**MARCH 9**

**Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts (sung on Monday, in honor of the Martyrs)**

**Tuesday of the Second Week of Great Lent**

**Holy Forty Martyrs of Sebaste**

**"Lord I Call..." Tone 3**

Lord, I call upon You, hear me.

Hear me, O Lord.

Lord, I call upon You, hear me.

Receive the voice of my prayer,

when I call upon You.//

Hear me, O Lord.

Let my prayer arise

in Your sight as incense,

and let the lifting up of my hands

be an evening sacrifice.//

Hear me, O Lord.

*v. (10) Bring my soul out of prison, that I may give thanks to Your name!*

**Tone 3 Idiomelon** *(from the Lenten Triodion)*

Let us perform a spiritual fast!

Let us loose every tie!

Let us flee from the pitfalls of sin!

Let us forgive our brother’s debts

that our transgressions may also be forgiven!

Then we will be able to sing://

“Let my prayer arise in Your sight as incense, O Lord!”

*v. (9) The righteous will surround me; for You will deal bountifully with me.*

(Repeat “Let us perform…”)

*v. (8) Out of the depths I cry to You, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice!*

The prophets, apostles, and martyrs of Christ

have taught mankind to praise the consubstantial Trinity.

They have given light to the nations that had gone astray//

and have made the sons of men companions of the angels.

*v. (7) Let Your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!*

**Tone 8** *(from the Lenten Triodion, by Joseph) (What shall we call you)*

To what shall you be likened, O wretched soul?

You are lazy in good deeds, but watchful for evil!

Repent, for judgment is at the door:

Cleanse yourself by prayer and fasting,

and cry out to the Master:

“I have sinned against You;//

pardon me in Your compassion and grant me forgiveness!”

*v. (6) If You, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with You.*

Your loving-kindness is wider than the sea!

Dry up the sea of my evil and sin, O Christ my God,

for You alone art sinless.

Grant my heart compunction,

and restrain the tempest of my wickedness

that I may sing Your praises

and glorify Your infinite compassion,//

O Benefactor of our souls, Who is longsuffering!

*v. (5) For Your name’s sake have I waited for You, O Lord, my soul has waited for Your word; my soul has hoped on the Lord.*

**Tone 8** *(from the Lenten Triodion, by Theodore) (The Paradise in Eden)*

You lead us through the time of the holy fast, O God,

and hast enabled us to enter into its second week.

Grant, O Lord, that in the weeks to come

we may run the race with all our might.

Give our souls and bodies grace and strength

that we may complete the course with courage and joy

and come to the royal day of Resurrection//

that wearing crowns of victory we may ceaselessly praise You!

*v. (4) From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch, let Israel hope on the Lord!*

**Tone 1** *(from the Menaion, for the Holy 40 Martyrs of Sebaste)*

The choir of forty-fold splendor;

the whole army assembled by God,

has shone out upon the Fast through their most honored sufferings,//

enlightening and illumining our souls!

*v. (3) For with the Lord there is mercy and with Him is plenteous redemption, and He will deliver Israel from all his iniquities.*

(Repeat “The choir of forty-fold splendor…”)

*v. (2) Praise the Lord, all nations! Praise Him, all peoples!*

**Tone 2**

The Martyrs considered the lake to be as Paradise

and winter as the heat of the day, O Christ God.

Thoughts of the tyrant’s threats did not frighten them.

They courageously did not fear the increasing tortures,

for they had acquired the mighty weapon of the Cross,

and with it they powerfully vanquished the foe.//

For this they have received crowns of grace.

*v. (1) For His mercy is abundant towards us; and the truth of the Lord endureth forever.*

Who will not hymn the Martyrs.

a choir forty in number?

For, as they boldly entered the waters of the lake

and huddled together in the cold,

they chanted a hymn to the Lord:

“Is Your anger against us in the rivers, O Lord?

Is Your anger against us in the rivers, O Lover of man?

Lighten the oppression and bitter cold of the wind,

for our feet are empurpled with our own blood,

and lead us into Your everlasting habitations, O God!//

May we be warmed in the bosom of Abraham!”

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;*

**Tone 2** *(from the Menaion, for the Holy 40 Martyrs of Sebaste)*

In the Psalms David cried out prophetically:

“We passed through fire and water,

but You hast brought us forth into a place of refreshment.”

By your sufferings you Martyrs of Christ fulfill this prophecy.

You have passed through fire and water and have entered the Kingdom

of Heaven!//

Pray that Christ will grant us great mercy!

*now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

**Tone 2**  *(Theotokion)*

I place all my hope in you, O Theotokos;//

keep me beneath your protecting veil!

**NOTE: The Entrance is done with the Gospel.**

**Tone 1 Prokeimenon**

The Lord, strong and mighty! / The Lord mighty in battle! (Ps. 23/24:8)

*v: The earth is the Lord’s, and the fullness thereof!* *(Ps 23/24:1)*

**Reading from Genesis (3:21-4:7)**

**Tone 6 Prokeimenon**

Look upon me, and have mercy on me, / for I am lonely and afflicted. (Ps. 24/25:16)

*v: To You, O Lord, do I lift up my soul!* *(Ps 24/25:1)*

**Reading from Proverbs (3:34-4:22)**

***After “Let my prayer arise…” and the Prayer of St. Ephraim (once), immediately the Prokeimenon:***

**Tone 5 Prokeimenon** *(Holy 40 Martyrs of Sebaste)*

You, O Lord, shalt protect us / and preserve us from this generation forever.

*(Ps 11/12:7)*

*v: Save me, O Lord, for there is no longer any that is godly! (Ps 11/12:1)*

**Epistle**

Hebrews 12:1-10 *(Holy 40 Martyrs of Sebaste)*

**Tone 4**

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

*v: Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth! Sing of His name, give to Him glorious praise! (Ps 65/66:1-2)*

*v: For You, O God, hast proved us; You have tried us with fire as silver is tried.*

*(Ps: 65/66:10)*

**Gospel**

Matthew 20:1-16 *(Holy 40 Martyrs of Sebaste)*

***(and the rest of the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts)***

**Communion Hymns**

Taste and see that the Lord is good! *(Ps 33/34:8)*

Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous! Praise befits the just. *(Ps 32/33:1)*

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

***At the Dismissal, the Holy 40 Martyrs are commemorated first, and then the Saints of the day.***

*(At Tuesday Matins, we sing the kanon of St Quadratus, who is commemorated on March 10, and we sing the vesperal stichera (to St Quadratus) at the Matins Praises after the tonal stichera from the Octoechos.)*

In addition to translations from the Department of Liturgical Music and Translations, liturgical texts for this service represent modified versions of translations provided by Holy Myrrhbearers Monastery, Otego, New York and St. Tikhon’s Monastery, South Canaan, Pa. The Department of Liturgical Music and Translations of the Orthodox Church in America expresses its gratitude to Holy Myrrhbearers Monastery and St. Tikhon’s Monastery and to those translators whose work has been consulted at times in the course of reviewing and modifying these texts to their present form: Metropolitan Kallistos (Ware), Archimandrite Ephrem (Lash), Father Benedict Churchill, Isaac Lambertson, St. Vladimir’s Seminary, and Holy Transfiguration Monastery, among others.