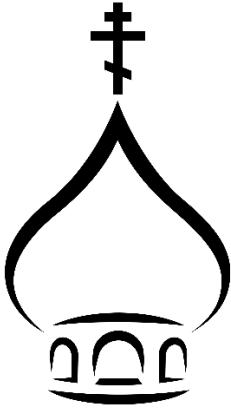


Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

Wednesday, March 4, 2020



SAINT NICHOLAS RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

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Note to our Guests and Friends Visiting St. Nicholas:

We offer a most sincere and heart-felt welcome to St. Nicholas Church! Please be advised that according to the ancient traditions of the Orthodox Church, the Sacrament of Holy Communion is to be administered only to Orthodox Christians who have prepared themselves to receive the Holy Sacrament.

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"Lord I Call..." **Tone 8**

Lord, I call upon Thee, hear me! Hear me, O Lord! Lord, I call upon Thee, hear me! Receive the voice of my prayer, when I call upon Thee! Hear me, O Lord! Let my prayer arise in Thy sight as incense, and let the lifting up of my hands be an evening sacrifice! Hear me, O Lord!

~~Bring my soul out of prison, that I may give thanks to Thy name!

Tone 8

While fasting physically brethren, let us also fast spiritually. Let us loose every know of iniquity. Let us tear up ev'ry unrighteous bond. Let us distribute bread to the hungry, and welcome into our homes those who have no roof over their heads, so that we may receive great mercy from Christ Our God.

Tone 8

Fame and praise befits the saints, for they bowed their necks beneath the sword to thee who didst bow the heavens and come down. They shed blood for thee who didst empty thy self and take the form of a servant. By emulating thy poverty they too humbled themselves even unto death. By their prayers have mercy on us, O God, according to the abundance of thy mercies.

Tone 2

Jesus the spiritually radiant sun, as sent you into the world as shining flashes of lightning, O apostles and eyewitnesses of God. By the rays of your divine doctrines the error of darkness was swept away, enlightening those who were held in the ignorant gloom. Entreat him to grant us enlightenment and great mercy.

Tone 2

Elias was enlightened through fasting. He mounted the chariot of good works and was taken up to the heights of heaven, emulate him, O humble soul. Abstain from ev'ry evil and jealousy, from ev'ry fleeting pleasure, so that you might be cleansed of corrupting disease, the fire of Gehenna, crying to Christ: O Lord, Glory to Thee.

Tone 5

○ divine apostles, fervent intercessors for the world, defenders of the Orthodox. You have the authority to entreat Christ Our God with boldness. We entreat you to pray for us, o honorable ones, that we might spend the good time of fasting in joyousness, and receive the grace of the consubstantial trinity, pray for our souls, ○ great and glorious preachers.

Tone 8 (Theotokion)

Rejoice, ○ resting place of the divine Light, brightest star, and veil of sanctification! Thou dost shine forth the Light Who illumines us from thine all-pure womb. Thou dost enlighten the ends of the world with thine own grace. Rejoice, ○ most pure Virgin, thou source of salvation; rejoice, awesome report and word to those who hope in thee!

Tone 5 Prokeimenon

~~Thou, ○ Lord, shalt protect us / and preserve us from this generation forever. (Ps 11/12:7)

~~Save me, ○ Lord, for there is no longer any that is godly! (Ps 11/12:1)

Vespers, 1st Reading: Genesis 1:24-2:3

Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth the living creature according to its kind: cattle and creeping thing and beast of the earth, each according to its kind"; and it was so. And God made the beast of the earth according to its kind, cattle according to its kind, and everything that creeps on the earth according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth." And God said, "See, I have given you every herb that yields seed which is on the face of all the earth, and every tree whose fruit yields seed; to you it shall be for food. "Also, to every beast of the earth, to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the

earth, in which there is life, I have given every green herb for food"; and it was so. Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day. Thus the heavens and the earth, and all the host of them, were finished. And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made.

Tone 6 Prokeimenon

~~Consider and answer me / O Lord, my God! (Ps 12/13:3)

~~How long, O Lord? Wilt Thou forget me forever? How long wilt Thou hide Thy face from me? (Ps 12/13:1)

Vespers, 2nd Reading: Proverbs 2:1-22

My son, if you receive my words, and treasure my commands within you, so that you incline your ear to wisdom, and apply your heart to understanding; yes, if you cry out for discernment, and lift up your voice for understanding, if you seek her as silver, and search for her as for hidden treasures; then you will understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God. For the Lord gives wisdom; from His mouth come knowledge and understanding; he stores up sound wisdom for the upright; he is a shield to those who walk uprightly; he guards the paths of justice, and preserves the way of His saints. Then you will understand righteousness and justice, equity and every good path. When wisdom enters your heart, and knowledge is pleasant to your soul, discretion will preserve you; understanding will keep you, to deliver you from the way of evil, from the man who speaks perverse things, from those who leave the paths of uprightness to walk in the ways of darkness; who rejoice in doing evil, and delight in the perversity of the wicked; whose ways are crooked, and who are devious in their paths; to deliver you from the immoral woman, from the seductress who flatters with her words, who forsakes the companion of her youth, and forgets the covenant of her God. For her house leads down to death, and her paths to the dead; none who go to her return, nor do they regain the paths of life - so you may walk in the way of goodness, and keep to the paths of righteousness. For the upright will dwell in the land, and the blameless will remain in it; but the wicked will be cut off from the earth, and the unfaithful will be uprooted from it.