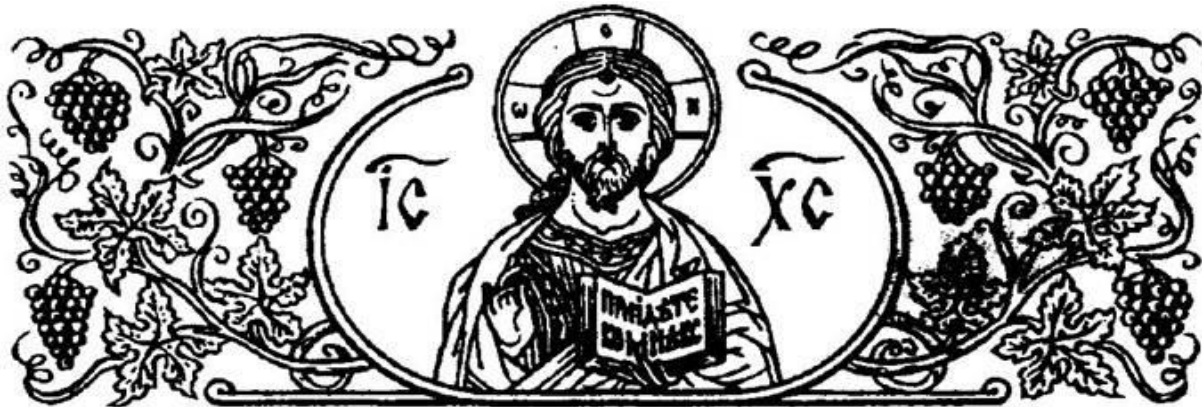




**FESTAL SERVICE
TO OUR FATHER AMONG THE SAINTS
CHAD
BISHOP OF LICHFIELD**

**Composed initially by Reader Isaac Lambertsen
and now adapted and supplemented
by Presbyter David Somalis
in the 2022nd year of our Lord**





Month of March, the second day:
Commemoration
of our Father amongst the Saints
Chad, Bishop of Lichfield¹
AT GREAT VESPERS

After the Introductory Psalm, we chant “Blessed is the man”, the first stasis. On “Lord, I have cried...”, we chant these stichera, in the fourth mode: Spec. Mel.: " Ὅτε ἐκ τοῦ ξύλου."—

Chance, as a deer panting for the brooks, * thirsting after Christ at the holy * island of Lindisfarne * you arrived, thrice-blessèd Chad, * in all humility * to the chosen servant of God, * the revered Aidan, * you became obedient * and you were nurtured by him * in the apostolic traditions * and were taught to fight as a soldier * of the Lord in chastity and abstinence.

Chance to Rath Melsigi as a bee, * you ran to collect from the elders * who lived there virtuously, * Chad, in unpretentiousness * the sweetest nectar of all * their advisements and apophthegms * you had as companion * Egbert your compatriot, and then to Yorkshire you went * to assist Cedd your holy brother * to establish a priory offered * to the Ever-Virgin Mother of our Lord.

¹ We follow the typicon from the feast of the 40 Martyrs (March 9th).

When your brother fell asleep in Christ, * you succeeded him as an Abbott * and you led Lastingham's * priory in righteousness * being an example to all; * wherefore Oswy the pious king * did ask you to shepherd * York's then vacant bishopric, * revering your holy life * and reluctantly you accepted * since you judged yourself undeserving, * of such a high office and incumbency.

When you were requested to step down * from the Yorkers' see by the primate * without delay you obeyed; * hence, the saintly Theodore * seeing your humility, * he himself gladly did complete * whatever was lacking * to your ordination to the episcopate, * and, in due time, he did invite you * to pastor the sheepfold of Lichfield * prompting you to journey, blessed Chad, a horse.

When you visited cottages, and villages, and forts, * visiting you preached imitating * the Lord's Apostles indeed * and teaching untiringly those plunged in error and sin * and admonishing eagerly * the Mercian people, * Chad, to live in righteousness * and give up worldly desires; * hence, in a brief time many people, * with the Gospel's light you illumined * scattering the darkness of idolatry.

When the time had come for you to leave * and to be with Christ, then Owini, * a monk most humble and kind, * heard angelic melodies * filling the church you were in, * and you gathered paternally * the brethren and urged them, * to be always vigilant * and ready for their decease, * and you did depart, Chad, most gladly * to be recompensed for your labours * by the Righteous Judge; to Whom now pray for us.

