

THE 28th DAY OF THE MONTH OF MAY
COMMEMORATION OF OUR FATHER AMONG THE SAINTS, NICETAS, BISHOP OF
CHALCEDON
AT VESPERS

On “God is the Lord ...,” 3 Stichera of the holy hierarch, in Tone IV:

Spec. Mel.: “As one valiant among the martyrs ...”:

Emulating the hospitality of Abraham, * Isaac’s love for God * and the guilelessness of Jacob, * thou didst emulate also the suffering of Job of Uz, * the meekness of David * and the innocence of Moses, * and having been anointed with holy chrisms * as Aaron was of old, O God-bearing hierarch, ** thou wast manifest as a sacred wonder-worker.

Thy great innocence * dispelled the malice of the demons * with the grace of the divine Spirit, * gladdening with thy suffering * God, Whom thou didst desire, * and thy spirit was illumined by the indwelling of prayer. * Wherefore, thou hast received the grace of miracles, * to heal the infirmities, O Nicetas, ** of those who piously have recourse unto thee.

Bound by kinship, * ye kept the laws of the Holy Spirit, * O ye priests, * and, following the steps * of the divinely wise Shepherd * Who emitted rays of most glorious healings, * ye were adorned similarly with the power of healing, * O most glorious Nicetas ** and divinely wise Ignatius.

But if Alleluia is to be chanted at Matins instead of “God is the Lord ...,” we sing first the following Stichera of the Theotokos, in the same melody:

Deliver my lowly soul * from condemnation and grievous transgressions, * O most holy Bride of God, * and free me from death by thine intercessions; * grant that on the day of trial * I may receive that justification * which the assemblies of the saints have received, * and before the end show me forth as purified ** by repentance and the outpouring of tears.

With the showers of the most holy Spirit * bedew thou my mind, O most pure one * who beyond comprehension hast given birth to Christ, * the Dewdrop Who by His compassions * hath washed away the countless iniquities of all mankind. * Dry up the well-spring of my passions, * and by thy supplications * do thou ever grant unto me ** a torrent of living sustenance.

O Virgin who hast given birth to God my Savior, * by thy supplications grant unto me * the excellent and saving remedy of repentance, * torrents of tears, * and the thought of the dread * and awesome hour of judgment * and the impartial trial, * that I may escape fearsome torment ** and may receive divine grace.

Glory ..., Both now ..., Theotokion, in Tone IV:

Tens of thousands of times have I promised * to repent of mine offenses, O most pure one, * yet the cherished habits of mine evil ways * will not depart from me; * wherefore, I cry unto thee * and fall down, praying: * O Sovereign Lady, rescue me from such tyranny, * guiding me to things that are higher, ** which are nigh unto salvation.

Stavrotheotokion: Beholding Thee * nailed to the Cross, O Lord, * the ewe-lamb Thy Mother marveled * and cried out: “What is this that I see, * O my Son most desired? * How hast Thou been rewarded * by the unfaithful and iniquitous assembly * which hath enjoyed Thy many miracles? ** Yet glory to Thine ineffable condescension, O Master!”

Troparion of the holy hierarch, in Tone IV:

The truth of things revealed thee to thy flock as a rule of faith, * icon of meekness, and teacher of temperance; * wherefore, thou hast attained the heights through humility and riches through poverty; * O hierarch Nicetas our father, ** entreat Christ God, that our souls be saved.

AT MATINS

Canon of the holy hierarch, in Tone IV:

ODE I

Irmos: Through the deep of the Red Sea, * marched dry shod Israel of old, * and by Moses' outstretched hands, * raised in the form of a cross, * the power of Amalek was routed in the wilderness.

Illumined by divine effulgence, O venerable one, thou didst become radiant. Enlighten those who with faith celebrate thy splendid repose, driving away the gloom of the passions.

Thou wast shown to be full of light through thy radiant deeds, illumining those who are in the night of evils, and guiding them to the light of heaven by the Spirit, O sacred father Nicetas.

Thou shinest forth gifts of miracles upon those who ever approach thy sacred shrine, O most blessed one, receiving them from God as a reward for thy labors and pangs.

