

Vesper Propers, December 6  
Our Father Among the Saints,  
Nicholas the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra

Psalm 140

Tone 2

O Lord, I have cried to you, hear me; hear me, O Lord!

O Lord, I have cried to you, hear me; re - ceive the voice of my prayer when I

call up - on you. Hear me, O Lord! Let my prayer

as - cend to you like in - cense and the lift - ing up of my hands

like an eve - ning sac - ri - fice. Hear me, O Lord!

O Lord, set a guard before my mouth  
and set a seal on the door of *my* lips.

Let not my heart be inclined to evil,  
nor make excuses for sins I *commit*.

Let me never share in sinners' feasting.  
If a just man strikes or reproves me it *is* kindness

but let the oil of the wicked not anoint my head.  
Let my prayer be ever against *their* malice.

The princes were thrown down by the side of the rock;  
then they understood that my words *were* kind.

As a millstone is shattered to pieces on the ground,  
so their bones were strewn at the mouth of *the* grave.

To you, Lord God, my eyes are turned;  
in you I take refuge; spare *my* soul!

From the trap they have laid for me keep me safe;  
keep me from the snares of those who *do* evil.

Let the wicked fall into the traps they have set  
while I pursue my way *un*harmed.

**Psalm 141** With all my voice I cry to the Lord,  
with all my voice I entreat *the* Lord.

I pour out my trouble before him;  
I tell him all my distress while my spirit faints *within* me.

But you, O Lord, know my path.  
On the way where I shall walk they have hidden a snare to *entrap* me.

Look on my right and see:  
there is no one who takes *my* part.

I have no means of escape,  
not one who cares for *my* soul.

I cry to you, O Lord.  
I have said: "You are my refuge, all I have in the land of *the* living."

Listen, then, to my cry  
for I am in the depths of *distress*.

Rescue me from those who pursue me  
for they are stronger *than* I.

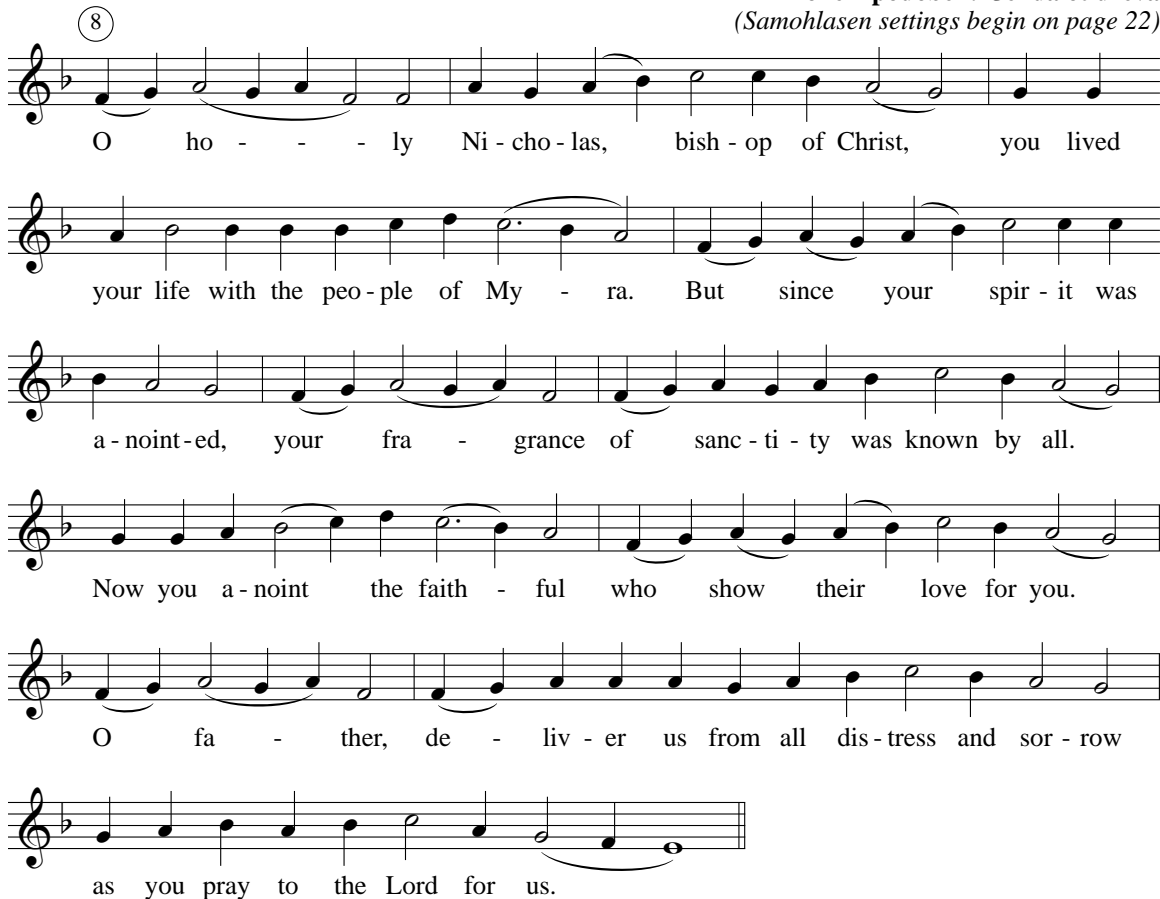
Bring my soul out of this prison  
and then I shall praise *your* name.

Around me the just will assemble  
because of your goodness *to* me.

