

The 2nd Day of June

Commemoration of our Venerable Father among the Saints, Nicephorus the Confessor, Patriarch of Constantinople.

Evening Service

At “Lord, I call...,” 6 stikhera.

3 stikhera, in Tone 4: *Special melody: “As valiant among the martyrs...”*

We know thee, [O father Nicephorus] , /
As a zealous defender of the Truth and confirmation of the Faith, /
A teacher of [divine] doctrine, an advocate of piety, an abode of purity, /
A chosen vessel of the sweetness of the Spirit, /
And a priceless treasury of teachings, ///
A divinely inspired hierarch and a pillar of the Church of Christ

We praise thee, O wise and holy Hierarch, /
As the successor of the apostles and co-equal of the martyrs, /
An emulator of ascetics, the affirmation of teachers, /
And a model of divine virtue and a master of the mysteries of Christ, /
A river flowing with divine wisdom ///
Submerging in its flood the thoughts of blasphemers and the lawless.

Having increased the talent of wisdom given thee, /
O richly-blessed [hierarch], /
Thou wast vouchsafed to [enter into] the joy of thy Lord; /
And now, being adorned with the grace of divine radiance /
And shining with rays of spiritual light /
Thou standest at the right hand of the Giver of Life ///
Basking in the rays of His brilliance.

And 3 stikhera, in Tone 1: *Special melody: “O most glorious wonder...”*

O venerable father, /
Thou didst enter as a priest of the Law, /
Into the true, divine and impassable tabernacle [of the] Lord, /
And in emulation of Christ, /
Thou didst offer thine own blood and not that of another /
Thereby greatly pleasing God ///
By not submitting to the vengeance of the council.

O wise Nicephorus, /
Thou partaker of divine wisdom, /
Thy words and thy deeds have adorned thee /
As have thy priestly vestments and the truth of thy teachings. /
For the confession of which thou didst suffer imprisonment /
Together with all the other evils which befell thee /
Which thou didst earnestly endure ///
Through the strength of thy will, O blessèd one.

Thou wast indeed an instrument of the Spirit /
Sounding forth from above with the music of divinity /
Proclaiming the ineffable mystery of the Savior; /
And, O most honorable [hierarch] /
As a divinely-inspired trumpet, /
Thou didst clearly proclaim to us the incarnation of the Word ///
Which is truly past all reasoning and understanding .

Glory... now and ever..., Theotokion, in the Same Tone:

Save me, O most-pure Lady, /
For as thou hast ineffably given birth to Christ the Savior /
In thee alone, have I acquire a fervent intercessor, /
My unshakeable fortress, protection and joy, /
And my soul's divine consolation; /
Thou alone can save me from the assaults of the sleepless dragon ///
And from the everlasting fire, O Mother of Christ God.

Or the Stavrotheotokion:

When she beheld Thee nailed to the Cross, O Jesus /
Willingly enduring Thy sufferings /
Thy Virgin Mother cried aloud, O Master: /
Woe is me, O my sweet Child! /
How canst thou endure thy suffering? /
O Physician who healest the infirmities of all mankind ///
Delivering all from corruption through Thy loving-kindness?

Or Dogmatic Theotokion if a Resurrection service;

Troparion for St. Nicephorus, in 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 Nicephorus, /
Intercede with Christ our God to save our souls.

Morning Service

The Canon for St. Nicephorus, Tone 4, with the acrostic: “*I hymn thee, the namesake of Victory, O Nicephorus,* ” by Theophan.

incomplete as of 5/2013

Kontakion for St. Nicephorus, in Tone 4: Special Melody: “*Thou hast appeared today...*”

O most glorious Nicephorus, /
Thou didst receive from the heavens a crown of victory from God; ///
Save those who faithfully honor thee as a leading hierarch and teacher of Christ