

THE 27th DAY OF THE MONTH OF OCTOBER
COMMEMORATION OF THE HOLY MARTYR NESTOR OF THESSALONICA
AT VESPERS

At "Lord, I have cried ...," three Stichera for the martyr, in Tone VIII:

Spec. Mel.: "O most glorious wonder ...":

O wondrous sufferer Nestor, * thou didst array thyself * in all the armor of Christ; * and, locked in mortal combat with Lyaeus, * thou didst destroy him, * and with invisible arrows * thou didst bring down the invisible Belial and slay him. * Wherefore, the Bountiful One hath crowned thee ** with a wreath of victory.

Strengthened with divine words, * O wise Nestor, * with true courage thou didst slay * the proud tormentor of the martyr Demetrius; * and confessing the immortal God * Who died and harrowed Hades, * thou didst receive an unjust death, O glorious one. * Wherefore, rejoicing, ** thou hast inherited everlasting life.

Thou wast a godly youth, * shining forth in comeliness of body * and adorned with divine grace, O wise one, * and invested with power. * Wherefore, having cast down the power of Lyaeus * by the power of the Almighty, * thou didst suffer, rejoicing, * and hast been numbered among the choirs of sufferers. ** Rejoicing with them, do thou remember us.

Glory ..., Now & ever ..., Theotokion in Tone VIII:

Troubled and in grief, * we beseech thee, O most pure one, * our intercessor: * Permit not thy servants to utterly perish; * but hasten to rescue us * from this present wrath and grief, * O divinely joyous, * most holy and pure one. ** For thou art our bulwark and unassailable help.

Stavrotheotokion: **B**eholding Thee O Lord Jesus, * nailed upon the cross and voluntarily accepting the passion, * the Virgin Mother cried aloud: * Woe is me, O my sweet Child! * how dost Thou wrongfully endure such wounds? * O compassionate Physician and healer * of the infirmities of mankind, * Thou hast redeemed all from corruption ** by Thy tender compassion.

Troparion, in Tone IV:

In his sufferings, Thy martyr Nestor O Lord, * received an imperishable crown from Thee, our God; * for, possessed of Thy might, * he set at naught the tyrants and crushed the feeble audacity of the demons. ** By his supplications save Thou our souls.

AT MATINS

Both canons from the Oktoechos, and this canon for the Martyr, in Tone IV, with four Troparia.

ODE I

Irmos: The chariots of pharaoh and his power * were cast into the sea by Him Who is mighty in battles: * Let us chant a new hymn, * for He hath been glorified!

By thy blood thou wast deemed worthy to sit upon the fiery chariot rejoicing, and with joy ascended to the heights of heaven, where Jesus, the ageless Light, doth dwell.

Having arrayed thyself in the breastplate of faith, O Nestor, and having the Cross in thy hands, as it were a spear, thou didst mightily cut down legions of the enemy.

Strengthened with the fervor of Christ's love, thou didst stride forth into the midst of the arena and set at naught the wiles of Lyaeus, and win the trophy of victory.

Theotokion: In thy womb didst thou conceive Him Who is co-beginningless with the Father, and in a manner transcending nature thou didst give birth to Him in the flesh, O thou who knew not a man, remaining truly a pure Virgin. Wherefore, we all honor thee.

ODE III

Irmos: Having established the thunder * and fashioned the wind: * do Thou make me steadfast O Lord, * that I may hymn Thee in truth and do Thy will; * for none is as holy as Thee, O our God.

Strengthened with the might of the strength of Him that shattered the gates and portals of Hades, with zeal thou didst enter into the arena and mightily shatter the wiles of the enemy.

With thy feet thou didst trample underfoot the ancient author of deception, for as a youth thou didst bow thyself to be beheaded by the sword, O Nestor, boast of martyrs. Wherefore, we praise thee.

Setting at naught the pride of the most iniquitous, O martyr, thou didst sacrifice a sacrifice unto God, shedding thy sacred blood as an offering. Wherefore, He hath rewarded thee with rich gifts.

Theotokion: O Theotokos, Jesus, Whom thou didst bear in thy womb, having supra-naturally transformed the ugliness which was incurred through eating by the race of Adam, hath granted us our pristine comeliness.

Sedalion, in Tone IV, Spec. Mel.: "Having been lifted up ...":

Thou didst not fear the tyranny of the enemy, nor wast thou afraid of the wounding of thy body, but didst run fearlessly to the conflict, O wise one, bearing the invincible and divine weapon of the Cross. Wherefore, having slain the deceiver straightway, thou wast thyself slain, O Nestor, and, standing before Christ, thou hast been deemed worthy of life.

