

## **The 9<sup>th</sup> Day of February**

**Commemoration of the Martyr Nicephorus (Nikífor), and the finding of the relics of St Innocent of Irkutsk, whose service is to be found on the 26<sup>th</sup> of November).**

**The Leavetaking of the Meeting of the Lord is celebrated on this day.**

**If the Martyr is commemorated at another time, then:**

### **Evening Service**

**At “Lord, I call...,” 3 stikhera, in Tone 2: *Special melody, “When from the Tree....”***

**S**ubmitting thyself to earthly laws /  
For the sake of Him, Who assumed our flesh on earth, /  
And endured His honorable Passion for our sake, /  
Thou didst display the greatest love for thy neighbor, O martyr, /  
In accord with the laws of the prophets, /  
Thus attaining a hallowed repose, O divinely blessèd one, ///  
Standing now before the very wellspring of Love.

**F**or bowing thy head before God /  
Before Whom all creation bends its knees, /  
Thy head was severed from thy body, O wondrous martyr /  
And united in purity of thought to Christ, the Head of all. /  
Drawing nigh to His Light, O wondrous Nicephorus ///  
Pray for the enlightenment of all who praise thee.

**T**he streams of thy blood, shed for Christ, /  
Have sanctified the earth, O wise one. /  
And the bodiless powers were gladdened by thy spirit, /  
Which illumined the whole assembly of martyrs, O blessèd one. /  
Being now united with them as a valiant warrior /  
And an invincible martyr, O Nicephorus, /  
Thou dost ever pray to God for us all.

**Glory..., in Tone 6: (by John the Monk)**

**T**hou didst clearly show by thine example /  
That he who loveth not his neighbor, /  
Cannot love the Master. /  
Wherefore, O martyr Nicephorus, /  
Demonstrating the purest love for thy neighbor Caprikius /  
Thy fervent wish took to divine flight /  
And thou didst lay down thy life in the confession of Christ and the Faith. /

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But the wicked Caprikius being full of an implacable hatred for thee /  
Revealed himself to be a betrayer of Christ the Master ///  
Before Whom thou dost stand, ever praying for us all.

**Now and ever..., Theotokion, or this Stavrotheotokion, in the Same Tone: *Special melody, "Having set all aside..."***

**A** sword has pierced thy heart, /  
As Symeon said, O most pure Lady, /  
When thou didst behold Him Who shone forth ineffably from thee /  
Condemned by the lawless and lifted upon the Cross, /  
Given gall to eat and vinegar to drink, /  
His hand and feet pierced with nails, His side run through with a spear, /  
Thou didst cry out to Him with a mother's sorrow: ///  
What is this new mystery, O my sweetest Child?

**The Troparion of the Martyr, Tone 4:**

**T**hy holy martyr Nicephorus, O Lord, /  
Through his sufferings received his incorruptible crown from Thee, our God /  
For having Thy strength he laid low his enemies /  
And shattered the powerless boldness of demons ///  
Through his intercessions, O Christ God, save our souls.

**Morning Service**

**[The Canon for the Martyr ... incomplete as of 12/2013**

**The Kontakion for the Martyr, Tone 3: *Special melody, "Today the Virgin..."***

**S**oaring high, borne aloft on the wings of love for the Lord, /  
And taking His glorious Cross upon thy shoulders, /  
Thou didst put the devil's torments to shame, /  
Suffering even unto death. /  
Thou didst reveal thyself as a warrior for the Truth, /  
And an intimate of the mysteries of divine Grace, ///  
Bearing a banner of victory.