God.

Theotokion

In thee, O Ever-virgin Mother, have I placed my hope of salvation, and thee do I set forth as the steadfast and unshakable intercessor for my life.

Holy Father Nicholas, pray to God for us.

Thou hast been shown to be a new Abraham, O Nicholas, for, ever offering up the unbloody sacrifice, thou didst bring thy mind to thy Master as if it were thine only-begotten son; wherefore, thou wast blessed as a lover of strangers, O father, and becamest the divine and immaculate habitation of the Trinity.

Foreseeing things yet to come with the eye of thy mind, thou didst fill all the ends of the earth with right doctrines, and, declaring to us that the Son is consubstantial with the Father, thou didst set at naught the savagery of Arius, O pillar of the Orthodox Faith, setting forth thine honoured corrections.

Glory... I venerate and honour the indivisible Trinity, which is ever distinguished in three Persons, and united in essence and nature, as a single Principle: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, Who with might hath dominion over all and preserveth all things as He desireth.

Both... Wholly incarnate within thy womb, O all-pure one, Christ God was born without seed; for, unable to endure the sight of the work of His hands tormented by the deceiver, He came in the guise of a servant to deliver the human race.

C. Katavasia (Tone 1)

The sea monster spat forth Jonah/ as it had received him, like a babe from the womb;/ while the Word, having dwelt in the Virgin and taken flesh,/ came forth from her yet kept her uncorrupt./ For being Himself not subject to decay,// He preserved His Mother free from harm.

P. Small Ectenia

C. Kontakion, Tone 1

As God, Thou didst rise from the tomb in glory,/ raising the world with Thyself./ Human nature praises Thee as God, for death has vanished./ Adam

exults, O Master!// Eve rejoices, for she is free from bondage, and cries to Thee;// Thou art the Giver of Resurrection to all, O Christ.

R. Ikos

Let us hymn as God the Almighty Who rose on the third day, Who broke down the gates of hades, Who raised up from the grave those held there from ages past, and Who appeared to the myrrh-bearing women, as He was well pleased to do, telling them first to rejoice and to proclaim joy unto the apostles, in that He alone is the Bestower of life; wherefore, with faith the women proclaimed the signs of victory to the disciples. Hades groaneth and death uttereth lamentation; the world is filled with gladness, and all rejoice with it, for Thou, O Christ, didst grant resurrection unto all.

Canticle Seven

Irmos: O Theotokos, we the faithful,/ perceive thee to be a noetic furnace; for, as the supremely Exalted One saved the three youths,/ in thy womb the praised and most glorious God of our fathers// wholly renewed the world.

Glory to Thy Holy Resurrection, O Lord.

The earth was afraid, the sun hid itself, the light grew dim, the divine veil of the temple was rent in twain, and the rocks split asunder; for the Righteous One, the praised and all-glorious God of our fathers, hung upon the Cross.

Wounded among mortals of Thine own will for our sake, as though helpless, O supremely Exalted One, Thou, the praised and all-glorious God of our fathers, hung upon the Cross.

Theotokion

Rejoice, O wellspring of the water of eternal life! Rejoice, paradise of delight! Rejoice, bulwark of the faithful! Rejoice, thou who knewest not wedlock! Rejoice, universal joy, through whom the praised and all-glorious God of our fathers hath shone forth!

Most Holy Theotokos, Save us.

Rejoice, O pure one! From thee hath the Shepherd, the supremely Exalted One, come forth, in His unapproachable compassion truly clothing Himself in the skin of Adam, in me, in all of man: the praised and all-glorious God of our fathers.

The pre-eternal God truly became the new Adam through thy pure blood. Him do thou now entreat that He restore me who have grown old, who cry: Praised and all-glorious is the God of our fathers!

Holy Father Nicholas, pray to God for us.

Into precipitous temptation have I fallen, and am grievously pierced; I have drawn nigh unto the gates of hell and am wounded by sorrows. Save me by thy supplications, O blessed one, and raise me up who chant: Blessed art Thou, O God of our fathers!

Illumined with the immaterial rays of the never-waning Light, rescue the afflicted who find themselves in the darkness of tribulations, and guide to the light of gladness those who chant: Blessed art Thou, O God of our fathers!

