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The Service of Matins

for Friday, December 6, 2019

Menaion - December 6 Memory of Saint Nicholas, Archbishop of Myra

Katavasias of Christmas I

Text in English

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vol Orthodox Monastery of the Veil of our Lady

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Menaion - December 6

Memory of our Father among the Saints Nicholas the Wonder-worker, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia

MATINS

CHOIR

Mode 4.

God is the Lord, and He revealed Himself to us. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. [SAAS]

Verse 1: Give thanks to the Lord and call upon His name.

or: Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; for His mercy endures forever.

Verse 2: All the nations surrounded me, but in the name of the Lord I defended myself against them.

Verse 3: And this came about from the Lord, and it is wonderful in our eyes.

Apolytikion. For the Saint. Mode 4.

A rule of faith are you, and an icon of gentleness, and a teacher of self-control. And to your flock this was evident, by the truth of your life and deeds. You were humble and therefore you acquired exalted gifts, treasure in heaven for being poor. O Father and Hierarch St. Nicholas, intercede with Christ our God, and entreat Him to save our souls.

Glory. Repeat. Mode 4.

A rule of faith are you, and an icon of gentleness, and a teacher of self-control. And to your flock this was evident, by the truth of your life and deeds. You were humble

and therefore you acquired exalted gifts, treasure in heaven for being poor. O Father and Hierarch St. Nicholas, intercede with Christ our God, and entreat Him to save our souls.

From Octoechos - - -

Both now. **Theotokion. Mode 4.**

O Theotokos, through you became manifest to us on earth the mystery, which was hid from eternity, and which the Angels themselves knew not: that God, uniting natures without confusion, becomes a man and accepts crucifixion for our salvation voluntarily. By virtue of this, resurrecting man whom He had first created, He saved our souls from death.

PRIEST

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

(Lord, have mercy.)

Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and protect us, O God, by Your grace.

(Lord, have mercy.)

Commemorating our most holy, pure, blessed, and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.

(To You, O Lord.)

For Yours is the dominion, and Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

(Amen.)

From Menaion - - -

CHOIR

Kathisma I.

Mode 1. *The soldiers keeping watch.*

You brightly shine on earth with the rays of your wonders, * inciting every tongue to sing praises and glory * of God who has glorified you on earth, O wise Nicholas. * Pray Him earnestly, as one select of the fathers, * that we who keep your feast with faith and love be delivered * from every necessity.

Glory. Repeat.

You brightly shine on earth with the rays of your wonders, * inciting every tongue to sing praises and glory * of God who has glorified you on earth, O wise Nicholas. * Pray Him earnestly, as one select of the fathers, * that we who keep your feast with faith and love be delivered * from every necessity.

Both now. Theotokion. Same Melody.

O Mary, who became the Master's hallowed vessel, * now raise us up, for we have fallen into the chasm * of awful despondency, and transgressions and suffering. * For you have indeed become salvation for sinners, * and their help in need and their prevailing protection; * and you save your servants. [SD]

From Menaion - - -

Kathisma II.

Mode 4. You appeared today.

Blessed father Nicholas, * you are a foremost defender * of the faithful, guard and shield, * Ven'rable saint, and it is clear * that you redeem them from every woe, * O finest honor and glory of hierarchs.

Glory. Repeat.

Blessed father Nicholas, * you are a foremost defender * of the faithful, guard and shield, * Ven'rable saint, and it is clear * that you redeem them from every woe, * O finest honor and glory of hierarchs.

Both now. **Theotokion. Mode 4.** *You appeared today.*

As the ready advocate * for those who trust you, * overlook me not, I pray, * but from the perils set me free, * O Theotokos, the help of all, * and for the needy, defense unassailable. [50]

Kathisma III.

From Menaion - -

Mode 4. Come quickly.

O Nicholas, manifestly you protected the Church * of Christ with the utmost zeal, refuting godless beliefs * and doctrines of heresies, * censuring them with candor. * And for all you were clearly * Orthodoxy's rule of faith and great intercessor * for all who would follow your divine teachings and conferences.

Glory. Both now. **Theotokion. Mode 4.** *Come quickly.*

Be swift to accept our fervent prayers,
O Lady and Queen, * and take them, allblameless Maiden, and present them for us *
before your own Son and God. * Rescue from
every trouble * those who run to your shelter.
* Frustrate the machinations and humble the
boldness * of the godless who against your
servants have taken arms. [5D]

DEACON

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

(Lord, have mercy.)

Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and protect us, O God, by Your grace.

(Lord, have mercy.)

Commemorating our most holy, pure, blessed, and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.

(To You, O Lord.)

PRIEST

For blessed is your name, and glorified is your kingdom, of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

(Amen.)

CHOIR

Antiphon I. Mode 4.

Since my youth have many passions waged war against me. O my Savior, nonetheless help me and save me. (2)

You, the haters of Zion, be put to shame by the Lord, for like thatch in fire you will be completely dried up. (2) [SD]

Glory.

From the Holy Spirit every soul receives life, and through cleansing is lifted and brightened, in a hidden, sacred manner, by the trinal Monad. [50]

Both now.

From the Holy Spirit do the streams of grace well forth; they irrigate everything created, so that life be engendered. [5D]

Prokeimenon. Psalm 115.

Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His holy one. (2)

Verse: What shall I give back to the Lord for all He rendered to me?

Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His holy one. [SAAS]

DEACON

Let us pray to the Lord.

(Lord, have mercy.)

PRIEST

For you are holy, our God, who rest among the Saints, and to you we give glory, to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

CHOIR

Amen.

Mode 2.

Let everything that breathes praise the Lord. (2) Let everything that breathes praise the Lord. [SAAS]

DEACON

Let us pray to the Lord our God that we may be made worthy to hear the holy Gospel.

(Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.)

DEACON

Wisdom. Arise. Let us hear the Holy Gospel.

PRIEST

Peace be with all.

(And with your spirit.)

PRIEST

The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to John.

DEACON

Let us be attentive.

(Glory to You, O Lord, glory to You.)

PRIEST (from the gate)

Jn. 10:1-9

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

(Glory to You, O Lord, glory to You.)

READER

Psalm 50 (51).

Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your great mercy; and according to the abundance of Your compassion, blot out my transgression. Wash me thoroughly from my lawlessness and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my lawlessness, and my sin is always before me. Against You only have I sinned and done evil in Your sight; that You may be

justified in Your words, and overcome when You are judged. For behold, I was conceived in transgressions, and in sins my mother bore me. Behold, You love truth; You showed me the unknown and secret things of Your wisdom. You shall sprinkle me with hyssop, and I will be cleansed; You shall wash me, and I will be made whiter than snow. You shall make me hear joy and gladness; my bones that were humbled shall greatly rejoice. Turn Your face from my sins, and blot out all my transgressions. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Do not cast me away from Your presence, and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me with Your guiding Spirit. I will teach transgressors Your ways, and the ungodly shall turn back to You. Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, the God of my salvation, and my tongue shall greatly rejoice in Your righteousness. O Lord, You shall open my lips, and my mouth will declare Your praise. For if You desired sacrifice, I would give it; You will not be pleased with whole burnt offerings. A sacrifice to God is a broken spirit, a broken and humbled heart God will not despise. Do good, O Lord, in Your good pleasure to Zion, and let the walls of Jerusalem be built; then You will be pleased with a sacrifice of righteousness, with offerings and whole burnt offerings; then shall they offer young bulls on Your altar. [SAAS]

From Menaion - - -

CHOIR

Glory. Mode 2.

At the intercession of Your holy Hierarch, O Lord of mercy, blot out my many offences.

[SD]

Both now.

At the intercession of the Theotokos, O Lord of mercy, blot out my many offences. [5D]

Idiomelon. Mode pl. 2.

Verse: Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your great mercy; and according to the abundance of Your compassion, blot out my transgression. [SAAS]

Well done, good and faithful servant; well done, O laborer of the vineyard of Christ! You bore the burden of the day, and increased the talent that was given you, and did not envy those who came after you. Therefore the portal of heaven was opened to you. Enter into the joy of you Lord, and intercede on our behalf, O Saint Nicholas.

