

The 4th Day of November

**Commemoration of Venerable Joannicius the Great; and the
Commemoration of the Holy Hieromartyr Nicander (*Nikánder*),
Bishop of Myra, and of Hermas, the Priest.**

Vespers

At “Lord, I call...,” 6 stichera:

3 stichera of the Saint,¹ in Tone 4: *To the melody, “Called from on high...”*

When, in the purity of thy mind, thou didst lift up thine eyes /
And wast illumined by the Light divine /
Thou didst come to prefer the things which are of eternity /
To those that languish here on earth; /
Then, thou didst receive the fire in thy heart, O father, /
And like a hart thou didst thirst with divine love; /
And neglecting thy flesh and blood thou didst prepare thyself /
For thy coming ascetic labors ///
And didst subject the passions of thy body to thy soul.

Thou didst set out, O father Joannicius /
To ascend the heights of the divine mountain; /
And not being encumbered by the demands of thy humbled flesh /
Thou didst stand in all-night vigils and in ceaseless day-long prayer. /
Thus, uniting thyself to the One who is Good
Thou wast illumined and didst receive the gift of prophecy /
To behold things afar off as though they were near /
And to foretell to the faithful the things that are to be. ///
Therefore, we glorify thee as our teacher divine.

Thou didst blunt the arrows of the attacking demons /
By the power of thy prayers; /
And thou didst triumph over them, O glorious one, /
By the invincible power of God. /
Therefore, thy humble heart was given rest, O father, /
And the Good One granted thee the honor of working miracles; /
And now thy precious relics pour forth fragrant myrrh, ///
As thou art revealed to be the sweet fragrance of Christ, O Joannicius.

¹ Greek text differs.

And 3 stichera of the Hieromartyr, in Tone 2: *To the melody, “When from the tree....”*

Thou didst receive a fitting through divine providence, O father, /
And thou didst confirm it through thy mighty deeds; /
For through thine endurance thou didst vanquish the hordes of enemies /
And put the assembly of torturers to shame. /
And having received thy crown of vict’ry thou didst cry ot with faith: ///
Glory to Thine invincible might, O Thou who lovest mankind!

Thy healing and sweet-smelling myrrh /
Pours forth to us on this day of thy memorial, O Nikander most wise, /
Driving away the darkness of the sorrows and the passions of the flesh. /
Thou fillest with the richness of grace the assembly of those who call to Christ: ///
Truly, Thou are the inexhaustible myrrh for us who sing Thy praises, O most-fragrant
One.

As thou hast great boldness before Christ, who alone is glorified in His saints, /
Entreat Him now, O venerable father Nikánder, /
For all who celebrate thine example and praise thy memory /
That, through grace, we may become partakers of His ineffable goodness ///
And His incorruptible glory.

Glory..., Tone 6:

O ven’rable father Joannicius, /
Thine instructions have gone out into all the earth; /
Destroying the legions of demons; /
By this thou hast found the reward of thy labors in heaven; /
And attained to the ranks of the angels, /
Whose life thou didst blamelessly emulate. /
And having great boldness before Christ God ///
Entreat Him that peace be granted to our souls.

Now and ever..., Theotokion, in the same Tone, or the Stavrotheotokion: *To the melody, “On the third day....”*

Beholding Thee crucified, O Christ /
She who gave Thee birth cried ot to Thee: /
“What is this strange mystery I see, my Son? /
How, being hung in the flesh, the Giver of Life, ///
Dost Thou die on the Tree?”

VENERABLE JOANNICIUS THE GREAT; HIEROMARTYR NICANDER;
AND HERMAS THE PRIEST.

Or Dogmatic Theotokion in the Tone of the Week if a Resurrection service.

The Apostikha from the Octoechos, and

Glory..., of the Saint, in Tone 8:

We honor thee as the instructor of a multitude of monastics, /
O our father Joannicius; /
For truly we have learned to walk aright by following in thy steps. /
Blessèd art thou, for having labored for Christ, /
Thou hast destroyed the power of the enemy, /
O converser with the angels and companion of the righteous, ///
Pray with them to the Lord that He grant our souls great mercy.

Now and ever..., Theotokion, or the Stavrotheotokion, in the same Tone: *To the melody, "O most glorious wonder...."*

Beholding Thee, O Jesus, nailed to the Cross /
And accepting suffering of Thine own will, /
The Virgin, Thy Mother, O Master, cried aloud: /
'Woe is me, O my sweet Child! /
How is it that Thou dost endure unjust wounding, /
O Physician Who healeth the infirmities of mankind ///
And by Thy loving-kindness dost deliver all from corruption?'

The General Troparion of the Venerable ones, in Tone 8:

Thine abundant tears made the wilderness sprout and bloom /
And thy suffering made thy labors fruitful a hundredfold /
Thou hast become a shining torch over all the world ///
O our holy father Joannicius, pray to Christ God that He may save our souls.

Glory..., the General Troparion of the Hieromartyr, in Tone 4:

Thy holy martyr Nikánder, 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.

Now and ever..., Theotokion, or Stavrotheotokion.

