**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 You, hear me.

Hear me, O Lord.

Lord, I call upon You, hear me.

Receive the voice of my prayer,

when I call upon You.//

Hear me, O Lord.

Let my prayer arise

in Your 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 Your 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 Your condescension, O Word of God,

I am now clothed in that splendor again.

You did not despise me,

even though I was wounded by evil passions,

and thieves had left me wounded on the road.

You kept me safe by Your mighty strength;//

You have granted me Your protection, O merciful Lord.

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

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

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

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

O Martyrs of the Lord,

you 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 Your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!*

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

You destroyed the curse of Adam

by Your crucifixion, O Lord.

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

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

which You have revealed for the salvation of all!

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

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 Your name's sake I have waited for You, O Lord, my soul has waited for Your word; my soul has hoped on the Lord.*

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

Venerating Your life-creating Cross,

granted us by Your boundless goodness,

with enlightened souls we always sing Your 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 Your passion,//

by which You have 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, you curbed the pleasures of the body

and the disobedience of the flesh, O blessed one.

Courageous, you vanquished the full armor of the Enemy

by the power of the Spirit.

Therefore, O Nikon, you were a leader of monastics//

who always followed your 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!*

You shone 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 your brilliant disciples like a star.

Together with them you suffered in might.

You were beheaded by the sword,//

placing 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 endures 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 sunset you 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, Your Mother, beheld You 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 You

for having enjoyed Your many miracles?

Glory, O Master, to Your 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 reigns, 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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