**Cantor:** Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord; **Psalm 129**  
(on 8) Lord, hear my voice!

**Tone 2 podoben: Jehda ot dreva**  
(Samohlasen settings begin on page 22)

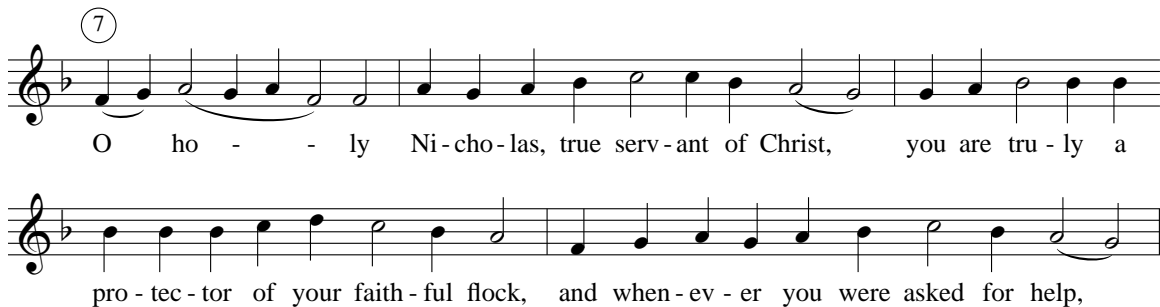
⑧



O ho - - - ly Ni - cho - las, bish - op of Christ, you lived  
your life with the peo - ple of My - ra. But since your spir - it was  
a - noint - ed, your fra - grance of sanc - ti - ty was known by all.  
Now you a - noint the faith - ful who show their love for you.  
O fa - ther, de - liv - er us from all dis - tress and sor - row  
as you pray to the Lord for us.

**Cantor:** Let your ears be attentive  
(on 7) to the voice of my pleading.

⑦



O ho - - - ly Ni - cho - las, true serv - ant of Christ, you are tru - ly a  
pro - tec - tor of your faith - ful flock, and when - ev - er you were asked for help,

you glad - ly as - sist-ed those who sought your aid. Now you are  
al - so read-y by day or night to de - liv - er us from all dis - tress and sor - row.

**Cantor:** If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt, Lord who would survive?  
(on 6) But with you is found forgiveness: for this we revere you.

⑥

When you ap - peared in a dream to Con - stan - tine the King,  
you gave him this warn - ing: Re - lease at once from prison those  
you have un - just - ly con - fined, for they are  
in - no - cent; no mur - der did they com - mit as you claim. O King,  
lis - ten to me, or else I shall call up - on the Lord.

**Cantor:** My soul is longing for the Lord. I count on his word.  
(on 5) My soul is longing for the Lord more than watchman for daybreak.

⑤

O ho - - ly Ni - cho - las, ho - ly preach - er of Christ, al - ways

read - y to help all on land or at sea: wheth - er they be near or far,  
 you have com - pas - sion for all. Thus, you are a pre - cious  
 help - er; there - fore we who gath - er here ask you to pray to the  
 Lord that we be delivered from all dis - tress and sor - row.

**Cantor:** Let the watchman count on daybreak  
 (on 4) and Israel on the Lord.

**Tone 2 podoben: Kijmi pochval'nimy**

What crowns of praise shall we con - fer up - on the  
 saint - - - - ly Ni - cho - las? Once pres - ent in the  
 flesh in My - ra, he is pres - ent in spir - it to  
 all who love him pure - ly. He is the lead - er and  
 de - fend - er of ev' - ry one, a com - - - - fort -

-er in dis-tress, and a ha - ven of  
all in dan-ger; a pil - lar of pi - - - e - ty,  
and con-quer - or for be - liev - - - ers. For his sake,  
Christ o - ver-came en - e - mies and shows  
us great mer - - cy.

**Cantor:** Because with the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption,  
(on 3) Israel indeed he will redeem from all its iniquity. (*Repeat "What crowns of praise..."*)

**Cantor:** Praise the Lord, all you nations,  
(on 2) acclaim him all you peoples!

②  
With what songs of praise shall we ex - tol the most  
saint - - - ly Ni - cho - las? He is the foe  
of wick - ed - ness. He is an out - stand - - - ing

lead - er, a most pow - er - ful de - fend - er in dis - tress,

and a great teach - - - er of the Church.

He con - founds all those who show dis - hon - or.

He is the re - fu - tor of A - ri - us and his

com - pan - - - ions. Be - cause of him, Christ put down

their rag - - - ings and showed great mer - cy.

**Cantor:** Strong is the love of the Lord for us;  
(on 1) he is faithful forever.

① With what hymns of proph - e - cy shall we ex - tol the

saint - - - - ly Nich - o las? Liv - - - ing in

the pres - ent he saw far in - to the fu - ture.

He spoke tru - ly a - bout far - a - way things as though they were near.

He o - ver - sees the whole world,

and de - liv - ers the af - flic - ted.

He ap - peared in a dream to the God - wise king. He

de - liv - ered pris - - - on - ers who were un - just - ly ac - cused of

mur - - - - der To - day he grants us the mer - cy of Christ.