Glory..., in the plagal second mode:

Today the annual commemoration * of Chad the blessed hierarch * has shone forth like the sun * mystically illumining * the hearts of all the faithful. * Come, therefore, brethren, let us assemble * and with wreaths of praise * let us lovingly crown him * joyfully chanting with one mouth: * Rejoice, glorious offspring of Northumbria * and divinely wise Abbott of Lanstingham. * Rejoice, imitator of the Apostles * and


enlightener of the Midlands. * Rejoice, converser with angels * and most admirable shepherd of Lichfield. * With Cedd your brother and Aidan your teacher * and all the saints of these isles * implore Christ God for evermore * on behalf of those who honour * your ever gladsome and most radiant feast.

Both now. *Theotokion, in the same mode.*


Who will not call you blessed, most holy Virgin?...
Entrance, Joyful Light, Prokeimenon of the Day, and the Old Testament readings from Vespers of St. Nicholas.

At the Liti, the Sticheron of the patron saint, and these Stichera:


First mode.

 hat shall we call you, holy prelate? * An ascetic, an apostle, or a prophet? * An ascetic, for you crucified the flesh * with its passions and desires. * An apostle, for you taught the nations * delivering them from the futile ways * inherited from their ancestors. * A prophet, as you spoke in the name of the Lord * and after your dormition * your relics gushed forth healings. * You did combine the virtues of all the saints, * Chad most blessed father; * wherefore, making your abode with them, * we ask you to pray endlessly * that our souls may be saved.

Glory..., in the fourth mode

 ttaining full spiritual maturity * under the cultivation of the holy Aidan, * O wondrous father Chad, * your soul grew in stature and ripeness * like a mighty mustard plant, * which, spreading its verdant branches * like a lofty noetic tree, * gave shade to your disciples * and to this day provides shelter for all the faithful. * Count us with them, most wise hierarch, * and entreat Christ to grant great mercy to us * who honour your blessed repose.

Both now. *Theotokion. In the same mode.*

 uard your servants from dangers of every kind, O blessed Theotokos, so that we may glorify you, the hope of our souls.

Aposticha. In the fourth mode; Spec. Mel.: “Ἐδωκας σημείωσιν”

From a noble family * you came of godly Northumbrians,
* and your parents did bring you up * in God's holy disci-
pline * and His Law they taught you; * then to blessed
Aidan * you went and were nurtured by him * in the monastic *
traditions perfectly; * hence with him we praise you today, *
Chad, and beseech you with him to pray * for all those who invoke
your aid * and extol your ascetic feats.

*Verse: My mouth shall speak wisdom, and the meditation of my heart,
understanding.*

With the Holy Spirit's rays, * you brightly shone, and were
luminous * like the sun, holy hierarch; * with knowledge
of God you have * enlightened the Midlands, * Chad, peer
of the apostles; * preaching the Gospel you did drive * away the
darkness of idol-worshipping. * And therefore, we now celebrate
* your most magnificent memory * and we hymn your renowned
deeds, * priceless gem of the Mercians.

*Verse: The mouth of the righteous shall meditate on wisdom, and his
tongue shall speak of judgment.*

When and cattle having drunk * the water mixed with the
holy dust * of your venerable sepulchre * were healed of
their sicknesses, * and the man affected * by ferocious
frenzy * staying the night by your tomb * cured and in sound
mind * was in the morning found; * therefore now to your well
we come, * and pray unhesitatingly * to be rescued from all our
ills, * righteous Chad, as who honour you.

Glory ..., in the plagal fourth mode:


Endowed by God with modesty * and having attained mar-
vellous humility, most venerable Chad, * chief shepherd
of Lichfield, * in all the virtues you did strive to imitate
Christ, * that thereby you might ascend * the ladder of salvation;
* and the people, beholding your struggles * and your manifold
victories * over the spiritual foe, * heeded your corrections and
eagerly sought salvation. * And now we sincerely implore you: *

by virtue of your God-pleasing intercessions * encourage the fainthearted, help the weak * and shelter all of us who celebrate * your most majestic memory.


Both now. *Theotokion, in the same mode.*

Lady, receive the supplications of your servants, and rescue us from all necessity and affliction.

