

## **The 23<sup>rd</sup> Day of March**

**Hieromartyr Nikon and 200 of his disciples martyred with him in Sicily.**

### **Vespers**

**At “Lord, I call...,” 3 stichera, in Tone 4:** *To the 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 blessed 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 father 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 the 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..., Theotokion, in the same Tone:** *(and melody)*

**K**eep me from evil transgressions /  
That I be not condemned, O Most Holy bride of God, /  
And through thy prayers deliver my humble soul from death; /  
That I may receive justification on the Day of Judgment /  
Which the assembly of the saints have already gained, /  
And show me cleansed through my tears and repentance ///  
Before the coming of the end.

23 MARCH

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

Seeing Thee nailed to the Cross, O Lord, /  
The ewe-lamb, Thy Mother, cried out in amazement: /  
'What is this sight, O Most-desired Son? /  
What has the ungrateful assembly done to Thee /  
Having once delighted themselves in Thy many miracles? ///  
But I glorify Thy ineffable condescension, O Master!'

*Or Dogmatic Theotokion if a Resurrection service.*

**The General Troparion of the Martyr, in Tone 4: (*None given in the Menaion*)**

Thy holy martyrs, O Lord, /  
Through their sufferings received their incorruptible crowns from Thee, our God /  
For having Thy strength they laid low their enemies /  
And shattered the powerless boldness of demons ///  
Through their intercessions, O Christ God, save our souls.

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### **Matins**

#### **The Canon for the Saint, Tone 4,**

*having the acrostic: "I hymn thee, the namesake of victory, O blessed one,"*

*the composition of Joseph.*

— *incomplete as of 12/ 2013.*

**[No Kontakion of the Martyr is given in the Menaion]**