

The 18th Day of March

☩ Commemoration of our Holy and God-Bearing Hierarch, Nikolaj of Zhicha.

Evening Service

At “Lord, I call...,” 6 stikhera:

3 stikhera in Tone 6:

O consecrated and God-bearing Father Nikolaj, /
Like unto God’s holy chrism, /
Vested in the Holy Spirit and illumined with the splendor of God, /
Approaching the Holy of Holies /
And partaking of the Mysteries by grace /
As a true and most glorious hierarch, ///
Thou dost boldly intercede for our souls. (*Twice*)

Resplendent with virtues thou didst illumine the faithful /
And dispel the darkness of error, /
O most holy hierarch Nikolaj; /
For thine appearance to us was like the bright sun /
And through the grace of the Holy Spirit, thou hast become a son of the day /
In the realm of the eternal Son /
Wherefore we lovingly venerate thee ///
And celebrate thy divine and radiant memory. (*Twice*)

Thy pure mind dwelt in God through faith, /
Clothed in the rags of mortality /
Seeking after the glories of immortality /
By remaining passionless thou wast adorned with dispassion /
Thus acquiring the splendor of the bodiless angels, /
O most wise and glorious hierarch Nikolaj ///
Radiant intercessor for those who honor thy memory. (*Twice*)

Glory..., Tone 8:

O venerable father Nikolaj /
The fruit of thy virtues nourish the hearts of the faithful; /
For upon hearing of thy humility /
Who would not wonder at thy gentleness, patience and compassion? /
Thou didst instruct all in the ways of God /
And art now adorned with an unfading crown ///
Ever interceding for our souls.

Now and ever..., Dogmatic Theotokion, in Tone 8:

The King of heaven, in His love for man, /
Appeared on earth and dwelt among men /
For He received flesh from the pure Virgin. /
And after assuming it, He was born of her. /
The One Son, two natures in one person, /
So proclaiming Him as the perfect man /
By proclaiming Him as the perfect God, /
Let us confess to Christ our Lord, ///
Entreat Him, O Virgin Mother, to have mercy on our souls.

Or the Stavrotheokion, in the Same Tone: Spec. Mel.: “Thy martyrs ...”

“**O** my Child, I cannot bear to look upon Thee /
Asleep in death upon the Tree, /
Who grantest life to all mankind, /
That Thou mayest impart divine and saving life to Adam /
Who through disobedience fell into the sleep of destruction” /
Cried the weeping Virgin, whom we magnify.

At the Apostikha, the stikhera from the Octoechos.

Glory..., Tone 8:

O holy hierarch, father Nikolaj, /
Thou art a good shepherd and a fervent teacher, /
And we cry out to thee with praise, /
For God hath adorned His Church with thee; /
He hath shown forth thine incorrupt relics long hidden in the earth, /
Wherefore ceaselessly pray for those who venerate thee, ///
And intercede for the forgiveness and salvation of our souls.

Now and ever..., Theotokion, in Tone 8:

O Virgin unwedded, O Mother of God on high /
Thou hast ineffably conceived God in the flesh /
And being beyond reproach, thou hast granted us all purification of our transgressions. /
Accept the supplications of thy servants /
And do thou, who now receivest our entreaties ///
Pray for us all to be saved.

Or the Stavrotheokion, in the Same Tone: Spec. Mel.: “Thy martyrs ...”

Beholding Thee, O Jesus, nailed to the Cross /
And accepting suffering of Thine own will, /
The Virgin, Thy Mother, O Mas-ter, cried aloud: /

‘Woe is me, O my sweet Child! /
How is it that Thou dost endure wounding unjustly, /
O Physician Who healeth the infirmities of mankind ///
And by Thy loving-kindness dost deliver all from corruption?’

The Troparion of the Saint, Tone 4:

In truth thou wast revealed to thy flock as a rule of faith, /
A model of humility and teacher of abstinence, /
So thou didst win the heights of humility, riches by poverty; /
O holy hierarch, father Nikolaj, ///
Intercede with Christ our God to save our souls.

Morning Service

*The canon for the saint
incomplete as of 3/2013*

The Kontakion of the Saint, Tone 2:

O holy hierarch, father Nikolaj, /
Divine thunder and spiritual trumpet, /
Planter of faith and the pruner of heresies, /
Great favorite of the Trinity, /
Standing now with the angels before the throne of God ///
Ceaselessly prāy for our souls.

Liturgy

At the Beatitudes, 8 troparia: 4 from the *Octoechos*, and 4 from Ode 3 of the canon to the saint.

The Prokeimenon in Tone 1: My mouth shall speak wisdom / and the meditation of my heart shall be understanding. (48:4) **Verse:** Hear this, all nations! Give ear, all inhabitants of the earth! (48:1)

The Epistle is from Hebrews, pericope 318. The Alleluia is in Tone 2: The mouth of the righteous shall meditate wisdom and his tongue shall speak of judgment. **Verse:** The Law of God is in his heart and his steps shall not falter.

The Gospel is according to John, pericope 36.

The Communion Hymn: The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance. He shall not be afraid of evil tidings.