

The 9th Day of February

Leavetaking of the Meeting of the Lord; Martyr Nicephorus (Nikifor); and the finding of the relics of Saint Innocent of Irkutsk, whose service is found on the 26th of November.

Note: The Leavetaking of the Meeting of the Lord is usually celebrated on this day.

Note: The Leavetaking may be moved if this date falls during the period of the Lenten Triodion. In that case, the Typikon must be consulted. In most cases, the entire office of the Feast of the Meeting is served in full, except for the Entrance, festal readings, Litya at Vespers, and the Polyeley and festal Gospel at Matins. The festal Antiphons at liturgy are not sung, and the Epistle and Gospel of the Day are read.

If the Martyr is to be commemorated at another time, then:

Vespers

At “Lord, I call...,” 3 stichera, in Tone 2: *To the melody, “Down from the tree....”*

Submitting thyself to earthly laws /

For the sake of Him, Who assumed our flesh on earth, /

And endured His hon’rable Passion for our sake, /

Thou didst display the greatest love for thy neighbor, in accord with the laws of the prophets, /

Thus attaining a hallowed repose, O divinely blessèd one, ///

Standing now before the very wellspring of Love, O Nicephorus.

For bowing thy head before God /

Before whom all creation bends its knees, /

Thy head was severed from thy body, O wondrous martyr /

And united in purity of thought to Christ, the Head of all. /

Drawing nigh to His Light, O wondrous Nicephorus ///

Pray for the enlightenment of all who praise thee.

The streams of thy blood, shed for Christ, /

Have sanctified the whole earth, O wise martyr. /

And the bodiless powers were gladdened by thy spirit, /

Which illumined the whole assembly of martyrs, O blessed one. /

Being now united with them as a valiant warrior and an invincible martyr, ///

Thou dost ever pray to God for us all, O Nicephorus.

Glory..., in Tone 6: *The composition of John the Monk*

Thou didst clearly show by thine example /
That he who loveth not his neighbor, /
Cannot love the Master. /
Wherefore, O martyr Nicephorus, /
Demonstrating the purest love for thy neighbor Caprikius /
Thy fervent wish took to divine flight /
And thou didst lay down thy life in the confession of Christ and the Faith. /
But the wicked Caprikius being full of an implacable hatred for thee /
Revealed himself to be a betrayer of Christ the Master ///
Before Whom thou dost stand, ever praying for us all.

Now and ever..., Theotokion, or the Stavrotheotokion, in the same Tone: *To the melody, "Having set all aside...."*

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?

The Troparion of the Martyr, Tone 4:

Thy holy martyr Nicephorus, 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.

Matins

The Canon of the Martyr, in Tone 8,

having the acrostic: *"With songs I praise Nicephorus, glorious among the martyrs."*

— incomplete as of 12/2013

The Kontakion of the Martyr, in Tone 3: *To the melody, "Today the Virgin...."*

MARTYR NICPEHORUS (NIKÍFOR)

Soaring high, borne aloft on the wings of love for the Lord, /
And taking His glorious Cross upon thy shoulders, /
Thou didst put the devil's torments to shame, /
Suffering even unto death. /
Thou didst reveal thyself as a warrior for the Truth, /
And an intimate of the mysteries of divine Grace, ///
Bearing a banner of victory.

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