

MARCH 18

Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts (sung on Wednesday)

Repose of St. Nikolai of Zhicha

"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!*

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

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

While fasting in body, O brethren,

let us also fast in spirit!

Let us loose the bonds of iniquity!

Let us undo the chains of injustice!

Let us break the yoke of oppression!

Let us give food to the hungry!

Let us shelter the poor and homeless,//

so that we may receive great mercy from Christ our God!

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

(Repeat: "While fasting in body, O brethren...")

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

**Tone 8**      *(to the Martyrs)*

Whatever is excellent and worthy of praise  
is rightly ascribed to the saints,  
for they bowed their necks beneath the sword,  
for Your sake, Who bowed the heavens and came down.  
They shed their blood for You, Who emptied Yourself,  
taking the form of a servant.  
They humbled themselves even unto death,  
following the example of Your lowliness.  
By their prayers have mercy on us, O God, //  
according to Your abundant mercy!

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

**Tone 2**      *(to the Apostles, by Joseph)*      *(When You appeared)*

Jesus, the true spiritual Sun,  
sent you out as lightning into all the world,  
O Apostles and eyewitnesses of God.  
He dispersed the darkness of error,  
enlightening those held fast in the gloom of ignorance. //  
Entreat Him to send down on us as well His illumination and great mercy!

*v. (5) For Your Name's sake I wait for You, O Lord. My soul has waited for Your word; my soul has hoped on the Lord.*

Glorified by fasting,  
Elijah rode in the divine chariot of virtues  
and was carried up to the height of heaven.  
Eagerly follow his example, O my humble soul!  
Fast from every evil and jealousy,  
from strife and fleeting pleasures!  
Then you will escape the everlasting torment of Gehenna, //  
crying out to Christ: "Glory to You, O Lord!"

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

**Tone 5**      *(to the Apostles, by Theodore)*      *(O venerable father)*

O Apostles of God, fervent intercessors for the world,  
defenders of the Orthodox,  
you have power to approach Christ our God with boldness.  
Intercede for us, we pray you,  
that we may keep the holy fast in peace  
and receive the grace of the consubstantial Trinity!//  
O great and glorious preachers, worthy of all honor, pray for our souls!

*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**      *(from the Menaion, for St. Nikolai)*

You were revealed in every way as a most sacred 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 confirmed on us, and the truth of the Lord endures forever.*

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 your virtues,  
O venerable Father Nikolai,  
has enlightened the hearts of the faithful.  
For, upon hearing of your immeasurable humility,  
who would not wonder at your patience, gentleness, and compassion?  
You instructed all in the ways of God.  
And now, as you are 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 5**      **Prokeimenon**

You, O Lord, shall protect us / and preserve us from this generation forever.  
*(Ps. 11:7)*

*V. Save me, O Lord, for there is no longer any that is godly! (Ps. 12:1a)*

**Reading from Genesis (1:24-2:3)**

**Tone 6**      **Prokeimenon**

Consider and answer me, / O Lord my God! *(Ps. 12:3a)*

*V. How long, O Lord, will You forget me forever? How long will You  
hide Your face from me? (Ps. 12:1)*

**Reading from Proverbs (2:1-22)**

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