

Reader's Service for Sunday 6th December 2020

26th Sunday after Pentecost

St Nicholas the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia

The 'Reader' may be the most senior person present – e.g. a parent or grandparent, according to the situation – or simply the most confident reader or singer. The parts marked for the 'Choir' can be read or sung by everyone together, or by one person alone. Music for some parts may be found on the website: www.orthodoxcommunityrugby.com/choir/ If no one present is a confident singer, the service can be chanted on one note, or simply read. You may prefer to use parts of the service in your own language. If so, please make sure that the prayers are read from an Orthodox prayer book or service book.

Before the Service

If possible, the Service should be said in front of the household icons – e.g. in the family icon corner. If practical, and if they are available, a Cross and a Book of the Gospels (or a copy of New Testament, or a Bible) should be placed on a table in front of the icons. A lamp or candle, and incense, if available, should be lit before the Service begins.

Reader: Through the prayers of our Holy Fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy upon us, and save us. Amen.

In place of the GREAT LITANY, the choir sings:
Lord, have mercy. (x 12)

FIRST ANTIPHON

Psalm 102

Choir: Bless the Lord, O my soul:/ Blessed art Thou, O Lord.
Bless the Lord, O my soul:/ and all that is within me, bless His holy Name.
Bless the Lord, O my soul:/ and forget not all His benefits:
Who forgiveth all thine iniquities,/ Who healeth all thy diseases.
The Lord is merciful and gracious,/ slow to anger and plenteous in mercy.
Bless the Lord, O my soul:/ and all that is within me, bless His holy Name. Blessed art Thou, O Lord.

In place of the LITTLE LITANY, the choir sings:
Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

SECOND ANTIPHON

Psalm 145

Choir: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Praise the Lord, O my soul./ While I live will I praise the Lord;/ I will sing praises unto my God while I have any being.
Put not your trust in princes, nor in any sons of men/ in whom there is no help.
His breath goeth forth, he returneth to his earth:/ in that very day his thoughts perish.
The Lord shall reign forever:/ even thy God, O Zion, unto all generations.

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

O only-begotten Son and Word of God. O Thou Who art Immortal, yet for our salvation didst deign to be incarnate of the holy Mother of God and Ever-Virgin Mary; and without change wast made man; Who also wast crucified for us; and by death didst overcome death: save us, O Christ, our God; one Person of the Holy Trinity, glorified together with the Father and the Holy Spirit.

In place of the LITTLE LITANY, the choir sings:

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

THIRD ANTIPHON

The Beatitudes

Choir: In Thy Kingdom remember us, O Lord,/ when Thou comest in Thy Kingdom.

Blessed are the poor in spirit:/ for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.

Blessed are they that mourn:/ for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek:/ for they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness:/ for they shall be filled.

Blessed are the merciful:/ for they shall obtain mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart:/ for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers:/ for they shall be called the children of God.

Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake:/ for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.

Blessed are ye when men shall revile you and persecute you,/ and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.

Rejoice and be exceeding glad:// for great is your reward in Heaven.

ENTRANCE HYMN

Choir: O come, let us worship and fall down before Christ. O Son of God, Who art risen from the dead, save us who sing to Thee: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

TROPARIA

Troparion of the Resurrection in Tone 1 [Music on website]

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!”

Troparion of Saint Nicholas in Tone 4 [Music on website]

The truth of things revealed thee to thy flock as a rule of faith,
an icon of meekness and a teacher of temperance;
wherefore thou hast achieved the heights by humility,
riches by poverty.
O father and hierarch Nicholas,
intercede with Christ God, //
that our souls be saved.

THE TRISAGION

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

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

Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.

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

PROKEIMENA

Reader: The Prokeimenon in the First Tone.

Reader: Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us, as we have set our hope on Thee.

Choir: Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us, as we have set our hope on Thee.

Reader: Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous! Praise befits the just!

Choir: Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us, as we have set our hope on Thee.

Reader: [And] in the Seventh Tone.

Reader: The righteous shall rejoice in the Lord, and shall hope in Him.

Choir: The righteous shall rejoice in the Lord, and shall hope in Him.