Theotokion: Thou didst seedlessly conceive the Son of God, through the divine Spirit, by the will of the Father, giving birth in the flesh to Him Who was begotten of the Father without mother, and was born of thee without father for our sake.

ODE III

Irmos: Thy Church, O Christ, rejoiceth in Thee crying aloud: * Thou, O Lord, art my strength, * my refuge and foundation.

Thou wast uplifted, O venerable one, having humbled thyself for Christ's sake, humbling the pride of the noetic serpent by the Spirit.

Having been deemed worthy of great gifts by God, O God-pleasing hierarch and father, thou didst become a worthily-great priest.

Perfecting thy life in innocence like a babe, O venerable one, thou didst destroy all the malice of the enemy by grace.

Theotokion: With joy let us all glorify the Theotokos, who, alone among women, is blessed, in that she is the most magnificent habitation of God.

Sessional Hymn, in Tone IV: Spec. Mel.: "Go Thou quickly before ...":

Having taken up thy cross from childhood, thou didst piously follow after Christ, causing the wisdom of the flesh to wither away through abstinence; wherefore, on thy hierarchal cathedra, O divinely blessed Nicetas, thou didst exalt the Master Who hath adorned thy shrine with divers signs.

Glory ..., Both now ..., Theotokion, in Tone IV:

O pure, all-immaculate one who knewest not a man, who alone hast given birth within time to the timeless Son and Word of God, with the holy and honored patriarchs, the martyrs, prophets and the venerable, entreat Him, that He grant us purification and great mercy.

Stavrotheotokion: **W**hen Thy most pure Mother beheld Thee uplifted upon the Cross, O Word of God she exclaimed, lamenting maternally: “What is this new and strange wonder, O my Son? How is it that Thou, the Life of all, dost taste of death desiring to bring life to the dead, in that Thou art compassionate?”

ODE IV

Irmos: **B**eholdng Thee, the Sun of righteousness, * lifted up upon the cross, * the Church now standeth arrayed and doth worthily cry aloud: * Glory be to Thy power, O Lord.

By all-night vigils and standing for whole days, O divinely wise father, thou didst cause all the movements of the flesh to subside, and, rejoicing, thou didst cry aloud: Glory to Thy power, O Lord!

With the powers of thy soul thou didst make subject the perversity of thy flesh, O divinely wise one; and thou didst receive the grace to drive away evil spirits and to wash away infirmities, O all-blessed one.

Strengthened by divine power, O holy hierarch, thou didst vanquish all the hordes of the demons in that thou art the namesake of victory, and didst inherit a wreath of miracles from the Bestower of crowns.

Theotokion: **T**hou wast adorned with spiritual beauties, haying conceived the Word Who is co-beginningless with the Father and given birth to Him in the flesh, O all-immaculate Virgin. Him do thou entreat on behalf of the world.

ODE V

Irmos: **T**hou, O Lord, who camest into the world, * art my light, * a holy light turning from the darkness of ignorance * those who sing Thy praises in faith.

Manifestly adorned with meekness of soul, O holy hierarch, thou hast made thine abode in the land of the meek, in that thou art blessed.

Watered by the streams of the gifts of the Spirit, O divinely wise and sacred Nicetas, thou dost pour forth healings upon those who desire them.

Making thy life resplendent with the light of the virtues, as with priceless ornaments, O all-blessed one, thou wast adorned with the grace of miracles.

Theotokion: **O** Bride of God, we wield thee as an invincible weapon against the enemy, for we have acquired thee as the confirmation and hope of our salvation.

ODE VI

Irmos: **T**he church crieth out unto Thee O Lord, * ‘I will sacrifice unto Thee with a voice of praise’ * having been cleansed of the blood of the demons’ * by the blood that for mercy’s sake flowed from Thy side.

With Ignatius, O Nicetas, thou didst shine forth as a lamp of three lights, a sacred brotherhood, shining forth radiantly and imparting healings to the faithful.

Akin one to another in the flesh, O wise ones, ye have now been deemed worthy of true kinship in the Spirit, having in a manner all-pleasing unto God shared a single character.

Eluding the destructive mire of heresies by rendering honorable veneration to the icons of Christ, O God-pleasing and holy hierarch Nicetas, saving that which had been created in His image.

