Vesper Propers, December 6
OUR HOLY FATHER NICHOLAS THE WONDER-WORKER,
ARCHBISHOP OF MYRA IN LYCIA

Supplement for The Order of Vespers for Sundays After Pentecost, 2006
"O Lord, I have cried" is sung in Tone 2, page 36.

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

Cantor: Let your ears be attentive
(on 7) 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? 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.
Oh 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 Myrra, 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...")

Cantor: Praise the Lord, all you nations, acclaim him all you peoples!

With what songs of praise shall we extol the most
saint ly 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 ragings 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 exalt the
saintly Nicholas? Living in the present he saw far into the future.

He spoke truly about far-away things as though they were near.

He oversees 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 pillar. Rejoice, O radiant star, whose light of miracles shines throughout the world. Rejoice, O divine joy to those in sorrow. Rejoice, O defender of those who are oppressed; even now, all-holy Nicholas, you still pray to God for us who celebrate your feast with faith and who honor you with zeal and joy.

Cantor: Now and ever...

Theotokion

O cave, prepare yourself to receive the Mother who bears Christ within
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-iior?"

Prokeimenon for the day of the week, page 114

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

Litija Litany, page 116

Aposticha

Tone 5 podoben: Radujsja Živonosnyj Kreste

Rejoice, O priestly leader, spotless vessel of virtue, model of divine priesthood, great shepherd of your flock, bearer of victory's torch; 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.

Cantor

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.
Your priests shall be clothed with 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 Myrrh 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...
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 worth-y 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-i-or of all.

Troparion

Priest first, then all:

Your life has shown you to your flock as a rule of faith, an im-age

of gentleness, and a teacher of mod-er-a-tion. You ac-quired great-ness through

hu-mil-i-ty and wealth through pov-er-ty. O fa-ther and arch-bish-op

Nich-o-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.