**MARCH 23**

**Second Saturday of Great Lent/Memorial Saturday**

 **Martyr Nikon and 199 disciples with him**

 ***(at the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts, sung on Friday)***

**"Lord I Call..." Tone 4**

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 4 Idiomelon** *(from the Lenten Triodion)*

Now is the acceptable time,

now is the day of salvation!

In the abundance of Thy mercy visit my soul,

and take away the burden of my sins,//

O only Lover of mankind!

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

(Repeat: “Now is the acceptable time …”)

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

**Tone 1** *(stichera to the Martyrs, in the tone of the week)*

Unique is the festival of the martyrs,

who, with the outpouring of their blood, choked a multitude of

 demons,

stopped all the shameful sacrifices,

and destroyed the delusion of idolatry by their patient suffering.//

And now, they pray to Christ that He may grant peace and great mercy

 to our souls.

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

Through the prayers of all the saints and of the Theotokos,

grant us Thy peace, and have mercy on us, O Lord,//

for Thou alone art compassionate!

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

Your confession of faith in the arena, O saints,

filled the demonic hosts with fear

and freed mankind from error.

As ye were being beheaded, ye cried aloud:

“May the sacrifice of our souls be acceptable in Thy sight, O Lord,

for, by desiring Thee, the Lover of mankind,//

we have cared nothing for this temporal life!”

*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.*

Ye made a wise exchange, O saints.

Ye offered your blood and received heaven in return.

Ye suffered for a time and now rejoice eternally.

Your trade was wise indeed!

Forsaking the corruptible, ye received the incorruptible.

Now rejoicing with the angelic host,//

ye ceaselessly praise the consubstantial Trinity.

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

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

**Tone 1**  *(for the departed, by John of Damascus)*

What pleasure in life is not mixed with grief?

What earthly glory endures forever?

All things are feeble shadows and deluding dreams.

Death sweeps them away in a single moment.

But in the light of Thy face, O Christ,

and in the sweetness of Thy beauty,

give rest to those whom Thou hast chosen,

for Thou alone lovest mankind!

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

**Tone 1**  *(Theotokion – Dogmatikon)*

Let us praise the Virgin Mary!

The gate of heaven, the glory of the world!

The song of the angels, the beauty of the faithful!

She was born of man, yet gave birth to God!

She was revealed as the heaven,

as the temple of the godhead!

She destroyed the wall of enmity!

She commenced the peace; she opened the Kingdom!

Since she is our foundation of faith,

our defender is the Lord Whom she bore!

Courage! Courage! O People of God!

For Christ will destroy our enemies//

since He is all powerful.

**Tone 4 Prokeimenon**

Let Thy mercy and Thy truth preserve me forever! *(Ps 39:40:11)*

*v: I waited patiently for the Lord; He inclined to me and heard my cry.*

 *(Ps 39/40:1)*

**Reading from Genesis (5:32-6:8)**

**Tone 6 Prokeimenon**

I said: “Lord, have mercy on me. Heal my soul!” (Ps 40/41:4)

 *v: Blessed is he who considers the poor. (Ps 40/41:1)*

**Reading from Proverbs (6:20-7:1)**

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

**Second Saturday of Great Lent/Memorial Saturday**

***(at the Divine Liturgy on Saturday morning)***

**Tone 2 Troparion**

O Apostles, Martyrs, and Prophets,

Hierarchs, Holy Monks, and Righteous Ones,

who completed well the fight and kept the faith,

ye have boldness before the Savior.

We pray: “Intercede for us with Him, as He is good,//

that He may save our souls!”

**Tone 2 Troparion**

Remember Thy servants, O Lord, since Thou art good,

and forgive the sins they have committed in life!

For none is sinless but Thee,//

Who givest rest to the departed.

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

**Tone 8** **Kontakion**

With the saints give rest, O Christ,

to the souls of Thy servants,

where there is neither sickness nor sorrow, and no more sighing,//

but life everlasting!

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

**Tone 8 Theotokion**

We have thee as a wall and a haven

and an intercessor well-pleasing to God, Whom thou hast borne,//

O Virgin Theotokos, the salvation of the faithful.

 **Tone 8** **Prokeimenon**

Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, O ye righteous! *(Ps 31/32:11)*

*v: Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sins are covered. (Ps 31/32:1)*

**Tone 6** **Prokeimenon**

Their souls shall dwell with the blessed. *(Ps 24/25:13)*

**Epistle**

 Hebrews 3:12-16

 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17 *(Departed)*

 **Tone 4**

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

*v: The righteous cried and the Lord heard them, and delivered them out of all their troubles. (Ps 33/34:18)*

*v: Many are the afflictions of the righteous; but the Lord will deliver them out of them all. (Ps 33/34:20)*

**Tone 6**

*v: Blessed are those whom Thou hast chosen and taken, O Lord. Their memory is from generation to generation. (Ps 64/65:4; 101/102:12)*

**Gospel**

 Mark 1:35-44

 John 5:24-30 *(Departed)*

 **Communion Hymns**

Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous; praise befits the just!

Blessed are those whom Thou hast chosen and taken, O Lord!

Their memory is from generation to generation.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Liturgical texts for this service represent modified versions of translations provided by Holy Myrrhbearers Monastery, Otego, New York and St. Tikhon’s Monastery, South Canaan, Pa. The Department of Liturgical Music and Translations of the Orthodox Church in America expresses its gratitude to Holy Myrrhbearers Monastery and St. Tikhon’s Monastery and to those translators whose work has been consulted at times in the course of reviewing and modifying these texts to their present form: Metropolitan Kallistos (Ware), Archimandrite Ephrem (Lash), Archimandrite Juvenaly, Father Benedict Churchill, Isaac Lambertson, St. Vladimir’s Seminary, and Holy Transfiguration Monastery, among others.