Theotokion

Ask Christ, thy Son and God, O Virgin Theotokos, for those sold under grievous transgressions and the deceptions of the serpent, that they may be delivered by His precious Blood who chant: Blessed art Thou, O God of our fathers!

Holy Father Nicholas, pray to God for us.

Having been shown to be a most excellent physician of all manner of grievous ailments, and having healed the infirmity of my soul, O father Nicholas, grant me goodly health, that I may cry: O God of our fathers, blessed art Thou!

Having mystically approached the cup of wisdom, O father Nicholas, from thy lips thou didst let fall rain-drops sweeter than honey or the honeycomb, commanding the people to cry aloud: O God of our fathers, blessed art Thou!

Glory... We hymn Thee, O Trinity, Thou thrice-effulgent consubstantial Unity-Father, Son and Holy Spirit. And having been baptized thereinto, we chant: O God of our fathers, blessed art Thou!

Both... As thou art more exalted than all other creatures, O Theotokos, entreat thy Son and God, that those who truly honour and glorify thee may be delivered from torments, crying: O God of our fathers, blessed art Thou!

C. Katavasia (Tone 1)

The youths who were brought up together in godliness,/ despising the command of the unrighteous infidel,/ were not terrified by the threatening fire,/ but standing in the midst of the flames they did sing:// O God of our fathers, blessed art Thou.

Canticle Eight

Irmos: Shining in the furnace more brightly/ than gold in a crucible in the beauty of their piety,/ the children of Israel said:/ Bless the Lord, all ye works of the Lord!// Hymn and exalt Him supremely for all ages!

Glory to Thy Holy Resurrection, O Lord.

O Word of God, Who by Thy will dost create and refashion all things, transforming the shadow of death into life everlasting by Thy sufferings: Thee do all of us, the works of the Lord, unceasingly hymn and supremely exalt for all ages.

Thou didst destroy distress and misery within the gates and strongholds of hades, O Christ, rising from the tomb on the third day. Thee do all Thy works unceasingly hymn and supremely exalt as Lord for all ages!

Theotokion

Let us hymn her who without seed supernaturally gave rise to Christ, the Pearl of great price, through the divine Effulgence; and let us say: Bless the Lord, all ye works of the Lord! Hymn and exalt Him supremely for all ages!

Most Holy Theotokos, Save us.

Rejoice, O glorious throne of God! Rejoice, bulwark of the faithful, through whom Christ hath shone light upon those in darkness, who call thee blessed and cry aloud: Hymn the Lord, all ye works of the Lord, and exalt Him supremely for all ages!

O most hymned Virgin who for us gavest birth to the Lord, the Author of our salvation, pray for all who earnestly cry out: Hymn the Lord, all ye works of the Lord, and exalt Him supremely for all ages!

Holy Father Nicholas, pray to God for us.

As thou art good and compassionate, O blessed Nicholas, free those who are grievously stuck in the abyss of perils, granting them release from the evils which hold them, by thy supplications to Christ the Saviour, O initiate of the sacred mysteries.

As thou art a mystagogue of things which pass understanding, the minister of things holy and celestial, and a faithful hierarch, O divinely wise one, ask our Saviour for remission of transgressions, O thou who art manifest in sanctity.

Theotokion

My mind now faileth, having fallen into the abyss of impiety, for I am beset on every side by diverse evils; yet do thou heal me, O Virgin, clothing me in the light of dispassion.

Holy Father Nicholas, pray to God for us.

The ranks of the patriarchs and apostles, the assemblies of the hieromartyrs, the company of prophets and the whole council of fasters bless thy godly life; and with them we also cry aloud: Let all creation bless the Lord and exalt Him supremely for all ages!

O Most High, O Word, Thou King of all, great in might! Through the supplications of the venerable pastor grant peace to the life of all Christians, aiding our Orthodox hierarchs in the struggle against heresy, that with him we may cry out to Christ: Let all creation bless the Lord and exalt Him supremely for all ages!

Let us bless Father, Son, Holy Spirit, the Lord!

Following the truly divine teachings of the fathers, with faith we hymn the Trinity--the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit--the Life and Lives, the One and Three Lights. And with them we piously chant: Let all creation bless the Lord and exalt Him supremely for all ages!