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

**Doxastikon**

**Tone 6**

We have gath - ered to celebrate and to praise with song the model of bishops and

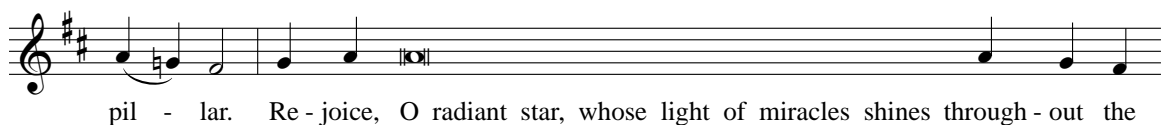
a glory to the fa - thers, a foun - tain of miracles and a great help - er of

be - liev - ers. Let us sing to the saint - ly Ni - cho - las: Re - joice, O

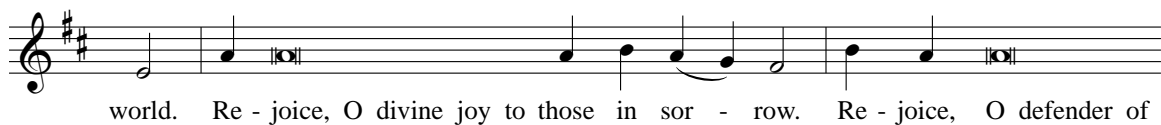




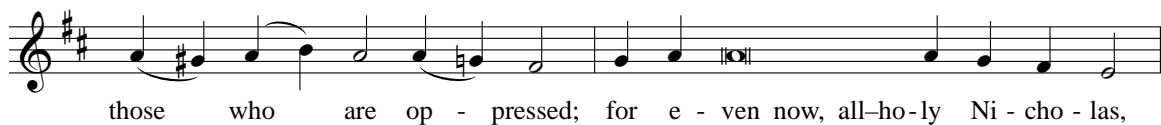
Pro-tec-tor of My - ra who was re - vered as its leader and strong - est



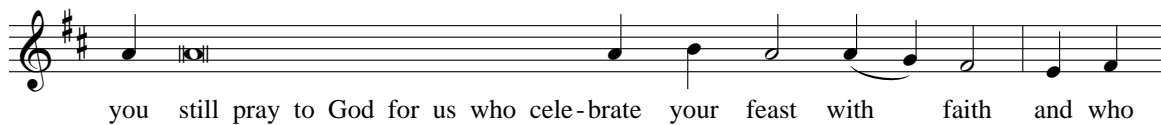
pil - lar. Re - joice, O radiant star, whose light of miracles shines through - out the



world. Re - joice, O divine joy to those in sor - row. Re - joice, O defender of



those who are op - pressed; for e - ven now, all - ho - ly Ni - cho - las,



you still pray to God for us who cele-brate your feast with faith and who



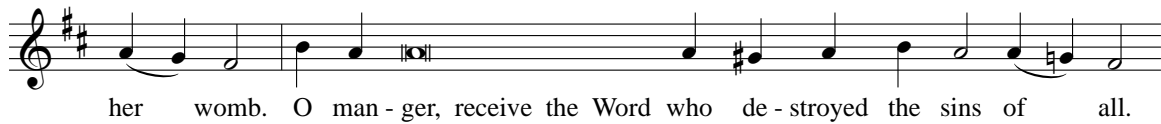
hon - or you with zeal and joy.

**Cantor:** Now and ever and forever. Amen.

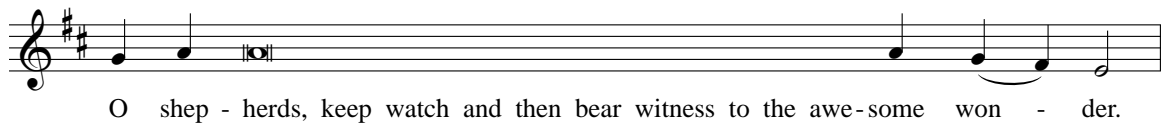
### Theotokion



O cave, pre - pare yourself to re - ceive the Moth - er who bears Christ with - in



her womb. O man - ger, receive the Word who de - stroyed the sins of all.



O shep - herds, keep watch and then bear witness to the awe - some won - der.

O ma-gi, from Per-sia now come, and bring your gifts of gold, frank-in-cense, and myrrh to the King. For the Lord has appeared from a Vir-gin Moth-er; yet she bowed to him as a serv-ant and spoke to him in her bos-om, say-ing: "How were you con-ceived in me? How did you grow in me, my God and Sav-ior?"

### Weekday Prokeimena

Sunday, Tone 8

*Psalm 133:1; 2*

Come, bless the Lord, all who serve the Lord; come, bless the Lord, all who serve the Lord.

**Deacon:** Who stand in the house of the Lord, in the courts of the house of our God.

Monday, Tone 4

*Psalm 4:3;1*

The Lord hears me when - ev - er I call him, when - ev - er I  
call him.

**Deacon:** When I call, answer me, O God of justice.

Tuesday, Tone 1

*Psalm 22:6; 1*

Your mer - - - - cy, O Lord, shall fol-low me  
all the days of my life.

**Deacon:** The Lord is my shepherd, there is nothing I shall want;  
fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose.

Wednesday, Tone 5

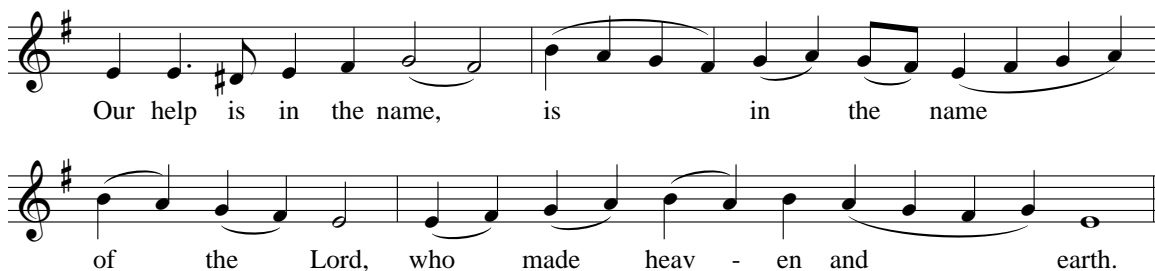
*Psalm 53:1; 2*

O God, save me by your name; by your pow - er  
up - hold my cause.