Troparion in the fourth mode; Spec. Mel.: “Ταχὺ προκατάλαβε”—

 wise champion * of faith and virtue, * boast of hierarchs, peer of apostles, * friend of silence and exemplar of ascetic life, * shepherd of Mercians and scion of Northumbria, * illuminator of idolatrous royalty, * righteous Father Chad, * with boldness pray now to Christ our God * that his great mercy may be granted to us all.

Glory... in the fourth mode.

 eceiving divine grace from God on high, and strengthened by the power thereof, O glorious Chad, you did tread the straight and narrow path of the Gospel, and did draw with you a multitude of the faithful; wherefore, dwelling now in the mansions of heaven, you have received rich recompense for your labours from Christ, Whom do you beseech to save our souls.

Both now. *Theotokion, in the same mode.*

The mystery hidden from all ages...

Dismissal.





ΑΤ ΜΑΤΙΝΣ

*After the first reading from the Psalter, the Sessional Hymn,
in the first mode: Spec. Melody: - “Τὸν τάφον σου Σωτήρ.”*

Northumbria's blessèd son, * holy Aidan's disciple,
brother of righteous Cedd, * imitator of Angels, * teacher
and leader of the monks, * Chad our father, we honour
you; * for you brought to Christ, the pagan and godless nations,
* and dispersed the night * of superstition and error, apostle of
Mercia.

Glory...Both now. Theotokion, in the same mode.

All we who run to you * and with longing take refuge * in
your benevolence * know that you are the Mother * of
God, and after giving birth * are a virgin in very truth. *
Now we sinners have * you as our only protection. * In tempta-
tion we * rely on you for salvation, * O only all-blameless one.

*After the second reading from the Psalter, the Sessional Hymn,
in the fourth mode: Spec. Melody: - “Ἐπεφάνης σήμερον”*

Men and cattle when they taste * the dust collected * from
your sacred burial * having been mixed with water, Chad,
are healed of hurtful infirmities, shepherd of Lichfield; *
therefore we proclaim your grace.

Glory...Both now. Theotokion, in the same mode.

Let us sing hymns in praise * of her who knew no man *
and yet gave birth to God, * and held within her womb *
the One whom nothing can contain, * the all-holy The-
otokos. * Only she was capable * of redeeming the human race *
from

*After the Polieleos, the Sessional Hymn,
in the fourth mode: Spec. Melody: - “Ὁ ὑψωθεὶς ἐν τῷ Σταυρῷ ἐκουσίως”*

You did not cease from preaching with persuasiveness * and self-denial the Gospel, * Chad, and admonishing all * to repent and be baptised, saintly hierarch, * teaching in faith and in truth, * and being a model to your flock * in purity and devotion; hence, you received from the Lord in heaven, the unfading crown as a fitting reward.

Glory...Both now. *Theotokion, in the same mode.*

Who can relate my many sordid impressions * and my unseemly thoughts that rage like a blizzard, * for they should not be uttered, All-blameless One? * Also, the disturbances * from my fleshless opponents, * and their awful wickedness: * who can fully describe them? * But I implore you to deliver me * from them, O Good One, * by your intercessory prayers.

Song of Ascents, the first antiphon of the fourth mode.

Prokeimenon, in the fourth mode:

My mouth shall speak wisdom, and the meditation of my heart, understanding.

Verse: The mouth of the righteous shall meditate on wisdom, and his tongue shall speak of judgment.

Let every breath praise the Lord ...

Mattins Gospel (see at Matins of St Nicholas).

Psalm 50 is read.

Glory. Mode ii.


At the intercessions of Your Hierarch, O Lord of mercy, blot out my many offences.

Both now.

At the intercessions of the Theotokos, O Lord of mercy, blot out my many offences.

Idiomelon. In the second mode.

Verse: Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your great mercy; and according to the abundance of Your compassion, blot out my transgression.

dorned with humble-mindedness, O godly hierarch Chad, * like the Lord you did ever travel on foot * to proclaim the glad tidings of salvation to all; * and, perceiving your great love for God * and your manifest charity toward your neighbour, * they forsook the trackless wastes of falsehood * and sought out the kingdom of God Most High, * to whom never cease to pray * for the salvation of our souls.

Save, O God, your people etc.

Then follow the Canons:

The Canon of the Theotokos with 6 troparia (with the Irmos) and the Canon of the holy hierarch, with 8 troparia, (without the Irmos), the acrostic whereof is "By piety Chad waged war on the foe of man", in Tone IV -

Ode I. Irmos:

He Who is mighty in battle cast the chariots of Pharaoh and his power into the sea. Let us chant a new hymn, for He hath been glorified!