Glory ..., Now & ever ..., Theotokion in Tone IV:

As one who loveth sin, I beseech thee who hast given birth to the sinless God Who taketh away the sins of the world: O most pure one, have compassion on my greatly sinful soul and cleanse me of my many sins; for thou art the cleansing, salvation and aid of the faithful.

Stavrotheotokion: **S**he who in the latter days * gave birth in the flesh unto Thee O Christ, * Who wast begotten of the beginningless Father, * upon seeing Thee hanging upon the Cross, cried aloud: * "Woe is me, O Jesus, most beloved Christ! * How is it that Thou Who art glorified as God by the angels * dost now consent to be crucified by iniquitous men O my Son? ** I hymn Thee, O Thou Long-suffering One!"

ODE IV

Irmos: **I** have heard report of Thee, O Lord and I am afraid. * Having understood Thy works, * I am in awe of Thee O Lord, * for the earth is full of Thy praise.

Shining with the splendid teachings of Demetrius, thou didst put to flight the gloom of Hellenic vanity and wast illumined with the light of martyrdom.

Thou didst trouble the salty sea of unbelief with the sweetness of thy good faith, O martyr, and didst drown an army of the impious in the abyss of thy blood.

Thou wast shown to be a tree raised up towards life, nourishing the fullness of the faithful with the bounty of thy struggles, O Nestor of Christ, thou boast of martyrs.

Theotokion: **B**e thou unto me the cleansing of sins and do thou extend a helping hand unto me who am in distress, O all-holy Lady, sure aid of Christians.

ODE V

Irmos: **S**end dawn upon us a radiant dawn, * since Thou art good, * and guide us in the fear of Thee, * O Master.

Having watered thy thoughts with words of divine understanding, O glorious Nestor, thou didst put forth the ripe ear of martyrdom.

With the healing of thy words, O Demetrius, martyr for Christ, Nestor put an end to the great iniquity of godlessness.

Locked in combat with a visible foe, thou didst invisibly acquire the help of God, O glorious Nestor.

Theotokion: **R**ejoice, thou who without seed hast given birth unto our God! Rejoice, thou who alone art the most pure Mother of God! Rejoice, thou Bride unwedded!

ODE VI

Irmos: **T**he tempest of evil thoughts, * hath overwhelmed me, * dragging me down into the abyss * of my numberless sins; * but, going before me, O good Helmsman, * govern me as Thou didst the Prophet, * and save me.

Having stamped thy heart with a seal, thou didst courageously wound the heart of Lyaeus with the spear of thy valor, O passion-bearer. And, rejoicing, thou wast slain for Christ, the Life of all.

Like a bridegroom thou didst depart from the chamber of thy flesh, O wise one; and manifestly arrayed in garments woven from thy sacred blood, O martyr, thou hast taken thy place before Christ the Master.

Having set thy feet upon the rock of piety, Christ, the Rock of life, guided thy steps to Himself, O Nestor, and put thine enemies to shame.

Theotokion: O Virgin Mary, who hast given birth unto God Who taketh away the sin of the world, thou hast broken the chains of my transgression, for on thee have I placed my hope of salvation.

Kontakion, in Tone II, Spec. Mel.: "Seeking the highest...":

Having contested well, * thou hast now inherited immortal glory, * for thou wast an excellent warrior of the Master * by the prayers of the martyr Demetrius; ** with him, then, cease not to pray for us all, O wise Nestor.

Ikos: From childhood didst thou tread the path of the Lord, O thrice-blessed one, piously desiring His testimonies; and, having zealously taken the Cross upon thy shoulders, O divinely wise Nestor, thou didst destroy the wicked deception of the madness of idolatry, breaking and destroying the snares and nets of Lyaeus. Wherefore, we flee to thy protection with faith, crying aloud: O most noetically rich one, entreat Christ God on behalf of us all!

ODE VII

Irmos: Thou didst speak with Moses on the mountain * and prefigure the Virgin in the bush: * O God of our fathers, blessed art Thou.

Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our fathers, Who hast illumined the hearts of the faithful with the splendor of the passion-bearer's struggles.

Having quenched the flame of impiety with the dew of thy blood, O divine martyr Nestor, thou dost chant: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our fathers!

