**MARCH 23**

***The Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts (served on Thursday)***

**Martyr Nikon and 199 disciples with him**

**"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!

*v. (10) Bring my soul out of prison, that I may give thanks to Thy name!*

**Tone 8 Idiomelon** *(from the Lenten Triodion)*

I have forsaken the splendor of virtues

by my own will through my first sin.

But by Thy condescension, O Word of God,

I am now clothed in that splendor again.

Thou didst not despise me,

even though I was wounded by evil passions,

and thieves had left me wounded on the road.

Thou didst keep me safe by Thy mighty strength;//

Thou hast granted me Thy protection, O merciful Lord.

*v. (9) The righteous will surround me; for Thou wilt deal bountifully with me.*

(Repeat: “I have forsaken the splendor …”)

*v. (8) Out of the depths I cry to Thee, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice.*

**Tone 8** *(for the Martyrs)*

O Martyrs of the Lord,

ye sanctify every place and heal every ill.

Now therefore, intercede with Him,//

that He may deliver our souls from every wile and snare of the Enemy!

*v. (7) Let Thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications.*

**Tone 1** *(from the Triodion, by Joseph) (O all-praised martyrs)*

Thou didst destroy the curse of Adam

by Thy crucifixion, O Lord.

Destroy my bonds, O Word, so that I may offer Thee a sacrifice of praise

in joy and faith during this acceptable time of fasting,//

which Thou hast revealed for the salvation of all!

*v. (6) If Thou, O Lord, shouldest mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with Thee.*

When Moses shone with the grace of fasting,

he beheld the glory of God.

Emulate him, my humble soul, in prayer and abstinence,

and serve Him Who graciously stretched out His hands on the Cross!//

Do this to receive divine enjoyment!

*v. (5) For Thy name’s sake have I waited for Thee, O Lord, my soul has waited for Thy word; my soul has hoped on the Lord.*

**Tone 6** *(from the Triodion, by Theodore)*

Venerating Thy life-creating Cross,

granted us by Thy boundless goodness,

with enlightened souls we always sing Thy praise, O Christ.

Enable us to complete the course of the fast with joy,

in wholeness of heart,

so that we may sing the praises of Thy passion,//

by which Thou hast saved us!

*v. (4) From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch, let Israel hope on the Lord.*

**Tone 4** *(for Martyr Nikon) (As one valiant among the martyrs)*

Using abstinence as a bridle, thou didst curb the pleasures of the body

and the disobedience of the flesh, O blessed one.

Courageous, thou didst vanquish the full armor of the Enemy

by the power of the Spirit.

Therefore, O Nikon, thou wast a leader of monastics//

who always followed thy most wise and divine preaching.

*v. (3) For with the Lord there is mercy and with Him is plenteous redemption, and He will deliver Israel from all his iniquities.*

(Repeat: “Using abstinence …”)

*v. (2) Praise the Lord, all nations! Praise Him, all peoples!*

Thou didst shine forth from the east like the sun, O most glorious one,

bringing light to the whole world with the radiance of miracles,

guiding the choir of thy brilliant disciples like a star,

with whom thou didst suffer mightily.

Beheaded by the sword,//

ye placed your souls in the hands of the King and Master of all.

*v. (1) For His mercy is abundant towards us; and the truth of the Lord endureth for ever.*

Neither hunger, nor tribulation, O truly wondrous ones,

nor nakedness, nor wounds, nor the imminence of a violent death,

were able to separate you from the love of God.

O crown-bearing athletes,

following the Shepherd like sheep that are led to the slaughter,//

from the west ye reached the unending rest of the heavenly Kingdom.

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,*

*now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

**Tone 4**  *(Cross-Theotokion)*

When the Ewe-Lamb, Thy Mother, beheld Thee nailed to the

Cross, O Lord,

she marveled and cried out:

“What is this that I see, O my most beloved Son?

How have the iniquitous and unbelieving assembly rewarded Thee

for having enjoyed Thy many miracles?

Glory, O Master, to Thine ineffable condescension!”

**Tone 7** **Prokeimenon**

Extol the Lord our God: worship at His footstool for He is holy!  *(Ps 98/99:5)*

*v: The Lord reigneth, let the people tremble! (Ps 98/99:1)*

**Reading from Genesis (18:20-33)**

**Tone 6 Prokeimenon**

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth! *(Ps 99/100:1*

*v: Serve the Lord with gladness; come into is presence with rejoicing!*

*(Ps 99/100:2)*

**Reading from Proverbs (16:17-17:17)**

***(and the rest of the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts)***

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