

APRIL 3

Third Saturday of Great Lent - Memorial Saturday

Ven. Nicetas the Confessor

Vespers alone (sung on Friday)

"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 *(for 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. (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.

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. (4) From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch, let Israel hope 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 man, //
we have cared nothing for this temporal life!”

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 2* *(from the Menaion, for Ven. Nicetas) (Joseph of Arimathea)*

You directed souls with your teaching.
as one who with faith guided others to knowledge of mystical things,
you showed yourself to be a divine builder.
Sowing the saving and good seeds,
you harvested fruits in abundance, O God-bearer,
bringing them to your Master.
Now you stand before Him, O blessed one, rejoicing. //
Remember your flock, which always honors you, O divinely-inspired Nicetas!

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

Meek and gentle by nature,
you were fervent in defending the Orthodox faith.
Covered with faith as with armor
and armed with abstinence as with a spear,
you denounced all blasphemous heresy, O divinely-wise Nicetas,
honoring the divine icon of the Savior //
and clearly obeying the decrees of the Fathers.

V. (1) For His mercy is confirmed on us, and the truth of the Lord endures forever.

When the benighted tyrant with brutal cruelty
confined you by harsh banishments to the darkest places,
you patiently endured the savagery of wild beasts, O Father.
In your mind you glorified them as if they were the dwellings of Paradise.
Now you behold their true beauty, //
enjoying the rewards of your labors.

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

* Music for the stichera for Ven. Nicetas the Confessor from the Department of Liturgical Music and Translations can be downloaded at www.oca.org.

Tone 1 *(for the Departed, by St. 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**

O grant us Your help against the enemy, / for vain is the help of men! *(Ps. 59:12)*

V. O God, You have rejected us, and have broken our defenses. (Ps. 59:1a)

Reading from Genesis (8:4-21a, ending with "And the Lord smelled the pleasing fragrance.")

Tone 6 **Prokeimenon**

Hear my cry, O Lord, / listen to my prayer! *(Ps. 60:1)*

V. From the ends of the earth I call to You. (Ps. 60:2a)

Reading from Proverbs (10:31-11:12)

Aposticha

Tone 7 *Idiomelon* (from the Lenten Triodion)

Like the Prodigal, I have turned away from Your grace.
I have spent the riches of Your goodness, O Lord.
I now run to You, crying, O tender-hearted One://
“I have sinned, O God, have mercy on me!”

*V. I lift up mine 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 122:1-2)*

(Repeat: “Like the Prodigal...”)

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. 122:3-4)

Tone 7 (for the Martyrs)

Despising all earthly things, O holy martyrs,
and bravely proclaiming Christ in the arena,
you received from Him the just reward
for all your sufferings;
and now, since you have boldness to approach Him,
we beseech you to entreat Him as Almighty God//
to preserve the souls of us who take refuge in you.

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;
now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

Tone 7 (*Theotokion*)

You, who alone received Him Who cannot be contained,
and gave birth to God the Word incarnate,//
pray that our souls may be saved!

(at Vespers)

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.

Tone 2 Theotokion

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. 31:11a)*

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

Tone 6 Prokeimenon *(Departed)*

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

Epistle (325) Hebrews 10:32-38
(270) 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. 33:17)

V. Many are the afflictions of the righteous; the Lord will deliver them out of them all. (Ps. 33:19)

Tone 6

V. Blessed are they whom You have chosen and taken, O Lord. Their memory is from generation to generation. (Ps. 64:4a; 101:12b)

Gospel

(8) Mark 2:14-17

(16) John 5:24-30 (*Departed*)

Communion Hymn

Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous; praise befits the just! (*Ps. 32:1*)

Blessed are they whom You have chosen and taken, O Lord. Their memory is from generation to generation. (*Ps. 64:4a; 101:12b*)

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

In addition to translations from the Department of Liturgical Music and Translations, 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), Father Benedict Churchill, Isaac Lambertson, St. Vladimir's Seminary, and Holy Transfiguration Monastery, among others.