

15 SEPTEMBER
Afterfeast
± Greatmartyr Nikitas of the Danube C4

VESPERS

Lord I have cried

Tone 8

O Lord, I have cried to you, listen to me;
O Lord, listen to me.

O Lord, I have cried to you, listen to me;
Note the voice of my plea when I cry to you.
O Lord, listen to me.

² Let my prayer be directed before you like incense,
the raising of my hands be an evening sacrifice.
O Lord, listen to me.

S6: O Lord, if you mark offences, who will stand?
But there is forgiveness with you.

Hail, O life-bearing cross, invincible weapon of godliness, gate of Paradise and protection of the faithful! The cross through which corruption is abolished and the power of death is crushed, is the might of the Church. The cross raises us from earth to heaven. The cross is the enemy of Satan. The cross is the glory of the martyrs. The cross is the haven of salvation which grants the world great mercy.

S5: O Lord, I have waited for you for your name's sake;
my soul has waited for your word,
my soul has hoped in the Lord.

Hail, O cross of the Lord, banner of joy which frees the human race from the curse and drives away every adversary. *You are* our helper, the majesty of leaders, the might of the just, the adornment of priests which banishes every tribulation, the staff of power which makes us shepherds, the weapon of peace surrounded by angels and the divine glory of Christ which grants the world great mercy.

S4: Let Israel hope in the Lord
from morning watch until night,
from morning watch.

Hail, O guide of the blind, physician of the sick, resurrection of the dead and power which raises us from corruption! *You are* the precious cross by which the curse is destroyed, incorruption blossoms and the human race is deified. The Devil is crushed by the cross. Now, as we see your exaltation, we exalt Christ who was exalted on you and we fall in worship before you while we freely draw great mercy.

Tone 1

S3: For there is mercy with the Lord
and abundant redemption with *him*.
He will redeem Israel from all his offences.

O holy martyr, you struggled against the criminal Evil One with the strength of your faith in the Saviour. O Nikitas, you were able to endure your torments and so turned a barbarian people to the Master and Creator of all. They glorify you for ever.

S2: Every nation, praise the Lord;
every people, acclaim him!

O holy martyr, because you died as a witness to the Holy Trinity, you offered to Christ the first fruits of the barbarians for his glory. Therefore, O athlete worthy of praise, you received a radiant crown and now shine like a torch over the world.

S1: For his mercy is strengthened over us
and the truth of the Lord remains for ever.

O victorious martyr Nikitas, when you had put on the armour of faith, you entered the combat like a faithful soldier of Christ our King. Like another Gideon you courageously turned back the armies of the enemy through your courage.

Glory: Tone 6

O Nikitas, athlete of Christ, we acknowledge you as a light for martyrs. When you had laid aside the glory of earthly honours and

renounced your pagan ancestry, you shattered the power of the false gods. The barbarians were confused by your victory. You bore witness as you acknowledge Christ in martyrdom and served the God of heaven as his soldier. Plead with the Benefactor of all to save our souls and have compassion on us.

Both now:

Prophetic words foretold the holy wood by which Adam was freed from death's ancient curse. Today, at its exaltation, all creation raises its voice and begs great mercy from God. O Master, *you are* boundless in compassion; redeem us and save our souls.

Entrance

Phos Ilarón

P/D: Wisdom! Stand upright!

O Jesus Christ, joyful light of the holy glory
of the immortal, heavenly, holy, blessed Father,
when we come to the setting of the sun
and see the light of evening,
we praise God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

For it is right at all times to worship you
with voices of praise,
O Son of God *and* Giver of life.
Therefore the world glorifies you.

Great Prokeímenon

Tone 7

R: Our God is in heaven and earth;
he has done whatever he determined. Ps 113

S1: When Israel left Egypt
and the house of Jacob *departed* from a foreign people,
Judah became his sanctuary
and Israel his dominion.

S2: The sea saw and fled;
Jordan was turned back.

S3: O sea, what *happened* to you that you fled
and you, Jordan, that you turned back?

Ektení

Prayer

O Lord, allow us this night to be guarded from sin. Blessed are you, O Lord, God of our fathers! Praised and glorified be your name for ever. Amen. O Lord, let your mercy be on us, for we have hoped in you. Blessed are you, O Lord; teach me your statutes. Blessed are you, O Master; make me understand your statutes. Blessed are you, O Holy *One*; enlighten me with your statutes. O Lord, your mercy lasts for ever; do not overlook the work of your hands. To you belongs worship, to you belongs praise, to you belongs glory, to the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, both now and ever, and to ages of ages. Amen.

