

SATURDAY, APRIL 3, 2021
LITURGY OF THE PRESANCTIFIED GIFTS
VENERABLE NICETAS THE CONFESSOR

SUNG ON FRIDAY
THIRD WEEK OF LENT

*LORD I CALL: Five stikhera of the Triodion followed by three for the saint
Triodion, tone 7:*

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!”

for the Martyrs, tone 1:

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.

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!

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!”

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.
Your trade was wise indeed!
Forsaking the corruptible, you received the incorruptible.
Now rejoicing with the angelic host,//
you ceaselessly praise the consubstantial Trinity.

Saint Nicetas, tone 2:

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!

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.

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... for the Departed, tone 1:

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 & ever... Theotokion – Dogmatikon, tone 1:

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.

Prokeimenon, tone 4:

O grant us Thy help against the enemy/ for vain is the help of man.
vs. O God, Thou hast rejected us, broken our defenses.

Reading: Genesis 8:4-21

Prokeimenon, tone 6:

Hear my cry, O Lord/ listen to my prayer.
vs. From the end of the earth I call to Thee

Reading: Proverbs 10:31-11:12