**Deacon:** O God, hear my prayer; listen to the words of my mouth.

Thursday, Tone 6

*Psalm 120:2; 1*



Our help is in the name, is in the name  
of the Lord, who made heav - en and earth.

**Deacon:** I lift up my eyes to the mountains, from where shall come my help.

Friday, Tone 7

*Psalm 58: 9-10; 1*



You, O God, are my de-fend - er, and your mer - cy,  
and your mer - cy goes be - fore me.

**Deacon:** Rescue me, O God, from my foes; protect me from those who attack me.

Saturday, Tone 6 samopodoben

*from Psalm 92:*



The Lord is King; he is robed in maj - es - ty.

**Deacon:** Robed is the Lord and girt about with strength.

**Deacon:** The world he made firm, not to be moved.

**Deacon:** Holiness is fitting to your house, O Lord, until the end of time.

**Readings:** Proverbs 10: 7, 6; 3: 13-16; 8: 6, 34-35, 4, 12, 14, 17, 5-9; 1: 23; 15: 4  
Proverbs 10: 31 through 11: 12  
Wisdom 4: 7-15

# Litija

Tone 2 Bolhar

①



O ho-ly fa - ther Ni - cho-las, Christ has shown you to be the  
mod - el of faith. Your hu - mil - i - ty in - spired all in your flock.  
From My - ra, your pi - e - ty shines through - out the world.  
You are known as the pro - tec - tor of wid - ows and or - phans.  
Now we ask your unceasing prayer for the sal - va - tion of our souls.

②



O ho-ly fa - ther Ni - cho-las, your re - lics poured out myrrh and  
pro - tec - ted My - ra. While you lived you ap - peared in a  
dream to the king; by this ap - pear - ance you freed from lash - es, pris - on,

and death, those who were con-demned un - just - ly;  
 now man - ifest yourself as then, im-plor - ing Christ to save our souls.

**Cantor:** Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;

**Doxastikon**

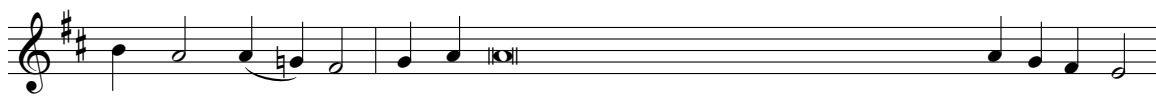
**Tone 6 samohlasen**

O good and faith - ful worker in the vine - yard of Christ, you endured the hardships of  
 dai - ly la - bors; you did not complain of those who worked less than you.  
 You in - creased the tal - ent giv - en you. There - fore, the gates of heav - en  
 o - pened to you, and now you share in the joy of the Lord.  
 O ho - ly Ni - cho - las, pray for us.

**Cantor:** Now and ever and forever. Amen.

**Theotokion**

O Zi - on, be hap - py; re - joyce, O Je - ru - sa - lem, the cit - y



of Christ, our God; bid welcome to the Creator who rests in a manger in a cave.



O - pen your gates, Jerusalem, and I will enter so that I may see him, who



holds all cre-a - tion in his hands, e-ven though he lies in a manger wrapped



in swad-dling clothes. The angels ever praise this life-giv-ing Lord, who is



the on - ly Sav - ior of all.

## Litany of the Litija

**Deacon:** Save your people, O God, and bless your inheritance. Watch over your world in mercy and compassion. Exalt the strength of true Christians and send down upon us your abundant mercies. Through the prayers of our all-pure Lady, the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary; through the power of the precious and life-creating Cross; through the protection of the honorable, heavenly, and angelic powers; through the prayers of the honorable and glorious prophet, forerunner and baptist John; of the holy, glorious, and illustrious apostles; of our holy fathers, the great hierarchs and universal teachers: Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian, and John Chrysostom; of our holy father Nicholas the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia, whose feast we gloriously celebrate today; of the holy equals to the apostles and teachers of the Slavs, Cyril and Methodius; of the holy equal to the apostles, the faithful great prince Vladimir; of the holy martyr Josaphat, bishop of Polotsk; of the blessed martyr Theodore, bishop of Mukacëvo; of our blessed father and confessor Paul, bishop of Prešov; Basil, bishop of Medila; of the holy, glorious, and victorious martyrs; of our venerable and God-bearing fathers, Anthony and Theodosius

of the Monastery of the Caves, and of our other venerable and God-bearing fathers; of the holy and just ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; and of all the saints; we beseech you, all-merciful Lord, hear the prayers of us sinners and have mercy on us.

**Response:** Lord have mercy. (*twelve times*)

**Deacon:** Again we pray for our Holy Father \_\_\_\_, Pope of Rome, for his health and salvation, and that the Lord God may hasten and assist him in everything; O Lord, hear and have mercy.

