Stichera on “Lord, I Call”

The Holy Fathers slain at the Monastery of St Sabbas - March 20

Soprano
Alto

Completely loving the highest of all desires, you counted the

beauties of life to be refuse, O venerable Fathers. Through vigil

and prayer, through rain and burning heat, you acquired those things

that alone abide. You lived together as one soul //
and by grace were shown to be companions of the Angels.

You were beaten with clubs and stoned with rocks, as well as cut down by swords. Yet, O martyrs, you did not break the unity of your mind, bound together by love and fraternal desire. Together you were put to death and cut from limb to limb.
limb. You placed yourselves upon the altar of God as unblemished sacrifices, O passion-bearers.

Suffocated and consumed by fire, you committed your souls into the hands of the King of all as unblemished sacrifices, O glorious martyrs. You have joined yourselves to the choirs of the
bod-i-less Pow-ers and inherited the ever-last-ing glo-ry. //

Ever pray that those who sing praises to you may also share in that
glo-ry!