EPISTLE

Reader: The Reading from the Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the
Corinthians [Ephesians 5:8b-19]

Ye Brethren: Walk as children of the light, for the fruit of light is found in
all that is good and right and true. Try to learn what is pleasing to the
Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead
expose them. For it is a shame even to speak of the things that they do in
secret, but when anything is exposed by the light it becomes visible, for
anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it is said, “Awake, O
sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give you light.” Look
carefully then how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the
most of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish,
but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not get drunk with
wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one
another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making
melody to the Lord with all your heart.

Ye Brethren: Obey your leaders and submit to them; for they are keeping
watch over your souls, as men who will have to give account. Let them
do this joyfully, and not sadly, for that would be of no advantage to you.
Pray for us, for we are sure that we have a clear conscience, desiring to
act honourably in all things. I urge you the more earnestly to do this in
order that I may be restored to you the sooner. Now may the God of
peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great
Shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you
with everything good that you may do His will, working in you that
which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for
ever and ever. Amen. [Hebrews 13:17-21]

ALLELUIA

Reader: God gives vengeance unto me, and subdues people under me.

Choir: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Reader: He magnifies the salvation of the King and deals mercifully
with David, His anointed, and his seed forever.

Choir: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Reader: Thy priests shall be clothed in righteousness, and Thy saints
shall rejoice.

Choir: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

THE GOSPEL

All stand for the reading of the Gospel. The Gospel is read by the most senior person present – e.g. a parent or grandparent – according to the situation.

Reader: The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke

Choir: Glory be to Thee, O Lord, glory be to Thee.

Reader: At that time, Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. And there was a woman who had a spirit of infirmity for eighteen years; she was bent over and could not fully straighten herself. And when Jesus saw her, he called her and said to her, "Woman, you are freed from your infirmity." And he laid his hands upon her, and immediately she was made straight, and she praised God. 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." 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? And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath day?" 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. [Luke 13:10-17]

At that time: Jesus stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea and Jerusalem and the seacoast of Tyre and Sidon, who came to hear him and to be healed of their diseases, and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. And all the crowd sought to touch him, for power came forth from him and healed them all. And he lifted up his eyes on his disciples, and said: "Blessed are you poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. Blessed are you that hunger now, for you shall be satisfied. Blessed are you that weep now, for you shall laugh. Blessed are you when men hate you, and when they exclude you and revile you, and cast out your name as evil, on account of the Son of man! Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven; for so their fathers did to the prophets." [Luke 6:17-23]

Choir: Glory be to Thee, O Lord, glory be to Thee.

Instead of the AUGMENTED LITANY, the Choir sings:

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

PRAYER TO THE LORD OF HOSTS

Reader: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, both now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Remember us, O Lord, when Thou comest into Thy Kingdom. *(All make a deep reverence)*

Remember us, O Master, when Thou comest into Thy Kingdom. *(Reverence)*

Remember us, O Holy One, when Thou comest into Thy Kingdom. *(Reverence)*

The heavenly choir sings to Thee, and cries: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Hosts; heaven and earth are full of Thy glory.

Come unto Him and be enlightened, and your faces shall not be ashamed.

The heavenly choir sings to Thee, and cries: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Hosts; heaven and earth are full of Thy glory.

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

The choir of holy Angels and Archangels, with all the Powers of heaven, sing Thy praises and do cry: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Hosts; heaven and earth are full of Thy glory.

Both now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

THE CREED (SYMBOL OF FAITH)

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made; of one substance with the Father, by Whom all things were made.

Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate of the Holy Ghost and the Virgin Mary, and was made man. And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate, He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of the Father.

And He shall come again with glory to judge the quick and the dead,
Whose kingdom shall have no end.
And in the Holy Ghost, the Lord, the Giver of Life, Who proceedeth from
the Father;
Who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified,
Who spake by the Prophets.
In One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church.
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins.
And I look for the Resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to
come. Amen.

PRAYER OF FORGIVENESS

Reader: O God, remit, pardon and forgive our sins, whether voluntary or
involuntary, whether by words or deeds, whether in knowledge or
ignorance, whether by day or night, whether in mind or thought; forgive
us all these, for Thou art good and lovest mankind.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name, Thy Kingdom come.
Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from the evil one.

Reader: Through the prayers of our Holy Fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our
God, have mercy upon us, and save us. Amen.