Theotokion: O all-immaculate one, thou portal through which the Most High alone passed, open unto me the gates of repentance and the doors of salvation, preserving me from all harm.

Kontakion of the holy hierarch, in Tone VIII:

Spec. Mel.: “To thee, the champion leader ...”:

Thou didst shine forth in the splendor of thy deeds, * and didst become an heir to the throne of the apostles, O venerable Nicetas; * and, wholly filled with divine doctrines, O father, * thou didst shine forth like the sun upon the flock. ** Wherefore, we cry to thee: Rejoice, O adornment of Chalcedon!

ODE VII

Irmos: In the Persian furnace the youths and descendants of Abraham, * burning with a love of piety * rather than by a flame of fire, * cried aloud saying: * Blessed art Thou in the temple of Thy glory, O Lord.

Thou dost truly dwell with the holy hierarchs, O wise father, full of noetic radiance. Illumine us who cry: Blessed art Thou in the temple of Thy glory, O Lord!

As a chief shepherd, as a blameless advocate of God, thou didst offer pure sacrifices unto Him, chanting in splendor: Blessed art Thou in the temple of Thy glory, O Lord!

Thou wast shown to be a shepherd, summoning the reason-endowed flock to the pasture of true doctrines with thy noetic pipes, O Nicetas, crying out: Blessed art Thou in the temple of Thy glory, O Lord!

Having adorned thy life with confession, O father, thou didst receive from the Spirit the true grace of healings, crying out: Blessed art Thou in the temple of Thy glory, O Lord my God!

Theotokion: That He might deify mankind, O Sovereign Lady, the Redeemer appeared as a man, receiving flesh from thy womb according to His desire. Blessed art thou among women, O most immaculate Lady!

ODE VIII

Irmos: Having spread his hands, Daniel closed the lions' jaws * in their den; * while the zealously pious youths, * girded with virtue, * quenched the power of the fire and cried aloud: * Bless ye the Lord, all ye works of the Lord.

Manifestly receiving as the reward for thy great labors ineffable light, immortal life and a bridal-chamber which cannot be taken away, O venerable one, thou dost cry aloud, rejoicing, to Christ, the Bestower of crowns: Bless the Lord, all ye works of the Lord!

Seeking mercy through almsgiving, which thou didst provide for the poor, feeding the indigent, and clothing the naked, thereby winning for thyself a vesture of glory, O Nicetas, thou wast a true model for monastics, who cry aloud: Bless the Lord, all ye works of the Lord!

Having become an all-comely temple of the divine Spirit through purity of mind, thou drivest away the spirits of wickedness, and washest away the infirmities of those who approach thee and cry: Bless the Lord, all ye works of the Lord!

Theotokion: **C**hrist, the Lord of all, having made His abode within thy womb as was His good pleasure, showed thee forth as holier than the angels, O Virgin Mother; granting sanctification and enlightenment unto us who cry: Bless the Lord, all ye works of the Lord!

ODE IX

Irmos: **A** cornerstone not cut by hand O Virgin, * was cut from thee the unhewn mountain: * even Christ, Who hath joined together the disparate natures; * therefore rejoicing we magnify thee, * O Theotokos.

Following the divine significance of thy name in a sacred manner, thou wast deemed worthy to show it forth in deed, O divinely blessed father Nicetas; and wast enriched with the gracious radiance of the Spirit, O divinely inspired one.

Ye were shown to be enriched by the grace of the Trinity, O God-bearers, equally receiving therefrom the divine activity of healing, having lived pure and God-pleasing lives, O right wondrous ones.

Today thy memory shineth forth with the radiance of the virtues more brightly than the sun, O father, illumining the whole world with miracles and enlightening the faithful, O most honored initiate of the sacred mysteries.

Like bright day-stars were thou and the sacred Ignatius revealed to be, O father Nicetas. Wherefore, O pious and blessed ones, ever illumine those who praise you.

Theotokion: **T**hou wast shown to be an abode of the light of the Word Who shone forth from the Father before the morning-star, illumining the faithful and crowning the venerable, O only divinely joyous Virgin Maiden.

AT LITURGY

Troparion of the holy hierarch, in Tone IV:

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Kontakion of the holy hierarch, in Tone VIII:

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