Plirotiká

Prayer

P: Peace be with you all. R: And with your spirit
D: Bow down your heads to the Lord. R: To you, O Lord.

P: For blessed and glorified is the power of your Kingdom, of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages. *Amen*.

Apósticha

Tone 6

The exalted cross calls all creation to praise the undefiled passion of Christ. He was exalted on it and killed the one who killed us. Christ has brought us back to life, has adorned us and made us worthy to live in the heavens. We rejoice, exalt his name and glorify his condescension.

S1: Exalt the Lord our God
and worship at his footstool. Ps 98

O precious cross, Moses prefigured you when he stretched out his hands on high and put Amalek the tyrant to flight. You are the boast of the faithful, help of the suffering, glory of the apostles, champion of the just and the preserver of all the saints. When it sees you raised on high, creation rejoices and celebrates. It glorifies Christ who in his infinite goodness has joined together through you what was divided.

S2: God *was* our King in the past;

he has brought about salvation in the midst of the earth. *Ps 73*

O most precious cross attended by ranks of rejoicing angels, you are exalted today. By divine command you raise again all those who had been outcast and were sunk in death on account of the stolen fruit. Now we embrace you in faith with heart and lips. We draw sanctification from you and cry, "Exalt Christ, the God most good and venerate his divine footstool.

Glory: Tone 8

O renowned martyr Nikitas, you were victorious when you proclaimed Christ our God in the arena in accordance with your name; you acknowledged him before rulers and tyrants. Continually plead for the peace of the world before the unique Lover of the human race, so that rescue from every danger may be granted to the faithful who love Christ and to all who celebrate your sacred memory.

Both now: Tone 8

O God, the words of Moses the prophet have been fulfilled, "You will see your Life hanging before your eyes." Today the cross is exalted and the world is freed from error. The ends of the earth greatly rejoice; they sing David's psalms to you with loud clashing cymbals. O God, you have accomplished salvation in the midst of the earth; you have saved us through your cross and resurrection, for you are good and the Lover of the human race. Glory to you, all-powerful Lord!

Song of Simeon

B/P: O Master, now let your servant depart in peace
according to your word,
² for my eyes have seen your salvation,
which you have prepared before all peoples,
³ a light of revelation for *the* nations
and *the* glory of your people Israel.

Triságon Prayers

Apolytikia

Tone 4

You lovingly took up the cross as armour and went out to meet the enemy. You were burnt to death for Christ and so you offered your priestly soul to the Lord. O Nikitas, you have been rewarded with the gift of healing, so implore Christ our God to save our souls.

Tone 1

O Lord, save your people and bless your inheritance. Grant victories to the Orthodox Christians over their adversaries and preserve your commonwealth through your cross.

ORTHROS

God is the Lord Ps 117

R: God is the Lord and has appeared to us.

Blessed is the one who comes in the Lord's name. *Ps 117*

S1: Thank the Lord, for he is good,
for his mercy lasts for ever.

S2: All the nations surrounded me,
but I opposed them in the Lord's name.

S3: This *is* the Lord's doing
and it is wonderful in our eyes.

Apolytikia

Tone 4

You lovingly took up the cross as armour and went out to meet the enemy. You were burnt to death for Christ and so you offered your

priestly soul to the Lord. O Nikitas, you have been rewarded with the gift of healing, so implore Christ our God to save our souls.

Tone 1

O Lord, save your people and bless your inheritance. Grant victories to the Orthodox Christians over their adversaries and preserve your commonwealth through your cross.

Small Litany

P: For yours is the might, and yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory of the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages. *Amen*

Kathisma 1

Tone 1

O Lover of the human race, we venerate the wood of your cross, for you, the Life of all, were nailed on it. O Saviour, you opened Paradise to the thief who turned to you in faith. You counted him worthy of blessedness when he acknowledged you and cried, "O Lord, remember me." Accept us like him, as we cry, "We have sinned; do not despise us in your steadfast love." *X2*

Kathisma 2

Tone 1

O God of tenderness, you stretched out your hands on the cross, so that you could bring back the people who had strayed a long way from you, and so that they could glorify your great goodness. O Lord, regard your inheritance and drive away the enemy through your precious cross. *X2*

Small Litany

P: For blessed is your name, and glorified is your kingdom, of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages. *Amen*

