

PSALM 94

A song of praise by David. Untitled in the Hebrew.

- 1 **Come, rejoice in the Lord; make a joyful noise to God our Savior.**
- 2 **Come forth to His presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto Him with psalms.**
- 3 **For the God is a great Lord, and a great king over all the earth.**
- 4 **For in His hand are the ends of the earth, and the heights of the mountains are His.**
- 5 **For the sea is His, and He made it; and His hands shaped the dry land.**
- 6 a) **Come, let us worship and fall down before Him,**
b) and weep before the Lord that created us.
- 7 For He is our God, and we are the people of His pasture, and the sheep of His hand.
- 8 Today if you should hear His voice, do not harden your hearts, as in the provocation, on the day of temptation in the wilderness.
- 9 When your fathers tempted Me. For forty years they tried Me, and they saw My works.
- 10 I was grieved by this generation, and said:
- 11 “Their heart continually wanders, for they do not know My ways.”
- 12 In my anger I swore that they would not enter into My rest.

A powerful psalm within the 13th Kathisma.

Verses 1 to 5 constitute the verses of the Third Antiphon during the weekdays, but these are rarely heard because the verses to the antiphons are infrequently said in most Orthodox parishes. However verse 6 a) is the Isodikon (the Entrance Hymn) on most Sundays as the priest, holding the Gospel Book high, turns and goes forward to the sanctuary singing: *Come let us worship and fall down before Christ, O son of God who didst rise from the dead, save us who sing to thee, Alleluia!*

Compiled by John P. Nasou, M.D.

SAINT SOPHIA GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL Ἁγίας Σοφίας τοῦ Θεοῦ

Washington, D.C.

December 6, 2009

Saint Nicholas of Myra

The Tone for this day is One

The Morning Gospel of the Orthros is No. Four

Luke 24:1-12

On the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared. And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel. And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise." And they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb they told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest. Now it was Mary Magdalene and Joanna and Mary the mother of James and the other women with them who told these things to the apostles, but these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. But Peter rose and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; and he went home marveling at what had happened.

The Epistle Today Commemorates St. Nicholas

PROKEIMENON: Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints
What shall I render unto the Lord for all that He has given to me? Psalm 115: 15 + 12

The Epistle is from St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 13:17-21

BRETHREN, obey your leaders and submit to them; for they are keeping watch over your souls, as men who will have to give account. Let them do this joyfully, and not sadly, for that would be of no advantage to you. Pray for us, for we are sure that we have a clear conscience, desiring to act honorably in all things. I urge you the more earnestly to do this in order that I may be restored to you the sooner. Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great Shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do His will, working in you that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

The Gospel is from Luke 13:10-17

AT THAT TIME, Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath. And there was a woman who had a spirit of infirmity for eighteen years; she was bent over and could not fully straighten herself. And when Jesus saw her, he called her and said to her, "Woman, you are freed from your infirmity." And he laid his hands upon her, and immediately she was made straight, and she praised God. But the ruler of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had healed on the sabbath, said to the people, "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be healed, and not on the sabbath day." Then the Lord answered him, "You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger, and lead it away to water it? And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the sabbath day?" As he said this, all his adversaries were put to shame; and all the people rejoiced at all the glorious things that were done by him.

The Tenth Sunday of Luke

ST. NICHOLAS THE WONDERWORKER, ARCHBISHOP OF MYRA

St. Nicholas is revered by Orthodox Christians for his faith and charitable efforts to help the impoverished people of his time. Because of this, the western Christians have developed many legends that have connected him to largess in extraordinary circumstances and eventually have developed him into the figure of Santa Claus and associated him with Christmas gift-giving. Our synaxarion provides a more balanced view on his holiness:

This Saint lived during the reign of Saint Constantine the Great, and reposed in 330. As a young man, he desired to espouse the solitary life. He made a pilgrimage to the holy city Jerusalem, where he found a place to withdraw to devote himself to prayer. It was made known to him, however, that this was not the will of God for him, but that he should return to his homeland to be a cause of salvation for many. He returned to Myra, and was ordained bishop. He became known for his abundant mercy, providing for the poor and needy, and delivering those who had been unjustly accused. No less was he known for his zeal for the truth. He was present at the First Ecumenical Council of the 318 Fathers at Nicaea in 325; upon hearing the blasphemies that Arius brazenly uttered against the Son of God, Saint Nicholas struck him on the face. Since the canons of the Church forbid the clergy to strike any man at all, his fellow bishops were in perplexity what disciplinary action was to be taken against this hierarch whom all revered. In the night our Lord Jesus Christ and our Lady Theotokos appeared to certain of the bishops, informing them that no action was to be taken against him, since he had acted not out of passion, but extreme love and piety. The Dismissal Hymn for holy hierarchs, The truth of things hath revealed thee to thy flock ... was written originally for Saint Nicholas. He is the patron of all travelers, and of sea-farers in particular; he is one of the best known and best loved Saints of all time.

Apolytikion in the Fourth Tone

The truth of things hath revealed thee to thy flock as a rule of faith,
an icon of meekness, and a teacher of temperance;
for this cause, thou hast achieved the heights by humility, riches by poverty.
O Father and Hierarch Nicholas, intercede with Christ God that our souls be saved.