**Response:** Lord have mercy. (*twelve times*)

**Deacon:** Again we pray for our most reverend metropolitan, (*Name*), for our bishop, (*Name*), whom God loves; for our spiritual fathers and for all our brothers and sisters in Christ, and for every Christian soul that is troubled and afflicted and in need of God's mercy and help; for the protection of this city and those who dwell here; for the peace and serenity of the whole world, for the stability of the holy Churches of God; for the salvation and assistance of our fathers and brothers and sisters who labor and serve with diligence and fear of God; for those who are absent, and for those who are traveling; for the healing of those who are confined by illness; for the repose, blessed memory, and remission and forgiveness of sins of all our true-believing fathers and brothers and sisters who have gone before us; and for all our brothers and sisters who are present at these services; and for all who have served and now serve in this holy church, let us say.

**Response:** Lord have mercy. (*twelve times*)

**Priest:** Hear us, O God our Savior, hope of the ends of the earth and of those far off at sea, and be merciful to us, O merciful Master, on account of our sins, and have mercy on us. For you are a merciful and loving God and we give glory to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.

**Response:** Amen.

**Priest:** Peace ❖ be to all!

**Response:** And to your spirit.

**Deacon:** Bow your heads to the Lord!

**Response:** To you, O Lord.



**Priest:**

All-merciful Master, Lord Jesus Christ our God, make our prayer acceptable; through the prayers of our all-pure Lady, the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary; through the power of the precious and life-creating Cross; through the protection of the honorable, heavenly, and angelic powers; through the prayers of the honorable and glorious prophet, forerunner and baptist John; of the holy, glorious, and illustrious apostles; of our holy fathers, the great hierarchs and universal teachers: Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian, and John Chrysostom; of our holy father Nicholas the Wonderworker, and Archbishop of Myra in Lycia, whose feast we gloriously celebrate today; of the holy equals to the apostles and teachers of the Slavs, Cyril and Methodius; of the holy equal to the apostles, the faithful great prince Vladimir; of the holy martyr Josaphat, bishop of Polotsk; of the blessed martyr Theodore, bishop of Mukačevo; of our blessed father and confessor Paul, bishop of Prešov; of our blessed father and confessor Basil, bishop of Medila; of the holy, glorious, and victorious martyrs; of our venerable and God-bearing fathers, Anthony and Theodosius of the Monastery of the Caves, and of our other venerable and God-bearing fathers; of the holy and just ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; and of all the saints; Grant us remission of our faults; shelter us under the shadow of your wings; drive far from us every enemy and adversary and make our life peaceful. Lord, have mercy on us and on your world and save our souls, for you are good and you love us all.

**Response:** Amen.

### Aposticha

**Tone 5 podoben: Radujsja živonosnyj Kreste**  
*(A samohlasen setting begins on page 27)*

①

Re - joice, O priestly leader, spotless ves-sel of vir - tue, mod-el  
of divine priest-hood, great shep-herd of your flock, bear-er of vic-to-ry's torch;  
you hear the prayers of those who call on you. You grant the pe-ti-tions

of the poor; you res - cue all who praise your name. Now we ask you  
to beg Christ that he may shower abundant mer - cy on the world.

**Cantor:**

Pre - cious in the eyes of the Lord is the death of his faith - ful.

Re - jice, O saintly father, temple of the Tri-ni-ty; pil-lar of the Church,

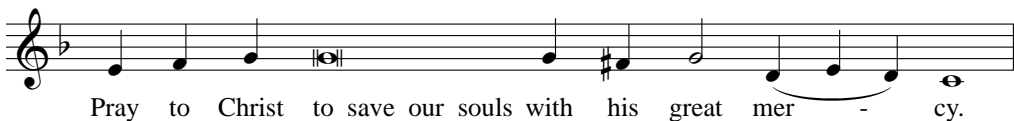
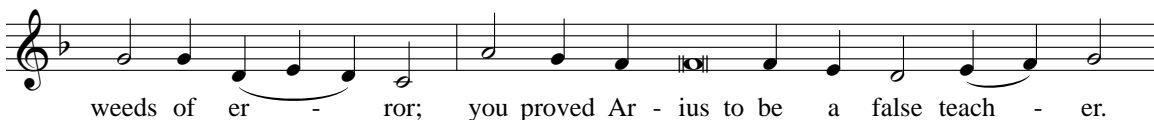
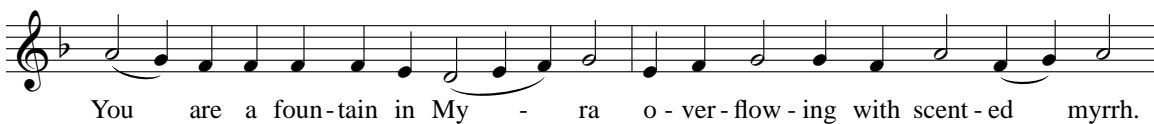
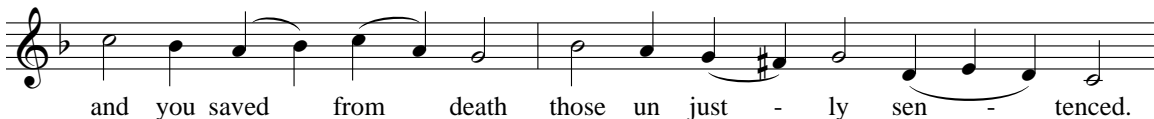
protector of the faith - ful, help of all in trou - ble. You are a star whose