DEACON

O God, save your people and bless your inheritance. Look upon your world with mercy and compassion. Raise the Orthodox Christians in glory, and send down upon us your rich mercies, through the intercessions of our most pure Lady the Theotokos and ever-Virgin Mary, the power of the precious and life giving Cross, the protection of the honorable, bodiless Powers of heaven, the supplications of the honorable and glorious prophet, and forerunner John the Baptist, the holy, glorious, and praiseworthy Apostles, our Fathers among the Saints, the great hierarchs and ecumenical teachers, Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian and John Chrysostom, Athanasios, Cyril, and John the Merciful, patriarchs of Alexandria;

Spyridon, bishop of Trimythous, Nektarios of Pentapolis, the wonder-workers; the holy, glorious great Martyrs George the Victorious, Demetrios the Myrobletes, Theodore the Teron, and Theodore the General, Menas the Wonderworker, the Hieromartyrs Haralambos and Eleftherios; the holy, glorious, and victorious martyrs; the glorious great Martyr and all-laudable Euphemia; the holy and glorious Martyrs Thecla, Barbara, Anastasia, Katherine, Kyriake, Fotene, Marina, Paraskeve and Irene; of our holy God-bearing Fathers; (local patron saint); the holy and righteous ancestors of God Joachim and Anna, our Father among the Saints Nicholas the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia, whose memory we celebrate; and of all your Saints. We beseech you, only merciful Lord, hear us sinners who pray to you and have mercy on us.

CHOIR

Lord, have mercy. (12)

PRIEST

Through the mercy, compassion, and love of mankind of your only-begotten Son, with whom you are blessed, together with your all-holy, good and life-giving Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

(Amen.)

From Menaion - - -

READER

Kontakion.

Mode 3. On this day.

You became the minister of sacred mysteries in Myra, * holy father Nicholas. Fulfilling Christ's holy Gospel, * you laid down your very soul for your people, * and you saved those who were innocent from dying. * For this reason you were hallowed as a great mystic * of the divine grace of God. [5D]

Oikos.

Let us now with songs extol the Hierarch, O people, that shepherd and teacher in Myra, so that by his intercession we may be illumined. Behold, he appeared completely pure, incorrupt in spirit, offering to Christ a blameless sacrifice, sincere, acceptable to God, as a priest purified in soul and body. Therefore he is truly the Church's protector and her champion, as a great mystic of the divine grace of God. [5D]

Synaxarion.

From the Menaion.

On December 6, we commemorate our Father among the saints Nicholas the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia.

On this day we also commemorate the holy Neo-martyr Nicholas of Caramania, who witnessed in Smyrna in the year 1657.

By their holy intercessions, O God, have mercy on us. Amen.

CHOIR

Katavasias of Christmas I Ode i. Mode 1.

Christ is born; glorify Him! * Christ is come from heaven; go and meet Him. * Christ is on earth; arise to Him. * Sing to the Lord, all you who dwell on the earth; * and in merry spirits, O you peoples, praise His birth. * For He is glorified.

Ode iii.

To the Son, begotten * without flux, of the Father, before the ages, * and who was lately made incarnate * of the Virgin without seed; * to Christ God now let us cry aloud: * You have

exalted the horn of our strength. Only You are holy, O Lord. [SD]

Ode iv.

Jesse's root produced a branch, O Christ, * and You its flower blossomed forth, * from the Virgin who by Habakkuk prophetically once was called * overshadowed, dense mountain. * From her who knew not man You came incarnate, * the immaterial God. * Glory to Your power, O Lord. [5D]

Ode v.

God of peace and Father of mercies, Your Son * You have sent unto us as Your messenger, * the Angel of great counsel who is granting peace. * Therefore having been guided to the light of godly knowledge, * waking from the night to dawn, we sing Your glory, O Lover of man. [SD]

Ode vi.

Such as it received * Jonah as an embryo, the sea beast disgorged him from its bowels intact. * With the Virgin, though, when the Logos had dwelt in her taking on flesh, * He came forth from her preserving her yet incorrupt. * For from her no fluxion suffered He, * and He kept her unaltered in childbirth.

Ode vii.

The Servants nurtured piously together,

* with contempt regarding the impious
king's decree, * intrepidly faced the threat of
holocaust, * and while standing in the midst of
flames they chanted thus, * saying: O God of
the fathers, You are blessed.

Ode viii.

We praise and we bless and we worship the Lord.

Babylon's bedewing furnace bore the image * of an extraordinary wonder. * For it did not burn the youths it accepted, * nor did the fire of Divinity consume the Virgin's womb wherein it went. * So let us melodiously chant in praise: * Let all creation bless and extol the Lord, * and let it exalt Him supremely to the ages. [5D]

DEACON

Let us honor and magnify in song the Theotokos and the Mother of the light.

CHOIR

Ode ix. Megalynarion. Mode 1.