Both... Of old on Mount Sinai, the bush prefigured a strange mystery, O pure Maiden, burning without being consumed, depicting the mystery of thy birthgiving; for the fire of the Godhead which dwelt within thee preserved thee unharmed. Him do we magnify for all ages.

We praise, we bless, we worship the Lord, praising and supremely exalting Him unto all ages.

C. Katavasia (Tone 1)

The furnace moist with dew/ was the image and figure of a wonder past nature./ For it burnt not the Children whom it had received,/ even as the fire of the Godhead consumed not the Virgin's womb into which it had descended./ Therefore in praise let us sing:// Let the whole creation bless the Lord and exalt Him above all forever.

P. Magnificat

C. Song of the Most Holy Theotokos.

Canticle Nine

Irmos: The bush which burnt with fire yet was not consumed/ showed forth an image of thy pure birthgiving./ And we pray now that the furnace of temptations/ which rageth against us may be extinguished,// that we may magnify thee unceasingly, O Theotokos.

Glory to Thy Holy Resurrection, O Lord.

How have the iniquitous and disobedient people, plotting evils, justified a proud and ungodly man, yet condemned to the Tree the Righteous One, the Lord of glory, Whom we magnify as is meet?

O Saviour, Thou unblemished Lamb Who takest away the sins of the world: Thee Who hast risen on the third day do we glorify with the Father and Thy divine Spirit; and, theologizing, we magnify the Lord of glory.

Theotokion

Save Thy people, whom Thou hast acquired by Thy precious blood, O Lord, granting peace to Thy churches through the supplications of the Theotokos, O Thou Who lovest mankind.

Most Holy Theotokos, Save us.

Thou didst spring forth from the root of David, the prophet and ancestor of God, O Virgin; and thou hast truly glorified David, giving birth to the prophesied Lord of glory, Whom we magnify as is meet.

Every rule of praise is overturned by the magnitude of thy glory, O all-pure one. Yet accept the hymns of praise which we, thine unworthy servants, earnestly offer thee with love, O Mistress Theotokos.

Holy Father Nicholas, pray to God for us.

Enlightened by lamps of grace, O divinely wise one, thou didst manifestly become a lamp of piety: thou savest those in danger, deliverest

those who are out upon the deep of the sea, and all-gloriously feedest the hungry, O most blessed one.

Dwelling now in the sweetness of paradise, and clearly beholding ineffable glory, thou lookest down from the circles of heaven upon those who hymn thee, delivering them from sufferings, O most blessed God-bearer.

Theotokion

O pure Mother of God, thou gavest birth to the Wisdom, Power and hypostatic Word of the Father, Who built the temple of His body with thine all-pure blood, and joined Himself inseparably to it by unification.

Holy Father Nicholas, pray to God for us.

O ye who love the feasts of the Church, let us all join chorus in spirit. Ye heavens, ye mountains and hills, ye choirs of virgins and of the Church, ye splendor of fasters: rejoice at the memorial of the most blessed one; and, assembling together thereon, let us magnify the Saviour.

O Nicholas, accept this meager effort as fitting hymnody, as Christ accepted the widow's two mites. Disdain not one accursed with passions, for it is not out of pride that I have presumed, O thrice-blessed one.

Glory... The Trinity is united in consubstantial will, yet it is indivisibly distinguished as to Persons--the Father, the Son and the living Spirit the one God in three Hypostases, ever preserving the might of Him, Whom we magnify.

Both... All grief hath been abolished by thy birthgiving, and the Lord hath taken away lamentation, weeping, and each tear from the face of every mortal, O pure Theotokos who knewest not wedlock. In thee do we also fulfill our debt.

C. Katavasia (Tone 1)

A **strange** and most wonderful mystery do I **see**; / the cave is **heaven**; / the **Virgin** the throne of the **cherubim**; / the manger a room, in which Christ, the God Whom nothing can **contain**, is laid. // Him do we praise and **magnify**.

