**MARCH 18**

 **Sunday evening Vespers (Sunday of Orthodoxy)**

 **Repose of St Nikolai of Zhicha/St Cyril of Jerusalem**

***\* [Music for the stichera for the Sunday of Orthodoxy Vespers from the Department of Liturgical Music and Translations can be downloaded at*** [***www.oca.org***](http://www.oca.org)***]***

**"Lord I Call..." Tone 1**

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 1** *(Penitential stichera from the Octoechos)*

The sea of my transgressions is great, O Savior,

and I am sinking terribly because of my sins.

Give me your hand, as you saved Peter, O God,//

and have mercy on me!

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

My thoughts and deeds condemn me, O Savior.

Give me the thought of turning back,

that I may cry out to You://

“Save me, O God, and have mercy on me!”

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

Another world awaits you, my soul:

a Judge will soon reveal your secret and terrible thoughts and deeds.

Do not linger, then, among the things that are here!

Anticipate the Judgment and cry out to the Judge://

“Be merciful to me, O God, and save me!”

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

Do not reject me, O my Savior,

though I am held fast by the laziness of sin!

Arouse my thoughts to repentance;

make me a proven worker of Your vineyard;//

grant me the wages of the eleventh hour and great mercy!

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

**Tone 4** *(from the Lenten Triodion, by Joseph) (You have given a sign)*

Grant compunction, estrangement from evil, and perfect discipline to me,

who am now drowned in the passions of the flesh

and separated from You, in utter lack of hope, my God, the King of all!

Save me, Your prodigal son,

by the bounty of Your goodness,//

O Jesus, the Almighty, the Savior of our souls!

*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.*

When Moses the wonder-worker was purified by fasting,

he beheld the Beloved One.

Therefore, emulate him, my humble soul!

Hasten to be purified of evils on the day of abstinence,

that the Lord may bestow forgiveness on you,

and that you may behold Him,//

for He is the Almighty, the good Lord, and the Lover of mankind!

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

**Tone 6** *(from the Lenten Triodion, by Theodore) (As the Archangels)*

Let us begin the second week of the fast, O brothers,

fulfilling it with rejoicing, day by day,

making a fiery chariot for ourselves, like Elijah the Tishbite,

out of the great cardinal virtues,

elevating our minds by subduing our passions,

arming ourselves with purity,//

to chase away and vanquish the Enemy!

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

**Tone 6** *(St Nikolai)*

You were revealed in every way as a most sacred and bearer of light,

invested with divine and holy anointing in the Holy Spirit,

ablaze with the brightness that comes from God,

always radiantly approaching the Holy of Holies,

and partaking of the saving Mysteries by grace.

As a true and most glorious hierarch,//

with boldness you intercede for our souls.

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

Your life was resplendent with virtues that enlightened the faithful

and dispelled the fog of error

for you truly appeared as a radiant sun, O all-blessed Hierarch.

And now you have made your dwelling

where the Light that knows no evening shines;

by the grace of the Holy Spirit you have become a son of the day.

Therefore, as we celebrate your divine and revered memory,//

we lovingly honor you, O Father Nikolai.

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

Your pure mind dwelt in God through faith.

Meditating on incorruption while in a mortal and corruptible body

you acquired the splendor of the Bodiless Powers.

By remaining passionless you were adorned with dispassion,

O Father and most-wise Hierarch Nikolai,//

radiant beacon and intercessor for those who honor your memory.

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

**Tone 8** *(from the Menaion, for St Nikolai)*

The fruit of thy virtues,

O venerable Father Nikolai,

has enlightened the hearts of the faithful.

For, upon hearing of thine immeasurable humility,

who would not wonder at thy patience, gentleness, and compassion?

Thou hast instructed all in the ways of God.

And now, as thou art adorned with the never-fading crown,//

ever intercede on behalf of our souls!

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

**Tone 8**  *(Theotokion)*

Receive the Archangel Gabriel’s voice, crying:

“Rejoice, O Mother of God,//

for you have borne for the world Christ the Giver of Life!”

**Tone 8 Great Prokeimenon**

You have given an inheritance to them that fear You, O Lord.

 *(Ps 60/61:5)*

 *v: From the end of the earth I call to You.* *(Ps 60/61:2)*

 *v: I will take shelter under the shadow of Your wings. (Ps 60/61:4)*

 *v: So I will ever sing praises to Your name. (Ps 60/61:8)*

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**Aposticha**

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

Come, let us purify ourselves with alms and mercy to the poor,

not blowing a trumpet or publicizing what we do in charity,

lest our left hand know what our right has done,

and vainglory steal from us the fruit of almsgiving.

But let us plead in secret with the One Who knows our secrets,

crying out: “Father, forgive us our trespasses,//

for You are the Lover of mankind!”

*v: I lift up my eyes to You, enthroned in the heavens! Behold, as the eyes of*

*servants look to the hand of their master, as the eyes of a maid to the hand of*

*her mistress, so our eyes look to the Lord our God, till He have mercy upon*

*us. (Ps 122/123:1-2)*

(Repeat: “Come, let us purify our souls …” )

*v: Have mercy upon us, O Lord, have mercy upon us, for we have had more than enough of contempt. Too long our soul has been sated with the scorn of those who are at ease, the contempt of the proud. (Ps 122/123:3-4)*

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 the snares of the Enemy!

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

**Tone 8** *(St Nikolai of Zhicha)*

Oholy hierarch, father Nikolaj,

you are a good shepherd and a fervent teacher,

and we cry out to you with praise,

for God has adorned His Church with you;

He has shown forth your incorrupt relics long hidden in the earth.

Therefore ceaselessly pray for those who venerate you,//

and intercede for the forgiveness and salvation of our souls!

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

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

The hosts of heaven praise you,

unwedded Mother, full of grace.

We glorify your ineffable childbearing.//

Therefore, Theotokos, intercede for the salvation of our souls!

**Tone 8** **The Lenten Troparia**

Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, Mary full of grace! The Lord is with you.

Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the Fruit of your womb; //

for you have borne the Savior of our souls.

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

O Baptiser of Christ, remember us all,

that we may be delivered from our iniquities;//

for to you is given grace to intercede for us!

Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Intercede for us, O holy Apostles and all the saints,

that we may be delivered from perils and sorrows;//

for we have acquired you as fervent intercessors before the Savior.

Beneath your compassion we take refuge, O Theotokos.

Do not despise our supplications in adversity,//

but deliver us from perils, O only pure and only blessed one.

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*Music for the penitential stichera can be downloaded at* http://oca.org/liturgics/music-downloads/penitential-stichera.

*Music for the stichera from the Lenten Triodion can be downloaded at*  http://oca.org/liturgics/music-downloads/lenten-triodion

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