Verse: My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior. [NKIVI]

Greater in honor than the Cherubim, and in glory greater beyond compare than the Seraphim; you without corruption gave birth to God the Word, and are truly Theotokos. You do we magnify. [5D]

Verse: For He has regarded the lowly state of His maidservant; for behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed. [NKJV]

Greater in honor than the Cherubim, and in glory greater beyond compare than the Seraphim; you without corruption gave birth to God the Word, and are truly Theotokos. You do we magnify. [5D]

Verse: For He who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is His name. And His

mercy is on those who fear Him from generation to generation. [NK]VI

Greater in honor than the Cherubim, and in glory greater beyond compare than the Seraphim; you without corruption gave birth to God the Word, and are truly Theotokos. You do we magnify. [5D]

Verse: He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. [NKJV]

Greater in honor than the Cherubim, and in glory greater beyond compare than the Seraphim; you without corruption gave birth to God the Word, and are truly Theotokos. You do we magnify. [5D]

Verse: He has put down the mighty from their thrones, and exalted the lowly. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich He has sent away empty. [NKIV]

Greater in honor than the Cherubim, and in glory greater beyond compare than the Seraphim; you without corruption gave birth to God the Word, and are truly Theotokos. You do we magnify. [5D]

Verse: He has helped His servant Israel, in remembrance of His mercy, as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his seed forever. [NK]VI

Greater in honor than the Cherubim, and in glory greater beyond compare than the Seraphim; you without corruption gave birth to God the Word, and are truly Theotokos. You do we magnify. [SD]

Ode ix. Katavasia. Mode 1.

O my soul, magnify her who is greater in honor and in glory than the armies of heaven.

I see here a strange and paradoxical mystery. * For, behold, the grotto is heaven; * cherubic throne is the Virgin; * the manger a grand space * in which Christ our God the uncontainable reclined as a babe; * Whom in extolling do we magnify.

DEACON

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

(Lord, have mercy.)

Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and protect us, O God, by Your grace.

(Lord, have mercy.)

Commemorating our most holy, pure, blessed, and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.

(To You, O Lord.)

PRIEST

For all the powers of heaven praise You and give You glory, to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

(Amen.)

CHOIR

Exaposteilarion.

From Menaion - - -

Mode 2. O Women, hearken.

Come all believers, let us praise * the great archpastor, hierarch, * and prelate of those in Myra, * Saint Nicholas, and extol him; for he delivered many men * from wrongful death, appearing in * a dream unto the Emperor

* and to Avlávios, thereby * rescinding the unjust sentence. [5D]

Another.

Mode 2. O Women, hearken.

O Nicholas the Hierarch, * both in your life and after death, * the Lord greatly glorified you * with miracles, holy father. * For who has ever simply prayed, * invoking your all-holy name * with all his faith and not been heard * immediately or found you * to be his ardent protector?

Theotokion.

Mode 2. O Women, hearken.

O Virgin who gave birth to Christ, * the great Physician of one and all, * who is hypostatic Wisdom * and super-essential Logos, * I supplicate you fervently * to heal my soul's distressing sores * and its long-standing maladies, * and stop my heart's meditation * on unseemly recollections. [5D]

Lauds. Mode 1.

Let everything that breathes praise the Lord. Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest. It is fitting to sing a hymn to You, O God. [SAAS]

Praise Him, all you His angels; praise Him, all you His hosts. It is fitting to sing a hymn to You, O God. [SAAS]

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

Praise Him, you heavens of heavens, and you waters above the heavens. Let them praise the Lord's name.

For He spoke, and they were made; He commanded, and they were created.

He established them forever and unto ages of ages; He set forth His ordinance, and it shall not pass away. Praise the Lord from the earth, you dragons and all the deeps.

Fire and hail, snow and ice, stormy wind, which perform His word.

Mountains and all the hills, fruitful trees and all cedars.

Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds.

Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all judges of the earth.

Young men and maidens, elders with younger, let them praise the Lord's name, for His name alone is exalted.

His thanksgiving is in earth and heaven. And He shall exalt the horn of His people.

A hymn for all His saints, for the children of Israel, a people who draw near to Him.

Sing to the Lord a new song, His praise in the assembly of His holy ones.

Let Israel be glad in Him who made him, and let the children of Zion greatly rejoice in their King.

Let them praise His name with dance; with tambourine and harp let them sing to Him.

For the Lord is pleased with His people, and He shall exalt the gentle with salvation.

The holy ones shall boast in glory, and they shall greatly rejoice on their beds.

The high praise of God shall be in their mouth and a two-edged sword in their hand.

To deal retribution to the nations, reproving among the peoples.