rays of prayer dispel the dark - est trou - ble. You are a qui-et harbor for the

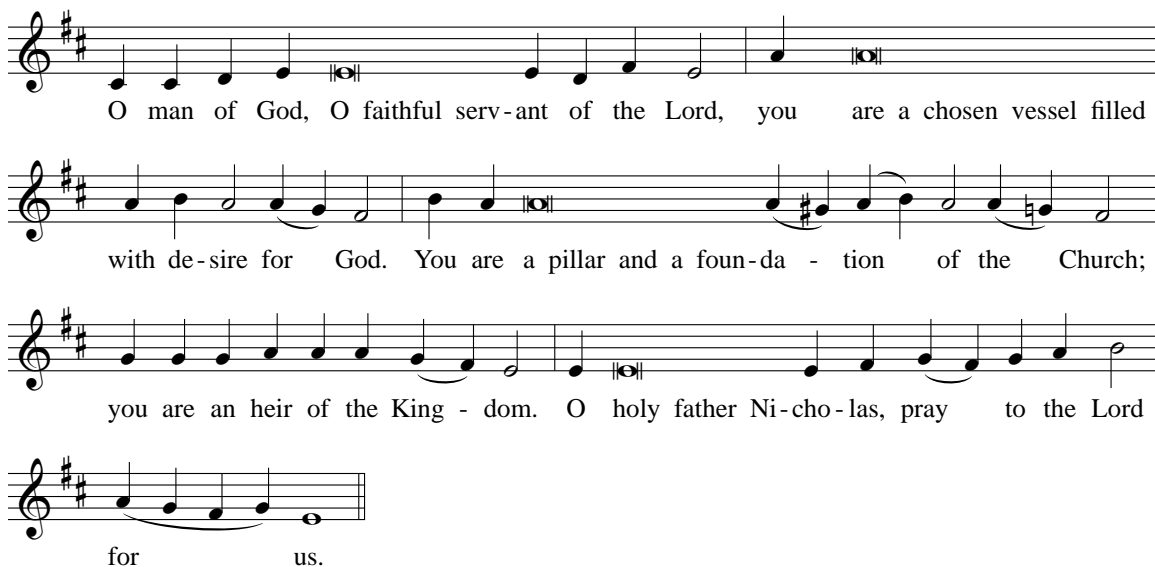
storm - tossed, for all those a-drift in the sea of life. Pray to Christ

to save our souls with his great mer - cy.

## Cantor

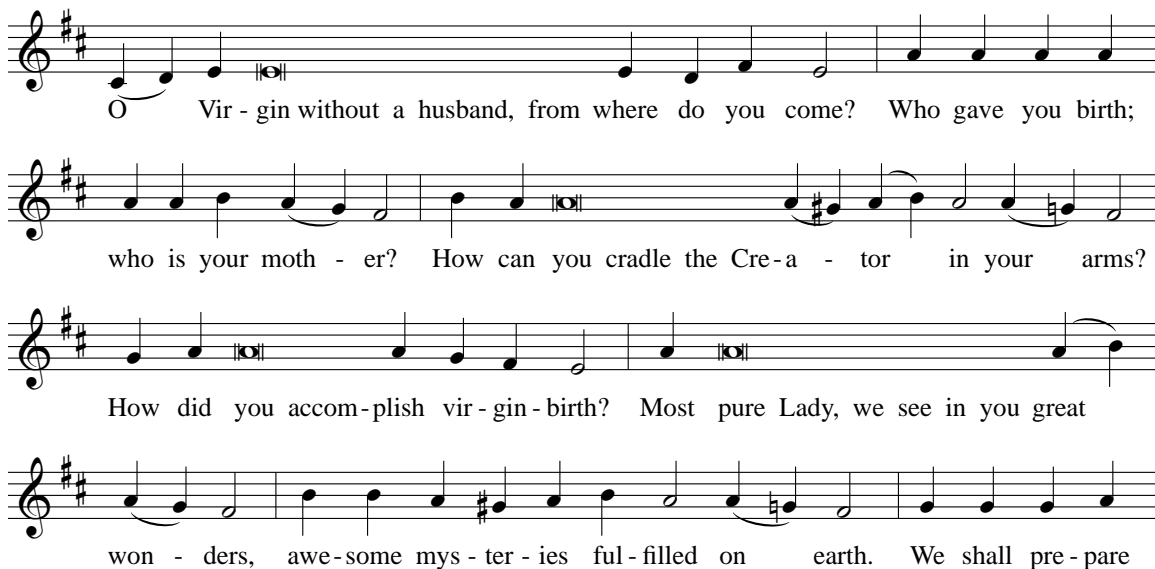


**Cantor:** Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

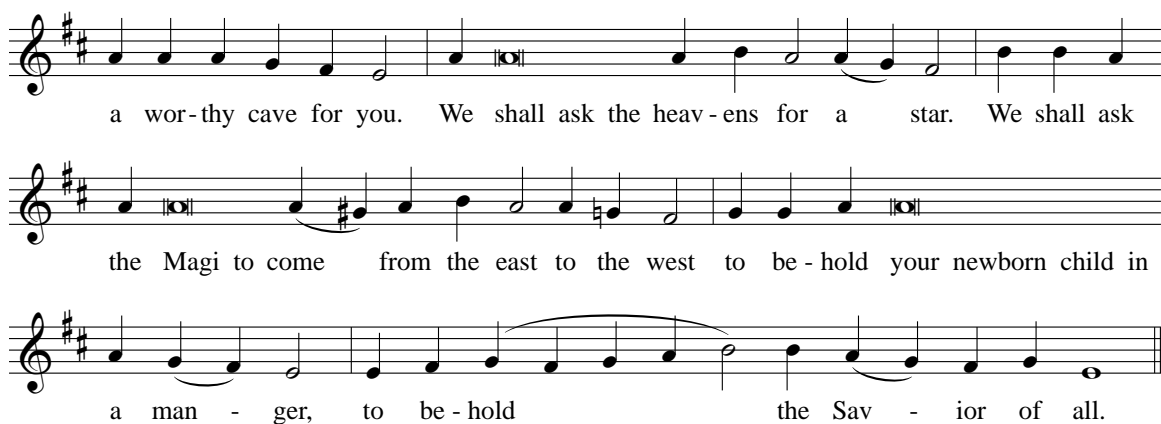
**Doxastikon****Tone 6**


O man of God, O faithful serv-ant of the Lord, you are a chosen vessel filled  
with de-sire for God. You are a pillar and a foun-da - tion of the Church;  
you are an heir of the King - dom. O holy father Ni-cho-las, pray to the Lord  
for us.

