

**A SERVICE OF PRAYER TO OUR FATHER AMONG THE SAINTS,  
NICHOLAS THE WONDERWORKER, BISHOP OF MYRA IN LYCIA**  
*(ARRANGED FOR USE BY LAY PEOPLE, IN THE ABSENCE OF CLERGY)*

***Opening Doxology***

*Reader:* In Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

***Invocation of the Holy Spirit (sung in Tone 6)***

*People:* Amen. O Heavenly King, the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth, who art everywhere and fillest all things, Treasury of Blessings and Giver of Life: Come and abide in us, and cleanse us from every impurity, and save our souls, O Good One.

***Trisagion (Thrice Holy) Prayers***

*Reader:* Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. (3x)  
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.  
O Most Holy Trinity have mercy on us; O Lord, cleanse us from our sins; O Master, pardon our transgressions; O Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for your Name's sake.  
Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy.  
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

***The Lord's Prayer***

*People:* 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 evil.

*Reader:* Through the prayers of our holy fathers, O Lord, Jesus Christ, Our God, have mercy on us and save us.

*People:* Amen.

***Psalm 117/118***

*Reader:*

Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever. Let Israel now say, "His mercy endures forever." Let the house of Aaron now say, "His mercy endures forever." Let those who fear the LORD now say, "His mercy endures forever." I called on the LORD in distress; The LORD answered me and set me in a broad place. The LORD is on my side; I will not fear. What can man do to me? The LORD is for me among those who help me; therefore I shall see my desire on those who hate me. It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man. It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in princes. All nations surrounded me, but in the name of the LORD I will destroy them. They surrounded me, Yes, they surrounded me; but in the name of the LORD I will destroy them. They surrounded me like bees; they were quenched like a fire of thorns; for in the name of the LORD I will destroy them. You pushed me violently, that I might fall, but the LORD helped me. The LORD is my strength and song, And He has become my salvation. The voice of rejoicing and salvation is in the tents of the righteous; the right hand of the LORD does valiantly. The right hand of the LORD is exalted; the right hand of the LORD does valiantly. I shall not die, but

live, and declare the works of the LORD. The LORD has chastened me severely, but He has not given me over to death. Open to me the gates of righteousness; I will go through them, and I will praise the LORD. This is the gate of the LORD, through which the righteous shall enter. I will praise You, for You have answered me, and have become my salvation. The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. This was the LORD's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. This is the day the LORD has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it. Save now, I pray, O LORD; O LORD, I pray, send now prosperity. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD! We have blessed you from the house of the LORD. God is the LORD, and He has given us light; bind the sacrifice with cords to the horns of the altar. You are my God, and I will praise You; You are my God, I will exalt You. Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever.

Lord have mercy. (12x)

### ***Troparion of Saint Nicholas (Tone 4)***

YOU APPEARED TO YOUR FLOCK AS A RULE OF FAITH,  
AN IMAGE OF HUMILITY AND A TEACHER OF ABSTINENCE.  
BECAUSE OF YOUR LOWLINESS, HEAVEN WAS OPENED TO YOU,  
BECAUSE OF YOUR POVERTY, RICHES WERE GRANTED TO YOU.//  
HOLY BISHOP NICHOLAS PRAY TO CHRIST OUR GOD TO SAVE OUR SOULS

### ***The Prokimenon (sung in Tone 4)***

*Reader:* The Prokimenon in the 4<sup>th</sup> Tone:  
Precious in the sight of the Lord/is the death of his saints.  
*People:* Precious in the sight of the Lord/is the death of his saints.  
*Reader:* What shall I render to the Lord for all his bounty to me.  
*People:* Precious in the sight of the Lord/is the death of his saints.  
*Reader:* Precious in the sight of the Lord...  
*People:* ...is the death of his saints.

### ***Reading of the Holy Gospel***

*Reader:* The Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to St. John.  
*People:* Glory to you, O Lord, glory to you.  
*Reader:* [*The Reader reads the Gospel, in a spoken voice. He does not intone or chant it. Such is the custom when a Reader reads the Gospel, in the absence of a deacon, priest, or bishop.*]

The Lord said: I am the door; if any one enters by me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. He who is a hireling and not a shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. He flees because he is a hireling and cares nothing for the sheep. I am the good shepherd; I know my own and my own know me, as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. And I have other sheep, that are not of this fold; I must bring them also, and they will heed my voice. So there shall be one flock, one shepherd. (*John 10:9-16*)

*People:* Glory to you, O Lord, glory to you.

## ***Commemoration of the Living***

*Reader:* O Lord Jesus Christ our God, for the sake of Your eternal mercy and loving-kindness You became man, and suffered crucifixion and death for the salvation of all; You rose from the dead and ascended into heaven and sit at the right hand of the Father where You hear the prayers of all who call upon You humbly and with their whole heart: Incline Your ear to us, and listen to the prayer which Your unworthy servants offer as a spiritual sacrifice for all Your people.

Remember first of all Your Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church, which You purchased with Your precious blood. Strengthen it, multiply it, keep it in peace and do not allow the gates of hell to stand against it. Heal the schisms of the churches, stop the raging of the heathen, root out and cleanse all heresies, destroying them by the power of Your Holy Spirit.

Have mercy, Lord, upon our President and all in civil authority and save them, together with the armed forces of our country. Give them peace and continual victory over injustice and evil in all places. May they keep Your holy Church secure, that all Your people may live calm and ordered lives in Your sight, in true faith and prayer, with godly deeds.

Have mercy, Lord, upon the Orthodox patriarchs and metropolitans, the archbishops and bishops, the priests and deacons and the whole order of Your Church's clergy. Save them whom You have established to feed Your flock and by their prayers have mercy on us sinners and save us.