Battling the hosts of Satan, the holy Chad vanquished them utterly; wherefore, grant me the grace to chant unto him a new hymn, O Lord.

Ye servants of Christ, lift up your voices, glorifying the holy hierarch, the valiant warrior, who trampled the noetic foe beneath his beautiful feet.

Prevailing over all the passions of the flesh, the wondrous Chad scaled the heights of dispassion by his surpassing wisdom and Christian virtues.

Theotokion:

In thee, Gall-blessed Virgin, do we attain salvation, for without knowing man thou gavest birth unto Him Who is glorified in His saints.

Ode III Irmos:

Let the vainglorious sage boast not but let him consider this: There is none as holy as God, Who exalteth our horn, granting might to our rulers.

Eternal be thy parents' reward, O holy Chad, for they instilled true piety in thee and thy brethren, whom they gave to the Church as bishops and priests.

Trained in ascetic feats by the sainted Aidan at Lindisfarne, O great hierarch of Christ, with thy holy brother Cedd thou didst overcome the adversary.

Yearning to commune with the Most High in true contemplation, O Chad, to the monasteries of Ireland didst thou go to gain knowledge divine.

Theotokion:

Choirs of angels hymn thy supernal beauty, O holy Maiden, and the ranks of archangels glorify thee exceedingly, for thou dost surpass them all in holiness.

Sessional hymn, in Tone IV: Spec. Mel.: "Having been lifted up ..." -

Having fought the good fight and finished well the course of thy life, O Chad, thou wast vouchsafed to hear the Judge of the contest say, "Well done, good and faithful servant! Enter into the joy of thy Lord!" Wherefore, the angelic hosts escorted thy pure soul to heaven.

Glory ..., Now & ever ...: Theotokion -

Who can describe the multitude of mine impure thoughts and the tempests of my wicked notions, O all-immaculate one? Who can recount the assaults of mine incorporeal foes and their malice? Yet by thine entreaties grant me deliverance from them all, O good one.

Ode IV. Irmos:

When the years draw nigh, Thou shalt be acknowledged; when the season cometh, Thou shalt be shown forth; when my soul is troubled, in Thine anger shalt Thou remember mercy. Glory to Thee, O Lord!

Having been summoned to Northumbria by thy blessed brother, O Chad, thou didst undertake to govern there the holy Monastery of Lastingham, until it was God's good pleasure that thou be made bishop of York.

Anointed with the grace of the episcopacy, O wondrous Chad, thou didst put on the hierarchal vestments as a soldier putteth on his armour, and with courage and valour didst wage war, undaunted, upon the primordial foe.

Doctrine and Christian piety didst thou preach to thy flock, proclaiming the Gospel of Christ in every town and village of the realm, in thy modesty and humility travelling about on foot like the holy apostles.

Theotokion:

When woes afflict us and the ungodly oppress us, and divine wrath justly punisheth us for our manifold sins, O Lady, beseech thine omnipotent Son to be mindful of His mercy, that we may sing His glory.

Ode V. Irmos:

Ascend Mount Sion, proclaiming glad tidings, and go up to Jerusalem with proclamation, lifting up your voices with strength, saying: Wondrous things have been spoken of thee, O city of God! Peace be upon Israel, and salvation upon the nations!

Aidan's example didst thou truly follow, O holy hierarch; for, imbued with the grace of the Scriptures, thy godly conduct and actions won converts to the Christian Faith even more than thy words: wherefore, thou wast the salvation of thy nation.

Giving place in thy surpassing humility to the saintly Wilfrid, O Chad who art most rich, at the behest of the holy hierarch Theodore of Canterbury thou didst accept Mercia as the vineyard wherein thou wouldst labour tirelessly for thy Master and Lord.

Ever concerned for the well-being of thy body and soul, the holy Archbishop Theodore forbade thee to continue visiting thy flock on foot, O saint of God, lifting thee up upon a horse with his own hands to enforce his divinely inspired commands

Theotokion:

Damnation and perdition surely await us at our death, for many are our sins and grievous our transgressions; but take pity on us, the wretched and accursed, O Mistress, and by thine intercessions obtain peace for our lives and salvation for our souls.

Ode VI. Irmos:

I have been brought down into hades by the abyss of life and my deeds; yet as Jonah cried out from within the sea monster, so do I cry: Lead me up from the depths of evils, I pray, O Son and Word of God!