**Cantor:** Now and ever and forever. Amen.

**Theotokion**


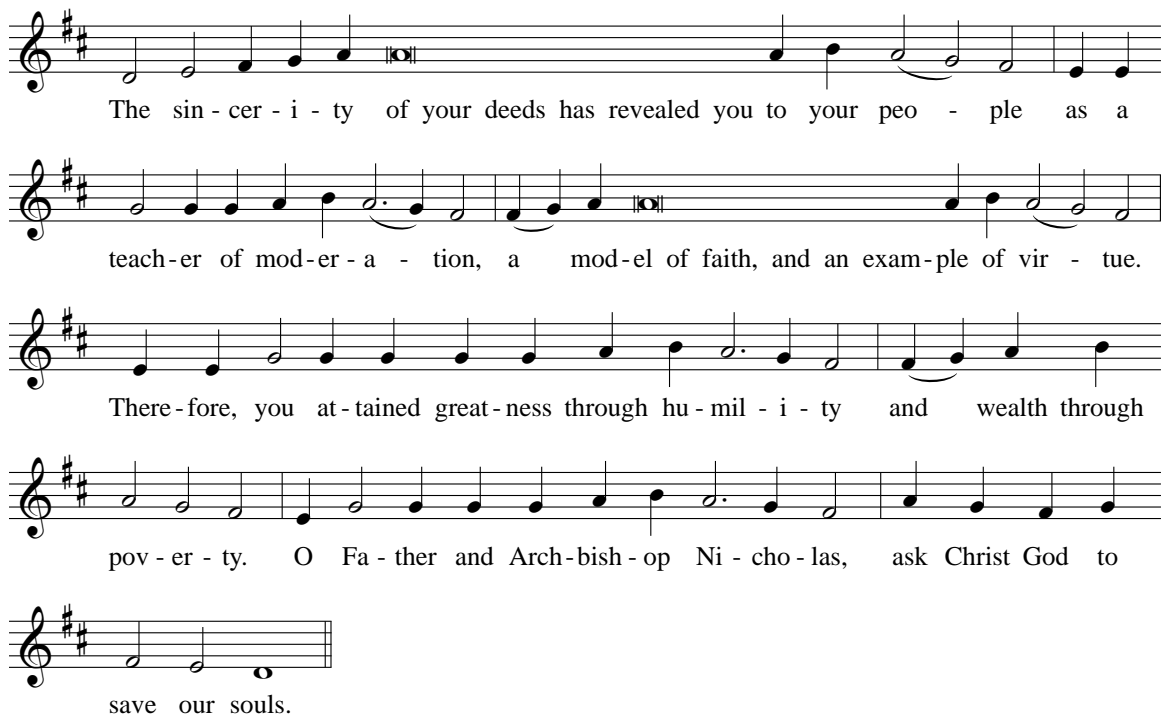
O Vir - gin without a husband, from where do you come? Who gave you birth;  
who is your moth - er? How can you cradle the Cre-a - tor in your arms?  
How did you accom-lish vir - gin - birth? Most pure Lady, we see in you great  
won - ders, awe-some mys - ter - ies ful - filled on earth. We shall pre - pare



a wor-thy cave for you. We shall ask the heav-ens for a star. We shall ask  
the Magi to come from the east to the west to be-hold your newborn child in  
a man - ger, to be - hold the Sav - ior of all.

### Troparion

#### Tone 4



The sin - cer - i - ty of your deeds has revealed you to your peo - ple as a  
teach-er of mod-er - a - tion, a mod-el of faith, and an exam-ple of vir - tue.  
There-fore, you at-tained great-ness through hu - mil - i - ty and wealth through  
pov - er - ty. O Fa - ther and Arch-bish - op Ni - cho - las, ask Christ God to  
save our souls.

## Theotokion

Re - joice, O Vir - gin The - o - to - kos! Mar - y full of grace, the Lord is  
with you! Bless - ed are you a - mong wo - men, and bless - ed is the  
fruit of your womb. For you gave birth to Christ, the Sav - ior and Re - deem - er  
of our souls.

## Stichera at Psalm 140 Samohlasen settings

**Cantor:** Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord;  
(on 8) Lord, hear my voice!

**Tone 2**

O ho - ly Ni - cho - las, bish - op of Christ, you lived your life with the peo - ple  
of My - ra. But since your spir - it was a - noint - ed, your fra - grance of sanctity  
was known by all. Now you a - noint the faith - ful who show  
their love for you. O Fa - ther, deliver us from all dis - tress and sor - row

as you pray to the Lord for us.