KONTAKIA

Kontakion of the Resurrection in Tone 1

[\[Music on website\]](#)

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 freed from bondage and cries to Thee://
"Thou art the Giver of Resurrection to all, O Christ!"

Kontakion of Saint Nicholas in Tone 3

[\[Music on website\]](#)

Thou didst appear as a priest in Myra, O Saint Nicholas,
fulfilling the Gospel of Christ, O venerable one;
thou didst lay down thy life for thy people
and didst rescue the innocent from death.//
Therefore, thou hast been blest as a great initiate of the grace of God.

Both now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Steadfast Protectress of Christians in Tone 6

[\[Music on website\]](#)

Steadfast Protectress of Christians,
Constant advocate before the Creator,
despise not the cry of us sinners,
but in thy goodness
come speedily to help us who call on thee in faith.
Hasten to hear our petition and to intercede for us, O Theotokos,
for thou dost ever protect those who honour thee.

Reader: Lord, have mercy. (x 12)

Reader: All-holy Trinity, Mighty one in essence, Kingdom undivided,
origin of all good things, be graciously inclined also to me, a sinner.
Establish me; give understanding to my heart, and purge away all my
vileness. Enlighten my mind, that I may glorify, sing praises, and adore
Thee, and say:

Choir: One is Holy,/ One is Lord,/ Jesus Christ,/ to the glory of God the
Father. Amen.

Choir: Blessed be the Name of the Lord, from this time forth and for
evermore. (x 3)

Reader: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, both
now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

PSALM 33

Reader: I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall continually be
in my mouth. My soul makes its boast in the Lord; let the afflicted hear

and be glad. O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt His name together. I sought the Lord, and he answered me, and delivered me from all my fears. Look to Him, and be radiant; so your faces shall never be ashamed. This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles. The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear Him, and delivers them. O taste and see that the Lord is good! Happy is the man who takes refuge in Him! O fear the Lord, you His saints, for those who fear Him have no want. The young lions suffer want and hunger; but those who seek the Lord lack no good thing.

Come, O sons, listen to me, I will teach you the fear of the Lord. What man is there who desires life, and covets many days, that he may enjoy good? Keep your tongue from evil, and your lips from speaking deceit. Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it. The eyes of the Lord are toward the righteous, and his ears toward their cry. The face of the Lord is against evildoers, to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth. When the righteous cry for help, the Lord hears, and delivers them out of all their troubles. The Lord is near to the broken-hearted, and saves the crushed in spirit. Many are the afflictions of the righteous; but the Lord delivers him out of them all. He kept all his bones; not one of them is broken. Evil shall slay the wicked; and those who hate the righteous will be condemned. The Lord redeems the life of his servants; none of those who take refuge in Him will be condemned.

THE ZADOSTOYNIK

Choir:

It is truly meet to bless thee, O Theotokos,
ever blessed and most pure, and the Mother of our God.
More honourable than the Cherubim,
and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim:
without defilement thou gavest birth to God the Word:
true Theotokos, we magnify thee!

THE DISMISSAL

Choir: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, both now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Bless, O Lord.

[When the service is used in church, the marked sections are omitted.]

Reader: Lord Jesus Christ, Who rose again from the dead, through the intercessions of Thy most pure Mother; by the might of the precious and life-giving Cross; by the protection of the honourable bodiless powers of heaven; at the supplications of the Holy, Glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist, John; of our Holy, Venerable and God-bearing Fathers; of our Father among the Saints, Chad, Bishop of Lichfield, Patron and Protector of this Community; of the Holy and Righteous Ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; of our Father among the Saints, Nicholas the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia; and of all the saints, have mercy upon us and save us. Amen.

All kiss the Gospel Book (or New Testament, or Bible) and the Cross placed on the table. When all have done so, the reader or choir sings slowly:

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Reader: Through the prayers of our Holy Fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy upon us, and save us. Amen.

*[When the service is used in church, the people come one at a time to venerate the Gospel Book and Cross by making the sign of the Cross and bowing before them, but **without kissing them**. Meanwhile, the Singer quietly repeats the Troparia and Kontakia of the day, or other appropriate hymns.*

*When all have venerated the Gospel Book and Cross, the Singer sings slowly:
Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.]*