Psalm 50

O God, have mercy on me in your abundant mercy
and wipe out my offence through your great compassion.
⁴ Wash me thoroughly from my lawless act
and cleanse me from my sin.
⁵ For I know my lawlessness
and my sin is always before me.
⁶ I have sinned against you alone
and done this evil before you
^{6b} so that you might be justified in your words
and overcome when you are judged.
⁷ For see, I was conceived in lawlessness
and my mother gave birth to me in sin.
⁸ For see, you have loved truth
and revealed to me the hidden and secret *things* of your wisdom.
⁹ You will sprinkle me with hyssop and I will be clean;
you will wash me and I will become whiter than snow.
¹⁰ You will make me hear about joy and gladness;
the humbled bones will rejoice.
¹¹ Turn your face from my sins
and wipe out all my lawlessness.
¹² O God, create a pure heart within me
and renew an upright spirit within me.
¹³ Do not banish me from your presence
or remove your Holy Spirit from me.
¹⁴ Restore the joy of your salvation to me
and make me firm with your directing Spirit.
¹⁵ I will teach the lawless your ways
and the ungodly will return to you.
¹⁶ O God, set me free from the guilt of blood;
O God of my salvation,
my tongue will rejoice in your justice.
¹⁷ O Lord, you will open my lips
and my mouth will proclaim your praise.
¹⁸ For if you had wanted sacrifice, I would have given it;
you will not be pleased with burnt offerings.
¹⁹ Sacrifice for God is a broken spirit;
God will not despise a broken and humbled heart.
²⁰ O Lord, be good to Zion in your pleasure
and let the walls of Jerusalem be built.

²¹ Then you will be pleased with a sacrifice of justice,
with an offering and burnt sacrifices;
then they will offer calves on your altar.

Kontákia

Tone 4

Since you were willingly crucified for our sake, grant mercy to those who are called by your name. Make all Orthodox Christians glad in your power. Grant them victories over their adversaries by giving them the invincible trophy - your weapon of peace.

Tone 2

O glorious Nikitas, you crushed the power of error by your perseverance in the faith and earned the crown of victory by your struggle. Therefore you are now enjoying the company of angels in heaven. Together with them, continually plead with Christ our God to save our souls.

Íkos

O Saviour, put wisdom into my soul, cleanse my heart and make me an instrument of your divine guidelines, so that I can fight the attack attacks of my passions. O Lover of the human race, through the pleas of your courageous martyr Nikitas let me receive immortality as the reward for victory. Today he invites us to honour his sacred memory and continually pleads with you to save our souls.

Synaxáron

Today we remember the suffering of the holy great martyr Nikitas the Goth who lived in the Fourth Century. He was born near the River Danube. The king of the Eastern Goths started a persecution of Christians. Nikitas was seized, beaten and thrown alive into a fire. On the Fifteenth he was radiant with a brilliant glory.

Together with him we remember:

Martyr Porphyrios the Actor C4

Relics of Archdeacon Stephen C5

Bishop Merryn of Cornwall C7

Archbishop Symeon of Thessalonica C15

Bishop Vissarion of Larissa C15

O God, have mercy on us through their holy prayers. Amen.

Katavasías

1: Moses inscribed the invincible weapon of the cross on the waters and marked a straight line before him with his staff. He divided the Red Sea and opened a path for Israel who went over dry shod. Then he marked a second line across the waters, united them in one and overwhelmed the chariots of Pharaoh. Therefore let us sing to Christ our God, for he has been glorified.

3: The rod of Aaron is an image of this mystery; it comes into bud to show who should be priest. So also the wood of the Cross has now flowered in the Church that once was barren. It has filled her with strength and steadfastness.

4: O Lord, I have heard the mystery of your dispensation. I have considered your works and glorified your divinity.

5: O three times blessed tree, on which Christ the King and Lord was stretched, the beguiler who tempted the human race with the tree fell because of you. He was caught in the trap set by God who was crucified on you in the flesh and grants peace to our souls.

6: Jonah stretched out his hands in the form of a cross within the belly of the whale and plainly prefigured your redeeming passion. He was cast out after three days and foreshadowed the mighty resurrection of Christ our God who was crucified in the flesh and enlightened the world by his rising on the third day.

7: The senseless decree of the wicked tyrant confused the people and breathed out threats and blasphemy hateful to God. Yet neither the fury of wild beasts nor the roaring of the fire could frighten the three children. As they stood together in the flame and were fanned by the wind which brought refreshment like the dew, they sang, "Blessed are you and praised above all, our God and the God of our fathers!"

