**MARCH 23**

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

 **Martyr Nikon and 199 disciples with him**

***(at Vespers served alone, i.e., not together with the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts)***

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

**Tone 1** *(3 stichera to the Martyrs in the tone of the week)*

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

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

for You alone are compassionate!

*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.*

Your confession of faith in the arena, O saints,

filled the demonic hosts with fear

and freed mankind from error.

As you were being beheaded, you cried aloud:

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

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

we have cared nothing for this temporal life!”

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

You made a wise exchange, O saints.

You offered your blood and received heaven in return.

You suffered for a time and now rejoice eternally.

You trade was wise indeed!

Forsaking the corruptible, you received the incorruptible.

Now rejoicing with the angelic host,//

you ceaselessly praise the consubstantial Trinity.

*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 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. (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.

**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 Your face, O Christ,

and in the sweetness of Your beauty,

give rest to those whom You have chosen,

for You alone love 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 Your mercy and Your 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)**

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

**Aposticha**

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

Now is the acceptable time,

now is the day of salvation!

In the abundance of Your mercy visit my soul,

and take away the burden of my sins,//

O only 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: “Now is the acceptable time …”)

*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)*

**Tone 4** *(to the Martyrs)*

You are glorified in the memorials of Your saints, O Christ God;//

through their intercessions send down upon us Your great mercy!

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

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

 **Tone 4** *(Theotokion) (from the Octoechos in the tone of the week)*

O inextinguishable candle,

O righteous throne, O most pure Lady,//

pray for the salvation of our souls!

**Tone 2 Troparion**

O Apostles, Martyrs, and Prophets,

Hierarchs, Holy Monks, and Righteous Ones,

who completed well the fight and kept the faith,

you have boldness before the Savior.

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

that He may save our souls!”

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

**Tone 2 Troparion**

Remember your servants, O Lord, since You are good,

and forgive the sins they have committed in life!

For none is sinless but You,//

Who give rest to the departed.

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

O holy Mother of the ineffable Light,//

we honor and magnify you with angelic hymns.

***(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,

you 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 your servants, O Lord, since You are good,

and forgive the sins they have committed in life!

For none is sinless but You,//

Who give 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 Your 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 you as a wall and a haven

and an intercessor well-pleasing to God, Whom you have borne,//

O Virgin Theotokos, the salvation of the faithful.

 **Tone 8** **Prokeimenon**

Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, O you 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 You have 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 you righteous; praise befits the just!

Blessed are those whom You have 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.