**MARCH 9**

**SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY VESPERS (sung on Sunday evening)**

**Holy Forty Martyrs of Sebaste**

**"Lord I Call..." Tone 4**

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 4[[1]](#footnote-1)** *(from the Lenten Triodion, by Joseph) (Thou hast given a sign)*

Grant compunction, estrangement from evil, and perfect discipline to me,

who am now drowned in the passions of the flesh

and separated from You, in utter lack of hope, my God, the King of all!

Save me, Your prodigal son,

by the bounty of Your goodness,//

O Jesus, the Almighty, the Savior of our souls!

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

(Repeat “Grant compunction…”)

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

When Moses the wonder-worker was purified by fasting,

he beheld the Beloved One.

Therefore, emulate him, my humble soul!

Hasten to be purified of evils on the day of abstinence,

that the Lord may bestow forgiveness on you,

and that you may behold Him,//

for He is the Almighty, the good Lord, and the Lover of mankind!

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

**Tone 6** *(from the Lenten Triodion, by Theodore) (As the Archangels)*

Let us begin the second week of the fast, O brothers,

fulfilling it with rejoicing, day by day,

making a fiery chariot for ourselves, like Elijah the Tishbite,

out of the great cardinal virtues,

elevating our minds by subduing our passions,

arming ourselves with purity,//

to chase away and vanquish the Enemy!

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

**Tone 2** *(Holy 40 Martyrs of Sebaste, by John the Monk)*

The holy Martyrs bravely endured their present suffering;

they rejoiced in things hoped for but not yet seen.

They said to each other:

“By stripping off our garments we have put off the old man.

The winter is cold and bitter, but Paradise will be warm and sweet.

The freezing is painful, but the reward will bring us joy.

Let us not be defeated, O brothers!

We suffer a little, but Christ will crown us with the laurel of victory.//

He is our God and the Savior of our souls.”

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

(Repeat “The holy Martyrs bravely…”)

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

The holy Martyrs threw their clothes aside;

fearlessly they entered the lake and encouraged one another:

“Remember that our fallen nature has been deprived of Paradise!

Let us care nothing for our corruptible flesh today!

The serpent once deceived us, handing over our bodies to death;

now let us win resurrection for all!

Let us scorn the ice and cold; let us hate our flesh,

and Christ will crown us with the laurel of victory!//

He is our God and the Savior of 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 holy Martyrs threw…”)

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

The holy Martyrs accepted their torments with joy.

They hurried to the frozen lake as to a comforting bath.

They said: “We will not fear the bitter cold.

Only let us escape Gehenna's flames!

Let a foot be burned, that it may rejoice eternally!

Let a hand be lost, offered to the Lord in sacrifice!

Let us not refuse death in the flesh!

Embrace death, and Christ will crown us with the laurel of victory!//

He is our God, and the Savior of our souls.”

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

(Repeat “The holy Martyrs accepted…”)

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

**Tone 2** *(Holy 40 Martyrs of Sebaste, by John the Monk)*

*(the first stichera repeated)*

The holy Martyrs bravely endured their present suffering;

they rejoiced in things hoped for but not yet seen.

They said to each other:

“By stripping off our garments we have put off the old man.

The winter is cold and bitter, but Paradise will be warm and sweet.

The freezing is painful, but the reward will bring us joy.

Let us not be defeated, O brothers!

We suffer a little, but Christ will crown us with the laurel of victory.//

He is our God and the Savior of our souls.”

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

**Tone 2**  *(Theotokion – Dogmatikon)*

The shadow of the Law passed when grace came;

as the Bush burned, yet was not consumed,

so the Virgin gave birth, yet remained a Virgin.

The Righteous Sun has risen instead of a pillar of flame.//

Instead of Moses, Christ, the Salvation of our souls.

**Tone 8 Great Prokeimenon**

You have given an inheritance / to them that fear You, O Lord. *(Ps 60/61:5)*

 *v: From the end of the earth I call to You.* *(Ps 60/61:2)*

 *v: I will take shelter under the shadow of Your wings. (Ps 60/61:4)*

 *v: So I will ever sing praises to Your name. (Ps 60/61:8)*

**Old Testament Readings** *(Holy 40 Martyrs of Sebaste)*

 **Isaiah 43:9-14**

 **Wisdom of Solomon 3:1-9**

 **Wisdom of Solomon 5:15-6:3**

**Aposticha**

**Tone 8** *(from the Lenten Triodion)*

Come, let us purify ourselves with alms and mercy to the poor,

not blowing a trumpet or publicizing what we do in charity,

lest our left hand know what our right has done,

and vainglory steal from us the fruit of almsgiving.

But let us plead in secret with the One Who knows our secrets,

crying out: “Father, forgive us our trespasses,//

for You are the Lover of mankind!”

*v: I lift up my eyes to You, enthroned in the heavens! Behold, as the eyes of*

*servants look to the hand of their master, as the eyes of a maid to the hand of*

*her mistress, so our eyes look to the Lord our God, till He have mercy upon*

*us. (Ps 122/123:1-2)*

(Repeat: “Come, let us purify our souls …” )

*v: Have mercy upon us, O Lord, have mercy upon us, for we have had more than enough of contempt. Too long our soul has been sated with the scorn of those who are at ease, the contempt of the proud. (Ps 122/123:3-4)*

O Martyrs of the Lord,

you hallow every place and heal every ill:

Now therefore, intercede with Him,//

that He may deliver our souls from the snares of the Enemy!

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

**Tone 6** *(Holy 40 Martyrs of Sebaste)*

Ye faithful, let us praise the forty passion-bearing Martyrs in hymns!

Singing in harmony let us cry out to them saying:

“Rejoice, O sufferers of Christ:

Hesýchius, Méliton, Heráclius, Smarágdus and Domnus;

Euónicus, Válens and Vivianus;

Claudius and Priscus!

Rejoice, Theódulus, Euthýchius and John,

Xanthéas, Hiliánus, Sisínius, Kýrion, Angíus, Aétius and Flavius!

Rejoice, Acácius, Ecdíkius, Lysimáchus, Alexander,

Elías and Candidus,

Theóphilus, Dométian and Gáius

with the Godly Gorgonius!

Rejoice, Leóntius and Athanasius,

Cýril and Sacerdon,

Nicholas and Valerius,

Philóctimon, Sevérian, Chudíon and Aglaius!

You have boldness before Christ our God, most honored Martyrs.

Beseech Him earnestly//

that those who keep your most precious memory with faith may be saved!

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

**Tone 6** *(Theotokion)*

O Theotokos,

you are the true vine from whom the Fruit of Life blossomed.

We entreat you, O Lady:

“Intercede together with the Apostles and all the Saints,//

that mercy may be granted to our souls!”

**Tone 1** **Troparion**  *(for Forty Martyrs of Sebaste)*

Through the sufferings which Your holy Forty Martyrs endured for

 Your sake, O Lord,

we beseech You, O Lover of ^mankind://

“Heal all of our infirmities!”

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

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

**Tone 1 Resurrectional** **Dismissal Theotokion**

When Gabriel announced to you, O Virgin, saying “Rejoice!”

with that word the Master of all was incarnate in ^you,

the holy Ark, spoken of by the righteous David!

Your womb became more spacious than the heavens,

for you carried your Creator.

Glory to Him Who took abode in you!

Glory to Him Who came ^forth from you!//

Glory to Him Who freed us by being born of you!

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.

1. Music for the stichera from the Lenten Triodion can be downloaded at http://oca.org/liturgics/music-downloads/lenten-triodion [↑](#footnote-ref-1)