

**DECEMBER 05**  
**THE SERVICE OF THE LITIA AND ARTOKLASIA**  
**NICHOLAS THE WONDERWORKER, ARCHBISHOP OF MYRA IN LYCIA**

DOXASTICON & THEOTOKION AT THE LITIA PROCESSION IN TONE EIGHT

For St. Nicholas

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

The fruit of thy manly exploits, O righteous Father, hath cheered the hearts of the faithful; for what man would not marvel, upon hearing of thine immeasurable humility, thy patience, thy cheerful kindness towards the poor, thy compassion for the afflicted? Thou taughtest all men in a fashion befitting godliness, O Hierarch Nicholas; and now, as thou hast put on the unfading crown, intercede in behalf of our souls.

For the Forefeast of the Nativity

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

Make ready, O Bethlehem; let the manger be prepared, let the cave show its welcome. The Truth is come, the shadow is passed away; God hath appeared from a Virgin unto men, formed as we are, and deifying that which He hath assumed. Wherefore, Adam is renewed with Eve, as they cry out: Thy good will hath appeared on earth to save our race.

- *After the Litia hymns are chanted stichirarically (slowly), and the procession of clergy and altar servers has finished at the solea, the clergy now begin the Service of Litia & Artoklasia.*

**THE LITIA**

Deacon: Have mercy upon us, O God, according to thy great mercy, we pray Thee, hearken and have mercy.

*The choir responds "[Lord, have mercy](#)" (thrice) to this and the remaining petitions until noted.*

Deacon: Again we pray for all pious and Orthodox Christians.

Deacon: Again we pray for our father and metropolitan, N., (our bishop, N.,) and all our brotherhood in Christ

Deacon: Again we pray for every Christian soul, afflicted and weary, in need of God's mercies and help; for the protection of this holy house and those who sing therein and the people here present; for the peace and stability of the whole world; for the good estate of the holy Churches of God; for the salvation and help of our fathers and brethren who with diligence and fear of God labor and serve; for those who are abroad; for those who travel by sea, by land and by air; for the healing of those who lie in infirmity; for the deliverance of captives; for those imprisoned and in danger; for our brethren who are serving and who are remembered for their labor, and for all who await the mercies of God, let us say:

Deacon: Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, visitation, pardon and remission of sins for the servants of God, the parishioners, members of the parish council and organizations, donors and benefactors of this holy temple and those who celebrate this holy feast (and for his servants, NN., who are offering these loaves).

Deacon: Again we pray that he may keep this holy church and this city and every city and countryside from wrath, famine, plague, earthquake, flood, fire, the sword, foreign invasion, civil war and sudden death; that our good God, who loveth mankind, will be gracious, favorable and conciliatory and will turn away and dispel all the wrath stirred up against us and all sickness and may deliver us from his righteous chastisement which impendeth against us and have mercy on us.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (*forty times*)

Deacon: Again we pray that the Lord our God may hearken unto the voice of the supplication of us sinners and have mercy upon us.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (*thrice*)

Priest: Hear us, O God our Savior, the Hope of all the ends of the earth and of those who are far off upon the sea; and be gracious, be gracious, O Master, toward our sins, and have mercy upon us. For Thou art a merciful God and lovest mankind, and unto Thee we ascribe glory, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

#### THE PEACE

Priest: Peace be to all.

Choir: And to thy spirit.

Deacon: Let us bow our heads unto the Lord.

Choir: To Thee, O Lord.

#### THE INTERCESSION<sup>1</sup>

Priest: O Master, great in mercy, Lord Jesus Christ our God, through the intercessions of our all-immaculate Lady Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary; by the might of the precious and life-giving Cross; by the protection of the honorable bodiless Powers of heaven; at the supplication of the honorable, glorious prophet, forerunner and Baptist John; of the holy, glorious, all-laudable apostles Peter and Paul, and of all the holy apostles; of our fathers among the saints, great hierarchs and ecumenical teachers, Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian and John Chrysostom; Athanasius, Cyril and John the Merciful, patriarchs of Alexandria; Nicholas of Myra—whose memory we now celebrate—Spyridon of Trimythous and Nektarios of Pentapolis, the Wonderworkers; of our fathers among the saints Tikhon, patriarch of Moscow and Raphael, bishop of Brooklyn; of the holy, glorious, great-martyrs, George the Trophy-bearer, Demetrios the Myrrh-streamer, Theodore the Soldier, Theodore the General, and Menas the Wonderworker; of the hieromartyrs Ignatius the God-bearer of Antioch, Charalampos and Eleutherios; of the holy, glorious great women martyrs, Thekla, Barbara, Anastasia, Katherine, Kyriaki, Photeini, Marina, Paraskeva and Irene; of the holy, glorious, right-victorious martyrs; of our venerable and God-bearing fathers who shone in the ascetic life, especially Paisios of Athos; *of Saint N., the patron and protector of this holy community*; of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna, and of all Thy saints:

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<sup>1</sup> Saints of particular local veneration may be included among the Saints of their same classification at the discretion of the pastor.

Priest: Make our prayer acceptable;  
*The choir responds "Amen" for each part of the phrase.*

Priest: Grant us forgiveness of our trespasses;

Priest: Shelter us under the shelter of thy wings;

Priest: Drive away from us every enemy and adversary;

Priest: Give peace to our life.

Priest: O Lord, have mercy on us and on thy world and save our souls, for thou art a merciful God and lovest mankind.

**THE ARTOKLASIA**  
**THEOTOKION IN TONE FIVE**

Clergy: Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, Mary full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb;

Choir: For thou hast borne the Savior of our souls.

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: O Lord Jesus Christ our God, Who didst bless the five loaves in the wilderness and didst satisfy the five thousand therewith, thyself bless these loaves, this wheat, wine and oil, and multiply them in this city, in the houses of those who celebrate this feast and in all thy world, and sanctify the faithful who partake of them. For it is Thou Who dost bless and sanctify all things, O Christ our God, and unto Thee do we ascribe glory, together with Thine unoriginate Father and Thine all-holy, good and life-giving Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

- *The clergy sing the following troparion once, and then the choir sings it twice.*

**TROPARION IN TONE SEVEN**

Rich men have turned poor and gone hungry; but they that seek the Lord shall not be deprived of any good thing.

- *Great Vespers resumes with the Aposticha. The following Great Dismissal is used at Great Vespers when the Litia and Artoklasia are served. This follows the apolytikia and/or theotokia.*

**THE GREAT DISMISSAL**

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: The blessing of the Lord and His mercy come upon you through His divine grace and love towards mankind, always, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

Priest: Glory to Thee, O Christ our God and our Hope, glory to Thee.

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 (*thrice*). Father, bless.

Priest: May Christ our true God, through the intercessions of His all-immaculate and all-blameless holy Mother; by the might of the Precious and Life-giving Cross; by the protection of the honorable Bodiless Powers of Heaven; at the supplication of the honorable, glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John; of the holy, glorious and all-laudable apostles; of the holy, glorious and right-victorious Martyrs; of our venerable and God-bearing Fathers; (*of Saint N., the patron and protector of this holy community;*) of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; of our father among the saints Nicholas, archbishop of Myra in Lycia, the Wonderworker, and his uncle, Nicholas, bishop of Patara; and New-martyr Nicholas of Karamania in Asia Minor, whose memory we celebrate, and of all the saints: have mercy on us and save us, forasmuch as He is good and loveth mankind.

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

Choir: Amen.

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