Wulfhere, King of Mercia, in his piety gave thee land whereon to found a monastic house in the province of Lindsey, O holy Chad, and there thou didst establish the Monastery of Bardney to the glory of God.

Angelic voices were heard in thy cell at Lichfield, O saint of God, and when they returned to heaven thou didst summon thy monks, admonishing them to keep peace among themselves after thy repose.

Relating to thy disciples that the day when thou wouldst be called from this life was nigh at hand, O hierarch of Christ, thou didst commend thyself to the prayers of the brethren, that thy passage might be eased.

Theotokion:

Our trust and hope are all in thee, after God, O all-merciful Theotokos; wherefore, disdain not our earnest supplications, neither spurn our fervent pleas, but as thou standest at the right hand of glory, save us.

Kontakion, in Tone II -

O boast of Lichfield and glory of Mercia, disciple of the holy Aidan and brother of the godly Cedd, by thine exalted humility thou didst ascend the mount of the virtues, and by thine evangelical poverty thou hast enriched thy people; wherefore, as thou dwellest in the uncreated light of grace divine, O Chad, entreat Christ, the Sun of righteousness, to illumine us all.

Ikos:

Chanting together, O ye faithful, let us clap our hands in exultation, celebrating the right gladsome memory of the holy hierarch Chad, the scion of Northumbria and enlightener of the Midlands, by the sound of whose gentle voice many were called to salvation and have come to dwell with the saints in glory; and with compunction for our manifold sins let us cry out to him with hope: Entreat Christ, the Sun of righteousness to illumine us all!

Synaxarion

On the second day of the month of March, commemoration of our Father amongst the Saints Chad, Bishop of Lichfield.

Chad the chastener of false gods and their follies

Changes his abode today in radiant glory.

On the sixth of the Nones of March Chad received the crown of life.

Ode VII. Irmos:

Deliver us not up utterly, for Thy holy name's sake, neither disannul Thou Thy covenant, and cause not Thy mercy to depart from us, O Lord God of our fathers, Who art supremely hymned forever.

Never uttering a complaint, thou didst endure a languishing infirmity for seven days, O athlete of Christ, and then, having communed of His holy Body and Blood, didst depart straightway to heaven.

Thy flock mourned thy passing, O blessed Chad, but thou wast full of joy when, escorted by radiant hosts of angels and the deified soul of thy holy brother Cedd, thou didst enter the holy Sion in triumph.

Holy are thy relics, O wondrous Chad, abundantly pouring forth a torrent of healings upon the sick and infirm, like oil from an oil-press, curing their maladies of soul and body and restoring their health.

Theotokion:

Even the worst of sinners beggeth mercy of thee and receiveth thine aid, O Virgin Maiden, for the King of glory gave thee as a mother to mankind, and at her maternal supplications extendeth mercy unto all.

Ode VIII. Irmos:

Rejoicing after their condemnation by the tyrant for not worshipping all the abominable gods, but only the living God, the children braved the fire; and, bedewed by the Angel, they chanted the song: Hymn the Lord, all ye works of the Lord, and exalt Him supremely for all ages!

Free us from the chains wherewith the primordial foe hath fettered us, O valorous warrior of the Lord, and lead us up from the nethermost dungeon of our despair, that with thee we may joyfully chant: Hymn the Lord, ye works, and exalt Him supremely for all ages!

Over the sheep of thy flock do thou ever keep vigilant watch, O good shepherd of Christ, leading them to the green pastures of Orthodox doctrine and fending off the rabid assaults of the noetic wolves, crying: Hymn the Lord, ye works, and exalt Him supremely for all ages!

Triadicon:

Enfold us in Thy love which passeth all human understanding, O All-holy Trinity our God - unoriginate Father, consubstantial Son and equally eternal Spirit - and grant that we may ever adore Thee in spirit and in truth, hymning and exalting Thee supremely for all ages!

Theotokion:

Out of the raging depths of the pyre of our passions do we send our piteous cry: Hearken unto us, O unstained Bride of God, and by the angels send down upon us the dew of mercy, that like the youths we may cry: Hymn the Lord, ye works, and exalt Him supremely for all ages!

Ode IX. Irmos:

The God of Israel hath wrought might with His arm; for He hath cast down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of low degree, wherein the Dayspring from on high hath visited us, and guided us to the way of peace.