Offering a living sacrifice as an odor of sweet fragrance to the Lord, O martyr Nestor, thou didst cry aloud: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our fathers!

Theotokion: Thou hast been revealed to be more holy than the cherubim, O all-holy Lady, who hast given birth unto the Word of God Who doth sanctify us.

ODE VIII

Irmos: The earth and all that is therein, * the seas and all wellsprings, * the heaven of heavens, light and darkness, * frost and heat, ye sons of men, * and ye priests, bless the Lord and supremely exalt Him throughout the ages.

The earth received thy precious blood which was shed for Christ; the heavens received thy soul which was adorned like a bride; and the choirs of martyrs and the souls of all the righteous greeted thee with joy, O martyr.

Oh, thy God-loving soul which considered a temporal death to be but naught and chose to live in the Lord! Oh, thy divine manliness which was much stronger than the cowardice of the foe! For thou hast denounced those who do not confess Christ!

Having fought the good fight, thou didst truly finish thy course, O wise martyr, and kept the faith. And now a crown of righteousness doth lie before thee, which Christ shall bestow upon thee throughout all ages.

Theotokion: I fear not the pursuit of the enemy, for I have thy help; I fear not evil men, but flee to thee, O Theotokos. For in thee do I boast, and in thee do I cross the wall of sin, saved by thy prayers.

ODE IX

Irmos: For the Mighty One hath done great things to me, * and holy is His name; * and His mercy is upon them that fear Him * unto generation and generation

In a sacred manner thou hast arrayed thyself in purple vesture dyed with thy blood; and, grasping the Cross in thy right hand as a scepter, thou dost reign with Christ, O blessed Nestor.

Thou art shown to be a ripe cluster on the noetic Vine; and, squeezed out by the winepress of martyrdom, thou hast poured forth the wine of compunction upon us who ever praise thee.

Joining chorus with the angels before the face of Jesus and delighting in His glory, O Nestor, do thou ever remember those who faithfully keep thine honored memory.

Theotokion: Thou wast revealed to be the abode of the Light which hath truly driven away the gloom of ancient ignorance, O pure one, ark of holiness and golden candlestick, O thou who art more spacious than the heavens.

Exapostilarion, Spec. Mel.: "Hearken, ye women ...":

By the power of the Cross and the prayers of Demetrius, the glorious martyr, thou didst cast down the magnitude of the impious Lyaeus and the pride of the enemy, O Nestor, having first vanquished the passions; and thou wast shown to be an excellent martyr for Christ, O wise sufferer.

Glory ..., Now & ever ..., Theotokion:

Saved by thee, O Theotokos, we hymn thee as an invincible weapon, an unassailable rampart, a tower of strength, a haven of salvation, a truly divine foundation, and the bridge which leadeth from earth to heaven.

AT LITURGY

Troparion, in Tone IV:

In his sufferings, Thy martyr Nestor O Lord, * received an imperishable crown from Thee, our God; * for, possessed of Thy might, * he set at naught the tyrants and crushed the feeble audacity of the demons. ** By his supplications save Thou our souls.

Kontakion, in Tone II:

Having contested well, * thou hast now inherited immortal glory, * for thou wast an excellent warrior of the Master * by the prayers of the martyr Demetrius; ** with him, then, cease not to pray for us all, O wise Nestor.

Prokeimenon, in Tone IV: In the saints that are in His earth hath the Lord been wondrous; * He hath wrought all His desires in them.

Verse: I beheld the Lord ever before me, for He is at my right hand, that I might not be shaken.

THE EPISTLE OF PAUL TO THE EPHESIANS [6:10-17]

Brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armor of God that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; and your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Alleluia, in Tone IV: The righteous cried, and the Lord heard them, and He delivered them out of all their tribulations.

Verse: Many are the tribulations of the righteous, and the Lord shall deliver them out of them all.

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ST. LUKE [21 :12-19]

The Lord said unto His disciples: They shall lay their hands on you, and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues, and into prisons, being brought before kings and rulers for my name's sake. And it shall turn to you for a testimony. Settle it

therefore in your hearts, not to meditate before what ye shall answer: for I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which all your adversaries shall not be able to gainsay nor resist. And ye shall be betrayed both by parents, and brethren, and kinsfolk, and friends; and some of you shall they cause to be put to death. And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake. But there shall not a hair of your head perish. In your patience possess ye your souls.

Communion Verse: In everlasting remembrance shall the righteous be; he shall not be afraid of evil tidings.