

Vespers sung on Saturday 14th September for Sunday 15th September 2024
12th Sunday after Pentecost
Afterfeast of the Exaltation of the Cross
Sunday after the Exaltation of the Cross
The Holy Great-Martyr Nicetas the Goth

“LORD, I CALL ...”

Tone 3

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!

Bring my soul out of prison, that I may give thanks to Thy Name.

Tone 3 (For the Resurrection)

By Thy Cross, O Christ our Savior,
death's dominion has been shattered;
the devil's delusion destroyed.
The race of man, being saved by faith,//
always offers Thee a song.

The righteous will surround me, for Thou wilt deal bountifully with me.

All has been enlightened by Thy Resurrection, O Lord.
Paradise has been opened again.
All creation, praising Thee,//
always offers Thee a song.

Out of the depths I cry to Thee, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice!

I glorify the power of the Father and the Son.
I praise the authority of the Holy Spirit:
the undivided, uncreated Godhead,//
the consubstantial Trinity which reigns forever.

Let Thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

We bow down in worship before Thy precious Cross, O Christ,
and we glorify and praise Thy Resurrection,//
for by Thy wounds we have all been healed.

If Thou, O Lord, shouldst mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with Thee.

Tone 5 (For the Exaltation of the Cross)

Rejoice, O life-bearing Cross:
invincible triumph of godliness,
gate of Paradise, and protection of the faithful!
The Cross is the might of the Church,

[through which corruption is abolished

through which corruption is abolished,
through which the power of death is crushed.
and we are raised from earth to heaven.
O invincible weapon, the adversary of demons,
the glory of martyrs, the true adornment of venerable saints,
and the haven of salvation, //
which grants the world great mercy.

For Thy Name's sake I wait for Thee, O Lord. My soul has waited for Thy word; my soul has hoped on the Lord.

Rejoice, O Cross of the Lord,
through which mankind has been delivered from the curse!
Thou art a sign of true joy,
shattering our enemies by thine Exaltation.
O Cross, worthy of all honour,
thou art our help, thou art the strength of kings.
Thou art the power of the righteous.
Thou art the majesty of priests.
All who sign themselves with thee are freed from danger.
O rod of strength, under which we like sheep are tended,
thou art a weapon of peace around which the angels stand in fear.
Thou art the divine glory of Christ, //
Who grants the world great mercy.

From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch, let Israel hope on the Lord!

Rejoice, O guide of the blind,
physician of the sick and resurrection of all the dead;
thou hast raised us up when we were fallen into mortality.
O precious Cross,
through thee corruption has been destroyed,
and incorruption has blossomed forth.
We mortals are made divine,
and the devil is completely overthrown.
Today, as we see thee exalted by the hands of bishops,
we exalt Him Who was lifted up upon thee,
and we fall down in worship before thee, //
drawing rich streams of great mercy.

For with the Lord there is mercy and with Him is plenteous redemption, and He will deliver Israel from all his iniquities.

Tone 1 *(For Saint Nicetas)*

Arrayed in the armour of piety, O passion-bearer Nicetas,
thou wast shown to be a champion of Christ, the King of All.
As almighty Gideon of old, //
thou didst destroy the foreign enemies by thy noble boldness.

Praise the Lord, all nations! Praise Him, all peoples!

O godly-wise martyr who didst endure suffering,
thou didst conquer all that was foreign by thine all-powerful faith in Christ.
Thus, thou didst convert the pagans to the Creator and Master of all, //
and they piously glorified Him.

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

O martyr, the first fruits of the pagans who died for the Trinity,
thou wast shown to be a godly sufferer, bringing glory to Christ.
Therefore, thou hast indeed received a crown, O glorious one, //
and dost shine with splendour in the world like a beacon.

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

Tone 6 *(For Saint Nicetas)*

O light-giver of the martyrs, Nicetas,
forsaking the glory of earthly rank
and despising the godlessness of thy father,
thou didst shatter the false gods and put the pagans to shame.
A warrior of the God of Heaven,
thou didst confess Christ and didst suffer martyrdom. //
Entreat the Benefactor of All that He take pity on us and save our souls!

Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Tone 3 *(Theotokion – Dogmatikon)*

How can we not wonder
at thy mystical childbearing, O exalted Mother?
For without receiving the touch of man,
thou gavest birth to a Son in the flesh, O immaculate Virgin.
The Son born of the Father before eternity
was born of thee at the fullness of time, O honoured Lady.
He underwent no mingling, no change, no division,
but preserved the fullness of each nature.
Entreat Him, O Lady and Virgin and Mother,
to save the souls of those who, in the Orthodox manner, confess thee //
to be the Theotokos.

APOSTICHA

Tone 3 *(For the Resurrection)*

The sun was darkened by Thy Passion, O Christ,
but all creation was enlightened by the light of Thy Resurrection. //
Accept our evening song, O Lover of man!

V. The Lord is King; He is robed in majesty!

Thy life-bearing Resurrection, O Lord,
enlightened the whole universe, recalling Thy creation.
Delivered from Adam's curse, we sing: //
O Almighty Lord, glory to Thee!

V. For He has established the world, so that it shall never be moved.

Thou art the changeless God,
Who, suffering in the flesh, wast changed.
Creation could not endure seeing Thee on the Cross.
It was filled with fear while praising Thy patience.
By descending to hell and rising on the third day, //
Thou hast granted to the world life and great mercy.

V. Holiness befits Thy house, O Lord, forevermore!

Thou didst endure death, O Christ,
to deliver the race of men from death.
Thou didst rise from the dead on the third day,
raising with Thyself those who knew Thee as God//
and enlightening the world. Glory to Thee!

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

Tone 8 (For Saint Nicetas)

Thou didst show thyself to be the namesake of victory,
O most honoured martyr Nicetas.
Proclaiming Christ our God throughout thy struggle,
thou didst confess Him before kings and tormentors.
Therefore, never cease to pray to Him, Who loves mankind,
that He will deliver from all wrath and distress//
those who faithfully keep thy memory.

Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Tone 8 (For the Exaltation of the Cross)

The voice of Thy prophet Moses, O God,
has been fulfilled, for he said:
“You will see your Life hanging before your eyes.”
Today the Cross is lifted up, and the world is set free from error.
Today the Church of Christ’s Resurrection celebrates its dedication,
and the ends of the earth rejoice like David with cymbals,
offering Thee a hymn and saying:
“Thou hast worked salvation in the midst of the earth, O God—
Thy Cross and Resurrection,
through which Thou hast set us free, as Thou art good and lovest mankind.”//
O Almighty Lord, glory to Thee!

TROPARIA

Troparion of the Resurrection in Tone 3

[Music on website / Green Book page 6]

Let the heavens rejoice!
Let the earth be glad!
For the Lord has shown strength with His arm.
He has trampled down death by death.
He has become the first born of the dead.
He has delivered us from the depths of hell,
and has granted to the world//
great mercy.

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

Troparion of Saint Nicetas in Tone 3

[Music on website / Sheet]

Thou didst defeat error and didst triumph in martyrdom,
Nicetas, namesake of victory;
for thou didst conquer the ranks of the enemy
and didst end thy contest by fire.//
Pray to Christ our God to grant us His great mercy!

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

Troparion of the Cross in Tone 1

O Lord, save Thy people,
and bless Thine inheritance!
Grant victories to the Orthodox Christians
over their adversaries;
and by the power of Thy Cross, //
preserve Thy habitation.

[Music on website / White Book page 13]