

## The 23<sup>st</sup> Day of March

Commemoration of Monk-martyr Nikon and 200 of his disciples  
martyred with him in Sicily.

### Evening Service

**At “Lord, I call...,” 3 stikhera, in Tone 4: *Special melody: “As one valiant among the martyrs...”***

**B**y grace, thou didst subjugate bodily pleasures, /  
And thy disobedient flesh /  
With the bridle of abstinence, O blessèd one; /  
Having bravely vanquished the power of the enemy /  
By the power of the Spirit, /  
Thou didst become a commander of monastics ///  
Who always followed thy most wise and divine preaching, O Nikon.

**H**aving shone like the sun from the East /  
O all-glorious one, /  
Thou didst enlighten the whole universe with the brightness of thy miracles, /  
Leading the ranks of thy disciples, bright like stars. /  
With strength thou didst suffer together with them, /  
Having been cut down with the sword ///  
And having placed thy soul in the hands of the master and King of All.

**N**either hunger nor nakedness, /  
Nor wounds, nor misfortunes, nor truly imminent death /  
Were able to separate you from the love of God, /  
O wonder-worthy ones, /  
But like lambs led to the slaughter /  
Following after the Shepherd from the sunset to the never-waning rest of the  
heavenly kingdom ///  
You thereby reached it, O crown-bearing martyrs

**Glory... now and ever..., in the Same Tone: *and melody.***

**D**eliver my humble soul from the condemnation of cruel transgressions /  
O most holy bride of God, /  
And by thy prayers release it from death, /  
And grant it to receive justification in the day of trial, /  
Which the assembly of the saints have already received. ///  
Before the end, show me, with the shedding of tears, to be cleansed with repentance.

23 MARCH: MONK-MARTYR NIKON and 200 MARTYRS WITH HIM.

*Or the Stavrotheotokion: Same Tone and melody.*

**S**eeing Thee nailed to the Cross /  
The Ewe-lamb, Thy Mother, was amazed and cried: /  
'What is this sight, O Most-desired Son? /  
What has the disobedient assembly done to Thee /  
Having delighted themselves in Thy many miracles? ///  
But I glorify Thy ineffable condescension, O Master!'

*Or Dogmatic Theotokion if a resurrection service;*

**[No Troparion to the martyr is given in the Menaion]**

### **Morning Service**

**The Canon for the Martyr, Tone 4**, with the acrostic: "*I hymn thee, the namesake of Victory, O blessèd one,*" by Joseph. All irmosi are resurrectional.

**[No Kontakion to the martyr is given in the Menaion]**