8: Let us praise, bless and worship the Lord.
O children, equal in number to the Trinity, bless God the Father and Creator. Sing the praises of the Word who descended and changed the fire to dew and exalt above all for ever the most Holy Spirit who gives life to all.

Ode 9

My soul glorifies the Lord
and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Saviour. R:

R: *You are* more honourable than the Cherubim
and beyond compare more glorious than the Seraphim.
You gave birth to God the Word without defilement;
O true Theotokos, we glorify you.

² For he has regarded his servant's humility;
see, from now all generations will call me blessed. R:

³ For the Almighty has accomplished great *things* for me
and his name is holy.

His mercy is from generation to generation
on those who fear him. R:

⁴ He has accomplished strength with his arm
and scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. R:

⁵ He has put down the mighty from *their* thrones
and exalted the humble.

He has satisfied the hungry with good *things*
and dismissed the rich with nothing. R:

⁶ He has helped his servant Israel
in remembering his mercy,

as he spoke to our fathers,
to Abraham and his seed for ever. R:

9: O Theotokos, you are a mystical Paradise in which Christ blossomed. Through him the life-bearing wood of the Cross was planted on earth. Now at its elevation we bow in worship before it and glorify you.

Small Litany

P: For all the powers of heaven praise you, and to you we send up glory, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages. *Amen*

Exaposteilária

Tone 2

O courageous martyr Nikitas, since you once overcame the audacity of the barbarians and the rage of tyrants through the power of the cross, now uproot the lusts of our flesh and the attacks of the passions. Gain the pardon for our sins through the boldness which you have before God.

The cross is the guardian of the whole earth! The cross is the beauty of the Church! The cross is the strength of kings! The cross is the support of the faithful! The cross is the glory of angels and the wounder of demons!

Praises

Tone 2

Let everything with breath praise the Lord.
Praise the Lord from the heavens;
praise him in the heights.
To you, O God, is due a song.

Praise him, all his angels;
praise him, all his powers.
To you, O God, is due a song.

S4: Praise him with cymbal and dance;
praise him with strings and flute.

S3: Praise him with tuneful cymbals;
praise him with joyful cymbals.
Let everything with breath praise the Lord.

The cross of Christ is exalted today; it is the life-bearing tree on which he was nailed in the flesh. X2

S2: Exalt the Lord our God
and worship at his footstool. P_s 98

Hail, O divine salvation for the faithful! O cross of the Lord, you are the invincible rampart which exalts us above the earth.

S1: God *was* our King in the past;
he has brought about salvation in the midst of the earth. ^{Ps 73}
Come in gladness and let us all venerate the life-bearing tree on which Christ our Redeemer was stretched.

Glory: Tone 6

The whole creation rejoices on this day of the passion of the victorious martyr. O Nikitas, servant of Christ and our fervent intercessor, the Church of Christ is adorned with flowers and cries out to you, "Continually intercede for the faithful who venerate you."

Both now:

Today the shoot of life springs from the hardened bosom of the earth and announces the resurrection of Christ who was nailed to it. When it is raised by priestly hands, the cross proclaims his ascension to heaven by which our nature, bound to earth by the fall, now lives in the heavens. Therefore we cry out in thanksgiving, "O Lord, you were lifted up on the cross and raised us up with you; grant us your heavenly joy, for you are Lover of the human race."

Great Doxology

Glory to you who have shown us the light!
glory to God in the highest!
Peace on earth and goodwill to men!
²We praise you, we bless you, we worship you,
we glorify you, we thank you for your great glory,
³O Lord King, heavenly God, almighty Father,
O Lord, only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ,
and you, O Holy Spirit!
⁴O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us,
for you take away the sin of the world.
⁵Receive our prayer,
for you sit on the right of the Father,
and have mercy on us.
⁶For only you are holy, only you are Lord,
O Jesus Christ, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.
⁷I will bless you every day
and always praise your name for ever and ever. ^{Ps 144}
⁸O Lord, allow us this day
to be guarded from sin.
⁹Blessed are you, O Lord God of our fathers!
Praised and glorified be your name for ever. Amen. ^{Daniel 3}
¹⁰O Lord, let your mercy *be* on us,
for we have hoped in you. ^{Ps 32.}
¹⁶Blessed are you, O Lord!
Teach me your statutes. ^{X3 Ps 118}
¹²O Lord, you have been our refuge
from generation to generation. ^{Ps 89}
I said, "O Lord, have mercy on me;
heal my soul, for I have sinned against you." ^{Ps 40}
¹⁴O Lord, I have fled to you;
teach me to do your will, for you are my God. ^{Ps 142}
¹⁵For with you is the source of life
and in your light we will see light. ^{Ps 35}
¹⁶Stretch out your mercy
to those who know you. ^{Ps 35}

Triságion

Apolytícion

Tone 1

O Lord, save your people and bless your inheritance. Grant victories to the Orthodox Christians over their adversaries and preserve your commonwealth through your cross.