To shackle their kings with chains and their nobles with fetters of iron.

To fulfill among them the written judgment: this glory have all His holy ones.

Praise God in His saints; praise Him in the firmament of His power.

Stichera. For the Hierarch.

From Menaion - - -

Mode 1. For the celestial orders.

Praise Him for His mighty acts; praise Him according to the abundance of His greatness. [SAAS]

As you are hovering over the flowers of the Church, * being yourself a fledgling * of the nest of the Angels, * O Nicholas thrice blessed, you ever cry * unto God on behalf of all * who in temptations and perils invoke your aid; * and you rescue them by fervent prayers. [SD]

Praise Him with the sound of trumpet; praise Him with the harp and lyre. [SAAS]

By means of practical virtue you made the elegance * of sacerdotal vesture shine with greater resplendence, * O God-bearing Father. Hence as a priest * you accomplish terrific deeds, * and from lamentable woes you deliver us, * as you work your famous miracles. (SD)

Praise Him with timbrel and dance; praise Him with strings and flute. [SAAS]

Being surrounded by beauties of things invisible, * you gained a comprehension of that awe-inspiring glory, * Nicholas, O holy one among saints. * And you therefore announce to us, * O sacred father, the heavenly words that speak * of the vision of eternity. [SD]

Praise Him with resounding cymbals; praise Him with triumphant cymbals; let everything that breathes praise the Lord. [SAAS]

As you appeared in a dream to the pious Emperor * and thus from death then rescued * those unjustly imprisoned, * intercede unceasingly so that now * we who worthily

sing your praise * be from temptations and perils and every pain * likewise rescued, Father Nicholas.

Glory.

From Menaion - - -

Mode pl. 1.

Let us sound the trumpet with the clarion of song, and festively let us leap for joy, and exultantly let us join chorus for the annual celebration of the God-bearing Father. Let the kings and princes run to gather together, and with hymns extol him who by his fearsome appearance in a dream convinced the Emperor to release the three imprisoned officers, for they were innocent. O Shepherds and Teachers, let us come together and praise the Shepherd and zealous imitator of the Good Shepherd. Those of us who are sick let us praise the physician; our rescuer, we in perils; and sinners, our defender; you paupers, him who makes you rich; you in tribulation, your consolation; your fellow traveler, you who travel; your pilot, you who sail the seas. And everyone extol him who anticipates everywhere, as the grandest Hierarch. And in lauding him, let us say to him, "All-holy father Nicholas, quickly come and deliver us from the present necessity, and save your flock, by your supplications." [50]

From Octoechos - - -

Both now. Theotokion.

Now we call you blessed, O Virgin Theotokos, and we glorify you, duty-bound as believers; the city unshakable, the wall indestructible, the firm and steadfast protection, and the place of refuge for our souls.

Great Doxology

Glory be to You who showed the light. Glory in the highest to God. His peace is on earth, His good pleasure in mankind.

We praise You, we bless You, we worship You, we glorify You, we give thanks to You for Your great glory.

Lord King, heavenly God, Father, Ruler over all; Lord, only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ; and You, O Holy Spirit.

Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, who take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us, You who take away the sins of the world.

Accept our supplication, You who sit at the right hand of the Father, and have mercy on us.

For You alone are holy, You alone are Lord, Jesus Christ, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Every day I will bless You, and Your name will I praise to eternity, and to the ages of ages.

Vouchsafe, O Lord, this day, that we be kept without sin.

Blessed are You, O Lord, the God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is Your name to the ages. Amen.

Let Your mercy be on us, O Lord, as we have set our hope on You.

Blessed are You, O Lord. Teach me Your statutes.

Blessed are You, O Lord. Teach me Your statutes.

Blessed are You, O Lord. Teach me Your statutes.

Lord, You have been our refuge from generation to generation. I said: Lord, have mercy on me. Heal my soul, for I have sinned against You.

Lord, I have fled to You. Teach me to do Your will, for You are my God.

For with You is the fountain of life; in Your light we shall see light.

Continue Your mercy to those who know You.

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

Glory to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Both now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.

Apolytikion. For the Saint. Mode 4.

A rule of faith are you, and an icon of gentleness, and a teacher of self-control. And to your flock this was evident, by the truth of your life and deeds. You were humble and therefore you acquired exalted gifts, treasure in heaven for being poor. O Father and Hierarch St. Nicholas, intercede with Christ our God, and entreat Him to save our souls.