P. Small Ectenia

C. Holy is the Lord our God...

R. Exapostilarion Four, (Luke 24:1-12)

Lightning-bright with the virtues, we see standing upon the life-bearing tomb a man in shining garments while the women bearing myrrh bowed down their faces to the earth. Let us learn of the rising of Him Who reigns over heaven and let us hasten with Peter to Life in the tomb and wondering at that which has happened let us stay to behold Christ.

Exapostilarion for Saint Nicholas

Let us all praise Nicholas, the great archpastor, hierarch and prelate of Myra; for he saved many men who were unjustly condemned to be executed, appearing to the emperor and to Ablavius in a dream, annulling the unjust verdict.

Glory... Another Exapostilarion for Saint Nicholas

The Lord glorified thee greatly in miracles, both during thy life and after thine end, O hierarch Nicholas; for whenever anyone, out of love for the Faith, doth but call upon thy holy name, he is straightway heard, and findeth thee a fervent intercessor.

Both... Theotokion

Uttering loud and clear the sound: Hail! Thou, O Lord, hast changed the sorrow of the forefathers, bringing to the world in its stead the joy of Thy Resurrection. Then, O Giver of life, through her who brought Thee forth, Light that has enlightened hearts, do Thou send down the light of Thy mercies that we may cry aloud to Thee: Glory to Thy Resurrection, O God and Man Who lovest mankind.

C. Lauds: Tone 1 Stichera

Let every bre-ath **praise** the Lord/
 Praise the Lord from the **Heavens**/
Praise Him in the **highest**/
 To Thee is due a **hymn**, O God/
Praise Him, all ye His **Angels**://
 Praise Him, all **ye** His hosts.//
 To Thee is due a **hymn**, O God.

R. (The following may be read or sung antiphonally)

Praise Him, O sun and moon; praise Him, all ye stars and light.

Praise Him, ye heavens of heavens, and thou water that art above the heavens.

Let them praise the name of the Lord; For He spake, and they came to be; He commanded, and they were created.

He established them forever, yea, forever and ever; He hath set an ordinance, and it shall not pass away.

Praise the Lord from the earth, ye dragons and all ye abysses,
 Fire, hail, snow, ice, blast of tempest, which perform His word,
 The mountains and all the hills, fruitful trees, and all cedars,
 The beasts and all the cattle, creeping things and winged birds,
 Kings of the earth, and all peoples, princes and all judges of the earth,
 Young men and virgins, elders with the younger; let them praise the name of the Lord, for exalted is the name of Him alone.

His praise is above the earth and heaven, and He shall exalt the horn of His people.

This is the hymn for all His saints, for the sons of Israel, and for the people that draw nigh unto Him.

Sing unto the Lord a new song; His praise is in the church of the saints.

Let Israel be glad in Him that made him, let the sons of Sion rejoice in their king.

Let them praise His name in the dance; with the timbrel and the psaltery let them chant unto Him.

For the Lord taketh pleasure in His people, and He shall exalt the meek with salvation.

The saints shall boast in glory, and they shall rejoice upon their beds.

The high praise of God shall be in their throat, and two-edged swords shall be in their hands.

To do vengeance among the heathen, punishments among the peoples,

To bind their kings with fetters, and their nobles with manacles of iron,

- V. To do among them the judgment that is written/ This glory shall be to **all** His saints.
1. We **praise** in song Thy saving **passion**, O Christ,// and glorify Thy Resurrection.
- V. Praise ye God in His saints,/ praise Him in the firmament of His **power**.
2. Give **peace** to our **lives**,/ O Thou, the only **Almighty** Lord,/ Who hast endured the Cross and hast **laid** death low// and risen **from** the dead.
- V. Praise Him for His mighty acts,/ praise Him according to the multitude of His **greatness**.
3. Vouch**safe** that we may praise and glorify Thee with a pure **heart**, O Christ,/ Who hast **despoiled** death,// and raised up man through Thy Resurrection.
- V. Praise Him with the sound of trumpet,/ praise Him with **psaltery** and harp.
4. **Glorifying** Thy divinely fitting condescension,/ we praise **Thee**, O Christ./ Born of the Virgin without parting from the **Father**,/ Thou hast suffered as man and willingly **endured** the Cross./ Glory be to Thee, O Lord, Who, preceding as from a **chamber**,// hast risen from the tomb to **save** the world.
- V. Praise Him with timbrel and dance,/ praise Him with **strings** and flute.