Forming a choir with the angels of God and all the ranks of His saints, in gladness let us chant hymns of praise to Him, for He hath been glorified in His servant Chad, the boast of Lichfield, who hath guided us in the way of peace.

Mighty in strength is the God of Israel, and strong in His might is the valiant Chad, His courageous warrior, who, clad in the armour of uncreated light, cast down all the enemies of man's salvation and put their vile hordes to flight.

All Christians beseech the blessed Chad to make entreaty to the Lord in their behalf, that, pulled from the mire of sins by his mighty arm, by his guidance they may tread the way of peace to the glorious kingdom of heaven.

Theotokion:

Now bless we all the most pure Maiden, who without stain or corruption gave birth to the incarnate Word of God, the Dayspring

from on high, Who in His mercy hath visited our lowly race, to guide us in the way of peace.

Exapostilarion: Spec. Mel.: "Τοῖς μαθηταῖς συνέλθωμεν" -

The Holy Isle of Lindisfarne, * does cherish your memorial; * Lastingham likewise is glad * in you its godly abbot * and good and most watchful shepherd; * and with them York rejoices, * having enjoyed your pastorship; * but more than these does Lichfield * in you exult, * having seen your passage, Chad, into heaven * and treasured, blessed hierarch, * your relics streaming healings.

Glory ..., Now & ever ... Theotokion -

Inside your venerable church, * all-holy Virgin Mary, * was the most godly hierarch * been buried; and then his grave * became a fountain of healings, * abundantly bestowing * healings upon those who with faith * had to him come for refuge; * hence pray with him * for us your unworthy suppliants asking * unfailing health for both our souls * and for our mortal bodies.

On the Praises, 4 Stichera, in the plagal fourth mode:

Spec. Mel: "Ὁ τοῦ παραδόξου θαύματος"

Holy father Chad, most glorious, * you spurned the joys of the world, * and preferred the ascetic life; * hence you went to Lindisfarne * and to Aidan obedient * you were, submitting * in all humility * to his directives * without questioning; * therefore, you learnt from him * what the ancient Fathers taught * and you received * in your heart the Comforter's * blessing most worthily.

Imitating the apostles' zeal * you preached the word of the Lord * with all boldness and diligence, * and the idol-worshippers * you enlightened and lessoned them * in godly manners * and ardent piety * being an example * to all whom you had taught; * wherefore do now instruct * their

descendants to give up * godless beliefs, * Father Chad, and to embrace * the Holy Orthodox Faith.

When the time for your repose had come * a sound harmonious and sweet * was heard by your disciple * of angelic melodies, * whereas Egbert in Ireland * your once companion * witnessed your blessed soul, * Father, ascending * into the realm of light; * whereof, most virtuous Chad, * make us all participants * pleading for us * God who magnified you, * the most compassionate.

Chad, most venerable hierarch * with Cedd your brother do pray * for those having recourse to you, * and rescue us speedily * from all sorrows and illnesses, * and shield our cattle * from all infirmities, * being a God-given * healer and sentinel * of men and animals, * and from the eternal fire * deliver us * who do joyously observe * your sacred memory.

Glory. Mode ii.

Venerable Father, divinely wise Hierarch Chad, * your life was according to your name: * for your calling being interpreted * denotes a battle * and indeed you fought most valiantly * against the rulers of the darkness of this world, * and holding the sword of the Spirit, * you overcame their wickedness, * and utterly vanquished their wiles. * Hence, having derided the falsehood of idolatry, * you illumined those sitting in the darkness of ignorance * with the lightning-flashes of your preaching * and taught them to worship God * in spirit and in truth; * and having being an example to your flock * you received the crown of glory * that does not fade away, from Christ the Chief Shepherd; Whom we ask you to beseech * for the salvation of our souls.

Both now. Theotokion.

All of my hope I place on you, * O Mother of God; * keep me under your shelter.

Great Doxology and Dismissal.

AT LITURGY:

On the Beatitudes, 8 Troparia from the Canon of the Saint: 4 from Ode iii and 4 from Ode vi.

Apostle and Gospel from the Feast of St Nicholas.

Communion verse: In everlasting memory...

And here will I make an end.

And if I have done well,
and as is fitting the story,
it is that which I desired:
but if slenderly and meanly,
it is that which I could attain unto.

Now unto him
that is able to do exceeding abundantly
above all that we ask or think,
according to the power that worketh in us,
Unto him be glory in the church
by Christ Jesus
throughout all ages,
world without end.

Amen.