**Cantor:** Let your ears be attentive  
(on 7) to the voice of my pleading.

⑦

O ho - ly Ni - cho - las, true serv - ant of Christ, you are tru - ly

a protector of your faith - ful flock, and when - ev - er you were asked for help,

you glad - ly assist - ed those who sought your aid. Now you are al - so

read - y by day or night to de - liv - er us from all dis - tress and sor - row.

**Cantor:** If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt, Lord who would survive?  
(on 6) But with you is found forgiveness: for this we revere you.

⑥

When you ap - peared in a dream to Con - stan - tine the King, you gave him this

warn - ing: Re - lease at once from prison those you have un - just - ly con - fined,

for they are in nocent; no murder did they com - mit as you claim. O King,



lis - ten to me, or else I shall call up - on the Lord.

**Cantor:** My soul is longing for the Lord. I count on his word.  
(on 5) My soul is longing for the Lord more than watchman for daybreak.



O ho - ly Ni - cholas, ho - ly preach - er of Christ, al - ways read - y to help



all on land or at sea: wheth - er they be near or far, you have com - pas - sion for all.



Thus, you are a pre - cious help - er; there - fore we who gath - er here ask



you to pray to the Lord that we be de - liv - ered from all dis - tress and sor - row.

**Cantor:** Let the watchman count on daybreak  
(on 4) and Israel on the Lord.



What crowns of praise shall we con - fer up - on the saint - ly Ni - cho - las?



Once pres - ent in the flesh in My - ra, he is pres - ent in spirit to all who love



him pure - ly. He is the lead - er and de - fend - er of ev' - ry one,



a com - fort - er in dis - tress, and a ha - ven of all in dan - ger;  
 a pil - lar of pi - e - ty, and con - quer - or for be - liev - ers. For his  
 sake, Christ o - ver - came en - e - mies and shows us great mer - cy.

**Cantor:** Because with the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption,  
*(on 3)* Israel indeed he will redeem from all its iniquity. *(Repeat "What crowns of praise....")*

**Cantor:** Praise the Lord, all you nations, **Psalm 116**  
*(on 2)* acclaim him all you peoples!

②  
 With what songs of praise shall we ex - tol the most saint - ly Ni - cho - las?  
 He is the foe of wick - ed - ness. He is an out - stand - ing lead - er,  
 a most pow - er - ful de - fend - er in dis - tress, and a great teach - er of the Church.  
 He con - founds all those who show dis - hon - or. He is the re - fu - tor  
 of Arius and his com - pan - ions. Be - cause of him, Christ put down their rag - ings




and showed great mer - cy.

**Cantor:** Strong is the love of the Lord for us;  
(on 1) he is faithful forever.



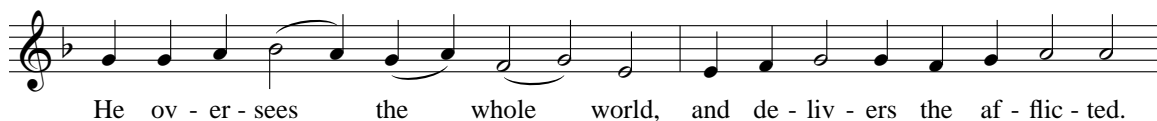
With what hymns of proph-e - cy shall we ex - tol the saint-ly Nich - o - las?



Liv - ing in the pre - sent he saw far in - to the fu - ture.



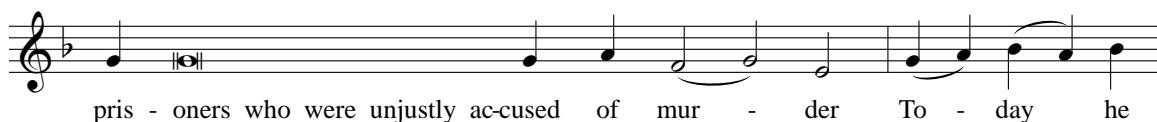
He spoke tru - ly about faraway things as though they were near.



He ov - er - sees the whole world, and de - liv - ers the af - flic - ted.



He ap - peared in a dream to the God - wise king. He de - liv - ered



pris - oners who were unjustly ac - cused of mur - der To - day he




grants us the mer - cy of Christ.

*Turn to page 8 for the Doxastikon.*

# Aposticha

Tone 5

①




Re-joyce, O priestly leader, spotless ves-sel of vir-tue, mod-el of divine priest-hood,  
great shep-herd of your flock, bear-er of the torch of vic-t'ry; you hear  
the prayers of those who call on you. You grant the pe-ti-tions of the poor;  
you res-cue all who praise your name. Now we ask you to beg Christ  
that he may show-er a-bun-dant mer-cy on the world.

*Cantor*



Pre-cious in the eyes of the Lord is the death of his faith-ful.

②



Re-joyce, O saintly father, temple of the Trin-i-ty; pil-lar of the Church, protect-or  
of the faith-ful, help of all in trou-ble. You are a star



whose rays of prayer dispel the dark - est trou - ble. You are a qui - et har - bor



for the storm - tossed, for all those adrift in the sea of life.



Pray to Christ to save our souls with his great mer - cy.

*Cantor*



Your priests shall be clothed in ho - li - ness, your faith - ful shall



ring out their joy.



Re-joyce, O zeal-ous man of God! You ap-peared in a dream, and you



saved from death those un - just - ly sen-tenced. You are a foun-tain in My - ra



o - ver - flow - ing with scent - ed myrrh. You in - spire us to keep us from sin.



You are a sword that cuts the weeds of er - ror; you proved Ar - ius to be



a false teach - er. Pray to Christ to save our souls with his great mer - cy.

*Turn to page 20 for the Doxastikon.*