Stichera for Saint Nicholas (Tone 1)

5. **Lifting** thine eyes unwaveringly toward the heights of understanding,/ and gazing mystically into the abyss of wisdom, O **father**,/ thou hast enriched the world with thy **teachings**.// Pray thou ever Christ in our behalf, O holy hierarch **Nicholas**.
- V. Praise Him with tuneful cymbals, praise Him with cymbals of jubilation./ Let every breath praise the Lord.
6. O man of **God**, faithful favorite, performer of His **mysteries**,/ man of divine desires, animate pillar and inspired **image**:/ the Church of Myra, **marveling**,// received thee as a divine treasure, an advocate **for** our souls.
- V. Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints.
7. Thou didst **stand** before the pious emperor in a dream, and didst deliver the prisoners from death, O **father**./ Pray thou unceasingly, that by thy supplications, we also, who **praise** thee well,// may be delivered from temptations, mis**fortunes** and pain.

V. Thy priests shall be clothed with righteousness, and Thy righteous shall rejoice.

(Tone 5)

8. Rejoicing, let us sound the trumpet of **festal** hymns,/ let us leap up and join chorus on this the God-bearing father's prayerful celebration./ **Let** kings and princes come together,/ and let them **hymn** him who by his dread appearance **in** a dream/ prevailed upon the king to release the three warriors who were unjustly imprisoned./ O ye teachers and pastors of the good **Shepherd**,/ assembling, let us praise the pastor who showed forth **love** like His./ And lauding the great hierarch, the physician of the **infirm**,/ the deliverer of those in misfortune, the helper of **sinners**,/ the treasure of the poor, the consoler of the **sorrowful**,/ the companion of those who travel, the helmsman of **those** at seas,/ who fervently anticipateth the needs of all in every place,/ let us say thus: O all-holy **Nicholas**,// come forth and deliver us from these present tribulations and save thy flock by thy supplications!

Glory... Gospel Sticheron, (Tone 4)

It is very early in the **morning**/ and the women went to Thy **tomb**, O Christ,/ but the **Body** desired by them was **not** to be found./ Therefore two men stood by them in shining **garments**/ and said to them as they were **much** perplexed:/ "Why seek ye the living **among** the dead?/ He is risen as He **beforehand** said./ Why remember ye **not** His words?"/ And believing the things they had seen they **proclaimed** them/ but it was thought that the good tidings were **idle** tales./ So dull still were the **disciples**.// But Peter ran and beholding, gave Thee glory in himself for the **wonders**.

Both now and ever... (Tone 2)

Most Blessed art Thou, O Virgin Theotokos,/ for through Him Who became incarnate of thee is hades led **captiv**e,/ **Adam** recalled, the curse annulled, Eve set free, **death** slain,/ and we are given life. Wherefore, we cry **aloud** in praise:/ Blessed art Thou, O **Christ** God,// Who hast been thus well-pleased, **glory** to Thee.

The Great Doxology

Dismissal Tropar:

Today is salvation come unto the world; let us sing to Him Who arose from the tomb, and is the Author of our life. For having destroyed death by death, He hath given us the victory and great mercy.

P. Litanies
Dismissal

R. Hours
Tropar: Resurrection & Saint
Kontak: Saint/Resurrection alternating

At Liturgy:

Order of Troparia & Kontakia as per Vigil service

Prokimenon for Tone 1

Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us, according as we have hoped in Thee.

V. Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous; praise is meet for the upright.

Prokimenon for St. Nicholas (Tone 7)

The righteous man shall be glad in the Lord, and shall hope in Him.

Epistle(s): Eph 5:8-19 & Heb 13:17-21

Alleluia for Tone 1

V. The God that giveth avengement unto me hath subdued peoples under me.

V. It is He that magnifieth the salvation of His king and worketh mercy for His anointed, for David, and for his seed unto eternity.

Alleluia for St. Nicholas (Tone 4)

V. Thy priests shall be clothed in righteousness, and Thy righteous shall rejoice.

Gospel(s): Luke 17:12-19 & Luke 6:17-23a

Communion Verse: Praise Ye & In everlasting remembrance...