

# Sunday, December 6, 2020 – Twenty-seventh Sunday after Pentecost; Our Holy Father Nicholas the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia

*Troparia and Kontakia Troparion, Tone 2:* When You went down to death, O Life Immortal,\* You struck Hades dead with the blazing light of Your divinity.\* When You raised the dead from the nether world,\* all the powers of heaven cried out:\* “O Giver of Life, Christ our God, glory be to You!”

*Troparion, Tone 4:* The truth of your deeds made you for your flock a rule of faith\* and an image of meekness,\* a teacher of continence.\* And so you gained the heights through humility,\* riches through poverty,\* father and bishop Nicholas.\* Intercede with Christ our God\* for the salvation of our souls.

+Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

*Kontakion, Tone 2:* You rose from the tomb, O almighty Savior;\* and Hades, seeing this wonder, was stricken with fear; and the dead arose.\* Creation saw and rejoices with You, and Adam exults.\* And the world, my Savior, sings Your praises for ever.

Now and forever and ever. Amen.

*Kontakion, Tone 3:* In Myra, O holy one, you proved yourself a priest.\* You fulfilled the Gospel of Christ, O venerable father.\* You laid down your soul for your people\* and saved the innocent from death.\* And so you were sanctified as a great initiate of God’s grace.

***Prokeimenon, Tone 2*** The Lord is my strength and my song of praise, and He has become my salvation. *verse:* The Lord has indeed chastised me, but He has not delivered me to death. (*Psalm 117:14,18*)

***Prokeimenon, Tone 7*** *verse:* The just man shall be glad in the Lord, and shall hope in Him.

***Epistle – A reading of Paul to the Ephesians: Ephesians 6:10-17 (NRSV)***

*Brothers and Sisters,* be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

***A reading of Paul to the Hebrews - Hebrews 13:17-21 (NRSV)***

*Brothers and Sisters*, Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls and will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with sighing—for that would be harmful to you. Pray for us; we are sure that we have a clear conscience, desiring to act honorably in all things. I urge you all the more to do this, so that I may be restored to you very soon. Now may the God of peace, who brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, make you complete in everything good so that you may do his will, working among us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

***Alleluia, Tone 2***

*verse*: The Lord will hear you in the day of tribulation; the name of the God of Jacob will shield you. *verse*: Lord, grant victory to the king and hear us in the day that we shall call upon You. (*Psalm 19:2,10*) *verse*: Your priests shall clothe themselves with justice, and Your venerable ones shall rejoice. (*Psalm 131:9*)

***Gospel: Luke 13:10-17 (NRSV)***

*At that time*, Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath. And just then there appeared a woman with a spirit that had crippled her for eighteen years. She was bent over and was quite unable to stand up straight. When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said, “Woman, you are set free from your ailment.” When he laid his hands on her, immediately she stood up straight and began praising God. But the leader of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had cured on the sabbath, kept saying to the crowd, “There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be cured, and not on the sabbath day.” But the Lord answered him and said, “You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger, and lead it away to give it water? And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen long years, be set free from this bondage on the sabbath day?” When he said this, all his opponents were put to shame; and the entire crowd was rejoicing at all the wonderful things that he was doing.

***Luke 6:17-23 (NRSV)***

*At that time Jesus* came down with them and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them. Then he looked up at his disciples and said: “Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. “Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled. “Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh. “Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets.

***Communion Hymn*** Praise the Lord from the heavens;\* praise Him in the highest. (*Psalm 148:1*)\* The just man shall be in everlasting remembrance;\* of evil hearsay he shall have no fear.\* Alleluia, alleluia,\* alleluia. (*Psalm 111:6*).