LITURGY

Antíphon 1 Ps 21 Tone 2

S1: O God, my God, be attentive to me;
why have you forsaken me?

R: At the prayers of the Theotokos, Saviour, save us!

S2: The words of my offences are far from my salvation.
S3: My God, I will cry by day, *but* you will not listen.
S4: O Praise of Israel, you will live in the sanctuary.
S5: Glory: Both now:

Antíphon 2 Ps 73 Own Tone

S1: O God, why have you completely banished us?

R: Save us, O Son of God.
You were crucified in the flesh.
We sing to you, "Alleluia!"

S2: Remember your assembled people
whom you have purchased from the beginning.
S3: This is Mount Zion on which you have settled.
S4: God *was* our king in the past;
he has accomplished salvation in the midst of the earth.
S5: Glory: Both now:
Monogenes

Antíphon 3 Ps 98 Tone 1

S1: The Lord reigns; let the peoples rage.

R: O Lord, save your people and bless your inheritance. Grant victories to the Orthodox Christians over their adversaries and preserve your commonwealth through your cross.

S2: He sits on the cherubim; let the earth be shaken.
S3: The Lord is great in Zion and high over all the peoples.
S4: Let them acknowledge your great name
for it is terrible and holy.

Entrance Ps 98

⁵ Exalt the Lord our God
and worship at his footstool, for he is holy.
Save us, O Son of God.
You were crucified in the flesh.
We sing to you, "Alleluia!"

Apolytíkia

Tone 1

O Lord, save your people and bless your inheritance. Grant victories to the Orthodox Christians over their adversaries and preserve your commonwealth through your cross.

Tone 4

You lovingly took up the cross as armour and went out to meet the enemy. You were burnt to death for Christ and so you offered your priestly soul to the Lord. O Nikitas, you have been rewarded with the gift of healing, so implore Christ our God to save our souls.

Of the Church

Kontákion

Tone 4

O Christ our God, since you were willingly raised on the cross, grant mercies to your new community called by your name. Make firm our faithful rulers with your power and grant them victories over their enemies. May your help be a weapon of peace and an invincible trophy.

Triságion

Prokeímenon Ps 63 Tone 7

R: The just will rejoice in the Lord.
S: O God, listen to my voice.

Apóstolos

From the Second Letter of Paul to Timothy (2:1-10)
My son Timothy, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. ²
Entrust what you have heard from me before many witnesses to faithful men who will be able to teach others also. ³ Share in

suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. ⁴No soldier on service gets entangled in civilian pursuits since his aim is to satisfy the one who enlisted him. ⁵An athlete is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules. ⁶It is the hard-working farmer who ought to have the first share of the crops. ⁷Think over what I say, for the Lord will grant you understanding in everything. ⁸Remember Jesus Christ, *who is* risen from the dead *and* descended from David, as I preached in my gospel. ⁹*This is* the gospel for which I am suffering and wearing shackles like a criminal. But the word of God is not shackled. ¹⁰Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the chosen *people*, so that they also may obtain salvation in Christ Jesus with its eternal glory.

Alleluia Tone 2

S1: The just *person* will flourish like a palm tree.

S2: Those who are planted in the house of the Lord
will blossom in the courts of our God.

Gospel

From the Holy Gospel according to Matthew (10:16-22)

The Lord said to his disciples, "See, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves; so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. ¹⁷ Beware of men; for they will deliver you up to councils, and flog you in their synagogues, ¹⁸ and you will be dragged before governors and kings for my sake, to bear testimony before them and the Gentiles. ¹⁹ When they deliver you up, do not be anxious how you are to speak or what you are to say; for what you are to say will be given to you in that hour; ²⁰ for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. ²¹ Brother will deliver up brother to death, and the father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death; ²² and you will be hated by all for my name's sake. But he who endures to the end will be saved. ²³ When they persecute you in one town, flee to the next; for truly, I say to you, you will not have gone through all the towns of Israel, before the Son of man comes."

Communion Ps 111

The just will be in everlasting remembrance. Alleluia!