Have mercy, Lord, on our spiritual fathers and save them, and by their holy prayers, forgive us our transgressions.

Have mercy, Lord, on our parents and save them, together with our brothers and sisters, our kinsmen after the flesh and our friends. Grant them Your blessing both here and in the life to come.

Have mercy, Lord, on the old and the young, the needy, the orphans and widows, and all who are in sickness and sorrow, distress and affliction, oppression and captivity, in prison and confinement. Save them, together with Your servants who are under persecution for Your sake and for the sake of the Orthodox Faith. Remember them, visit them, strengthen and comfort them, and by Your power grant them speedy relief, freedom and deliverance.

Have mercy, Lord, on all who travel and save them: those who are sent on duty, our fathers and mothers, brothers and sisters, and all Orthodox Christians.

Have mercy, Lord, on our enemies: save all those who envy us, wish us evil, or deal unjustly with us. May they not perish because of us sinners.

Enlighten, Lord, with the truth of Your holy wisdom, all who have gone astray from the Orthodox Faith, led by destructive heresies, and unite them once more to Your Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church.

## ***Commemoration of the Departed***

*Reader:* Remember, Lord, those who have departed this life: all Orthodox patriarchs, metropolitans, archbishops, bishops, and all who served You in the priesthood and ministry of the Church and in the monastic order, and grant them rest with Your saints in Your eternal kingdom.

Remember, Lord, the souls of Your servants now fallen asleep, our parents, family and friends. Forgive them all their sins, committed knowingly or unknowingly; grant them Your kingdom, a portion in Your eternal blessing, and the enjoyment of Your unending life.

Remember, Lord, all who have fallen asleep in the hope of the resurrection and of eternal life: our fathers and mothers, brothers and sisters and Orthodox Christians throughout the world. Place them with Your saints before the light of Your countenance and have mercy on us, for You are good and the Lover of mankind.

*Reader:* Amen.

## ***Prayer said to Saint Nicholas***

*Reader:* A Prayer to Saint Nicholas:

O All-praised and all-honored hierarch, great wonderworker, saint of Christ, Father Nicholas, man of God and faithful servant, man of love, chosen vessel, strong pillar of the Church, most-brilliant lamp, star that illumines and enlightens the whole world; you are a righteous man that flourished like a palm tree planted in the courts of the Lord; dwelling in Myra you have diffused the fragrance of myrrh, and you pour out the ever-flowing myrrh of the grace of God. By your presence most-holy Father, the sea was sanctified when your most-miraculous relics were carried to the city of Bari, from the East to the West to praise the name of the Lord.

O most-superb and most-marvelous wonderworker, speedy helper, fervent intercessor, good shepherd that saves the rational flock from all dangers, we glorify and magnify you as the hope of all Christians, a fountain of miracles, a defender of the faithful, a most wise teacher, a feeder of the hungry, the gladness of those that mourn, clother of the naked, healer of the sick, pilot of those that sail the sea, liberator of prisoners, nourisher and protector of widows and orphans, guardian of chastity, gentle tutor of children, support of the aged, guide of fasters, rest of those that labor, abundant riches of the poor and needy.

Hear us that pray to you and flee to your protection, show your mediation on our behalf with the Most High, and obtain through your God-pleasing intercessions all that is useful for the salvation of our souls and bodies; keep this holy temple, together with this region and every city and town, and every country, and the people that dwell therein, from all oppression through your help; for we know that the prayer of a righteous man avails much for good; and after the most-holy Theotokos, we have you as a righteous mediator with the All-Merciful God, and to your fervent intercession and protection we humbly hasten.

Do you, as a watchful and good shepherd, keep us from all enemies, pestilence, earthquake, hail, famine, flood, fire, the sword, the invasion of enemies, and in all our misfortunes and affliction do you give us a helping hand and open the doors of God's compassion; for we are unworthy to look upon the height of heaven because of the abundance of our unrighteousness; we are bound by the bonds of sin and have not done the will of our Creator nor kept His commandments.

Wherefore, we bow the knees of our broken and humble hearts to our Maker, and we ask your fatherly intercession with Him; lest we perish with our sins, deliver us from all evil, and from every adverse thing, direct our minds and strengthen our hearts in the Orthodox Faith, which, through your mediation and intercession, neither wounds, nor threats, nor plague, nor the wrath of our Creator shall lessen; but grant that we may live a peaceful life here and see the good things in the land of the living, glorifying the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, one God glorified and worshipped in Trinity, now and forever, and unto the ages of ages.

*People:* Amen.

***Dismissal***

*Reader:* Through the prayers of our holy fathers, O Lord, Jesus Christ, Our God, have mercy on us and save us.

*People:* Amen.

***Magnification to Saint Nicholas (Sung in the traditional "We magnify..." melody)***

WE MAGNIFY,  
WE MAGNIFY YOU,  
O HOLY BISHOP FATHER NICHOLAS!  
AND WE HONOR YOUR HOLY MEMORY,  
FOR YOU PRAY TO CHRIST OUR GOD FOR US!

***A Traditional Hymn Sung in Honor of Saint Nicholas***

O who loves Nicholas, the Saintly,  
O who serves Nicholas, the Saintly,  
Him will Nicholas receive,  
And give help in time of need,  
Holy Father Nicholas.

O who dwells in God's Holy Mansions,  
Is our help on land and oceans,  
He will guard us from all ills,  
Keep us pure and free from sins,  
Holy Father Nicholas.

Holy Saint, hearken to our prayers,  
Let not life drive us to despair,  
All our efforts shall not wane,  
Singing praises to your name,  
Holy Father Nicholas.