4 NOVEMBER

Matins

One Canon from the Octoechos, with 6 Troparia including the Irmos; and two for the Saints, with 8 Troparia.

— incomplete as of 9/27/18

After the Third Ode, the Sessional Hymn of the Saint, in Tone 8: *To the melody, “Of wisdom....”*

Having washed away the darkness of the passions, O Joannicius /
And truly received the light of the commandments of Christ, /
Thou didst shine forth in the ascetic life; /
And having mortified thy body thou didst live in the Spirit /
Trampling the snares of the enemy underfoot. /
Thereby becoming companion of the angels through the grace of the Spirit. /
Entreat Christ God, O our father Joannicius, /
That He may grant remission of sins ///
To those who lovingly celebrate thy holy memory

Glory..., of the Hieromartyrs, in Tone 4: *To the melody, “As Thou wast voluntarily crucified....” (i.e., Resurrection Troparion Tone 4)*

O ye glorious martyrs /
You were truly illumined with divine anointing to the priesthood and with the
sacred blood of your martyrdom /
And now you have joined the ranks of the bodiless angels, rejoicing.
Therefore, we celebrate your honored memory /
Praying that, through your supplications, O holy martyrs, cleansing may granted
to all.

Now, and ever..., Theotokion, in the same Tone: *(and melody)*

O most pure Lady Theotokos, /
By thy divine birthgiving thou didst restore the mortal essence of those born on earth /
That had become corrupted by the passions, /
And hast raised all from death to the life of incorruption. /
Therefore, we rightly call thee blessed as thou didst foretell, O all-glorious Virgin.

Or, the Stavrotheotokion, in the same Tone: *(and melody)*

O all-immaculate Virgin, Mother of Christ God /
A sword pierced thy holy soul when thou didst behold upon the Tree /
Thy Son and God crucified of His own free will. /
Cease not to entreat Him, O blessed one, ///
That He may grant us the forgiveness of our sins.

After the Sixth Ode, the Kontakion of the Saint in Tone 8: To the melody, “O victorious leader....”

Thou didst appear as a brilliant star over all the earth /
Bringing light to those sitting in the darkness of the passions; /
And thou wast revealed as a mighty physician for all the afflicted. /
As thou hast received the grace of healing, grant healing now to those who
entreat thee in faith, ///
That we may cry aloud: “Rejoice, O holy father Joannicius!”

Ikos: O wondrous father Joannicius, thou hast been revealed as a physician and intercessor for those held fast by sickness and sorrows, healing all who come to thy divine protection with faith. Therefore, receive thou our thankful praise as we cry: Rejoice, O son of a righteous father! Rejoice, fair offspring of a saintly mother! Rejoice, thou who came to love God alone! Rejoice, for thou didst form an army for Christ on earth! Rejoice, for thou didst cast down the pride of the faithless! Rejoice, thou rampart and protection of the faithful kings! Rejoice, thou sword and fortress defending the whole world! Rejoice, thou who defeated the legions of the enemy! Rejoice, O beacon shining with splendid rays of miracles! Rejoice, thou clothes the naked! Rejoice, thou deliverer of the captive! Rejoice, O holy father Joannicius!

Exapostilarion (of the Saint): To the melody, “By the Spirit in the sanctuary....”

The grace of God abounded in thy soul, for thou didst live like a bodiless angel, O wise Joannicius; Therefore, deliver those who honor thee from the darkness of the passions, protect them from the hordes of demons, and lead them to the calm havens.

Glory..., now and ever..., Theotokion.

The pre-eternal Son hath truly wrought great things through thee by the counsel of the Father, O Mother of God, for thou gavest birth to immortal Life without pain and without travail, and hast remained a virgin after giving birth, O Theotokos.

The Apostikha from the Octoechos, and

Glory..., of the Saint, in Tone 6: To the melody, “Having set all aside....”

Preserving unharmed that which was made in the likeness and image of God /
Making thy mind, through fasting, master over the passions /
Thou didst ascend to the very presence of God; /
For having courageously constrained thy nature /
Thou didst subject the inferior to that which is superior, /

4 NOVEMBER

Making the flesh the servant of the spirit. /
Thus, thou didst reach the summit of the ascetic life, /
And become a dweller in the wilderness, /
An instructor of those running the good race, /
And a most-excellent exemplar of the virtues. /
Dwelling now in heaven where thou dost behold the Trinity, /
O most-ven'erable father Joannicius, ///
Earnestly pray for those who faithfully honor thy holy memory.

Now and ever..., Theotokion in the same Tone, or this Stavrotheotokion: (and melody)

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?

Liturgy

The Prokeimenon, in Tone 7: Precious in the sight of the Lord / is the death of His saints. *Verse:* What shall I render to the Lord for all His bounty to me?

The Epistle: (213) Galatians 5:22-6:2

The Alleluia, in Tone 6: Blessèd is the man who fears the Lord, who greatly delights in His commandments. *Verse:* His seed shall be mighty in the land.

The Gospel: (10) Matthew 4:25-5:12

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

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