O holy Nicholas, bishop of Christ,
you lived your life with the people
of Myra. But since your spirit was anointed,
your fragrance of sanctity
was known by all. Now you anoint the faithful
who show their love for you. O Father, deliver us from all distress and sorrow
as you pray to the Lord for us.

Cantor: Let your ears be attentive
to the voice of my pleading.

O holy Nicholas, true servant of Christ, you are truly
a protector of your faithful flock, and whenever you were asked for help,
you gladly assisted those who sought your aid. Now you are also ready by day or night to deliver us from all distress and sorrow.

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.

When you appeared in a dream to Constantine the King, you gave him this warning: Release at once from prison those you have unjustly confined,

for they are innocent; no murder did they commit as you claim. O King,

listen to me, or else I shall call upon 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 holy Nicholas, holy preacher of Christ, always ready to help all on land or at sea: whether they be near or far, you have compassion for all.
Thus, you are a precious helper; therefore we who gather here ask you to pray to the Lord that we be delivered from all distress and sorrow.

Cantor: Let the watchman count on daybreak and Israel on the Lord.

What crowns of praise shall we confer upon the saintly Nicholas?

Once present in the flesh in Myra, he is present in spirit to all who love him purely. He is the leader and defender of everyone, a comforter in distress, and a haven of all in danger; a pillar of piety, and conqueror for believers. For his sake, Christ overcame enemies and shows us great mercy.

Cantor: Because with the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption, Israel indeed he will redeem from all its iniquity. (Repeat "What crowns of praise...")
With what songs of praise shall we extol the most saintly Nicholas?

He is the foe of wickedness. He is an outstanding leader, a most powerful defender in distress, and a great teacher of the Church.

He confounds all those who show dishonor. He is the refuter of Arius and his companions. Because of him, Christ put down their raggings and showed great mercy.

Cantor: Strong is the love of the Lord for us; he is faithful forever.

With what hymns of prophecy shall we extol the saintly Nicholas? Living in the present he saw far into the future.
He spoke truly about faraway things as though they were near.

He over-sees the whole world, and delivers the afflicted.

He appeared in a dream to the God-wise king. He delivered prisoners who were unjustly accused of murder. Today he grants us the mercy of Christ.

Cantor: (Tone 6) Glory...

Doxastikon - Tone 6 samohlasen

We have gathered to celebrate and to praise with song the model of bishops and a glory to the fathers, a fountain of miracles and a great helper of believers. Let us sing to the saintly Nicholas: Rejoice, O Protector of Myra who was revered as its leader and strongest
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, allDho-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…

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
For the Lord has appeared from a Virgin Mother; yet she bowed to him as a servant and spoke to him in her bosom, saying: "How were you conceived in me? How did you grow in me, my God and Savior?"

Prokeimenon for the day of the week, page 114

Readings: Composite 1
Proverbs 10: 31 through 11: 12
Wisdom 4: 7-15

Litija

O holy father Nicholas, Christ has shown you to be the model of faith. Your humility inspired all in your flock. From Myra, your piety shines throughout the world.
You are known as the protector of widows and orphans.

Now we ask your unceasing prayer for the salvation of our souls.

O holy father Nicholas, your relics poured out myrrh and protected Myra. While you lived you appeared in a dream to the king; by this appearance you freed from lashes, prison, and death, those who were condemned unjustly; now manifest yourself as then, imploring Christ to save our souls.

Cantor: (Tone 6) Glory...

Doxastikon - Tone 6 samohlasen

O good and faithful worker in the vineyard of Christ, you endured the hardships of
daily labors; you did not complain of those who worked less than you.

You increased the talent given you. Therefore, the gates of heaven opened to you, and now you share in the joy of the Lord.

O holy Nicholas, pray for us.

Cantor: Now and ever...

Theotokion

O Zion, be happy; rejoice, O Jerusalem, the city of Christ, our God; bid welcome to the Creator who rests in a manger in a cave.

Open your gates, Jerusalem, and I will enter so that I may see him, who holds all creation in his hands, even though he lies in a manger wrapped in swaddling clothes. The angels ever praise this life-giving Lord, who is
the only Savior of all.

Rejoice, O priestly leader, spotless vessel of virtue, model of divine priesthood,
great shepherd of your flock, bearer of the torch of victory; you hear
the prayers of those who call on you. You grant the petitions of the poor;
you rescue all who praise your name. Now we ask you to beg Christ
that he may shower abundant mercy on the world.

Precious in the eyes of the Lord is the death of his faithful.
Rejoice, O saintly father, temple of the Trinity; pillar of the Church, protector of the faithful, help of all in trouble. You are a star whose rays of prayer dispel the darkest trouble. You are a quiet harbor for the storm-tossed, for all those adrift in the sea of life.

Pray to Christ to save our souls with his great mercy.

Cantor

Your priests shall be clothed in holiness; your faithful shall ring out their joy.

Rejoice, O zealous man of God! You appeared in a dream, and you saved from death those unjustly sentenced. You are a fountain in Myra.
overflowing with scented myrrh. You inspire us to keep us from sin.

You are a sword that cuts the weeds of error; you proved Arius to be a false teacher. Pray to Christ to save our souls with his great mercy.

Cantor: (Tone 6) Glory...

Doxastikon - Tone 6 samohlasen

O man of God, O faithful servant of the Lord, you are a chosen vessel filled with desire for God. You are a pillar and a foundation of the Church; you are an heir of the Kingdom. O holy father Nicholas, pray to the Lord for us.

Cantor: Now and ever...

Theotokion

O Virgin without a husband, from where do you come? Who gave you birth;
who is your mother? How can you cradle the Creator in your arms?

How did you accomplish virgin-birth? Most pure Lady, we see in you great wonders, awesome mysteries fulfilled on earth. We shall prepare a worthy cave for you. We shall ask the heavens for a star. We shall ask the Magi to come from the east to the west to behold your newborn child in a manger, to behold the Savior of all.

Troparion

Priest first, then all:

Your life has shown you to your flock as a rule of faith, an image of gentleness, and a teacher of moderation. You acquired greatness through
hu-mil-i-ty and wealth through pov-er-ty. O fa-ther and arch-bish-op

Nicho-las, in-tercede with Christ our God to save our souls.

Glory...now and ever...

Troparion "Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos," page 119, followed by the Blessing of Bread.