**MARCH 9**

 **Holy Forty Martyrs of Sebaste**

***(Vespers sung on Thursday evening)***

**"Lord I Call..." Tone 5**

Lord, I call upon Thee, hear me!

Hear me, O Lord!

Lord, I call upon Thee, hear me!

Receive the voice of my prayer,

when I call upon Thee!

Hear me, O Lord!

Let my prayer arise

in Thy sight as incense,

and let the lifting up of my hands

be an evening sacrifice!

Hear me, O Lord!

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

**Tone 5** *(from the Lenten Triodion, by Joseph) (Rejoice, true vessel)*

O Savior, our true sweetness,

of old Thou didst sweeten the bitter waters of Marah

with the wood that prefigured Thy divine Cross.

On it Thou didst freely will to be crucified.

Thou didst taste gall, and Thy side was pierced by a lance,

releasing the water of redemption for the renewal of our mortal nature.

Therefore, we glorify Thine ineffable power.

In this season of the Fast we beseech Thee:

“Fill our hearts with the fear of Thee, O Lord;//

forgive our sins, and grant us great mercy!”

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

O Word, Who wast stretched out upon the Cross,

gathering together those who had departed from Thee,

raise up my thoughts from being poisoned by passion,

and enrich me now in all the virtues;

instill in my heart the purest fear of Thee,

and in my soul — perfect love for Thee.

By abstinence, prayer and petition, may I please Thee

and receive great mercy,//

beholding in joy the day of Thy Resurrection.

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

**Tone 1** *(from the Triodion, by Theodore)*

We are completing the third week of the precious Fast.

Enable us, O Christ the Word,

to behold the wood of Thy life-bearing Cross,

to bow before it worthily,

to praise and glorify Thy majesty,

to exalt and magnify Thy passion,

to attain in purity the holy, glorious Resurrection

through which Adam re-enters Paradise://

the mystical Pascha!

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

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

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

(Repeat: “The holy Martyrs threw their clothes …”)

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

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.”

*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 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.

Instead of a pillar of flame, the Righteous Sun hath risen.//

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

**Tone 8 Prokeimenon**

Have mercy on me, O Lord, for man tramples me down! *(Ps 55/56:1)*

*v: All day long he afflicts me in war. (Ps 55/56:2)*

 **Reading from Genesis (7:11-8:3)**

**Tone 7 Prokeimenon**

Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me, for my soul trusts in Thee! (Ps 56/57:1)

*v: And in the shadow of Thy wings I will hope, until lawlessness shall pass away. (Ps 56/57:2)*

**Reading from Proverbs (10:1-22)**

**Old Testament Readings** *(Forty Martyrs of Sebaste)*

 **Isaiah 43:9-14**

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

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

**Holy Forty Martyrs of Sebaste/Vespers sung Thursday evening**

**Aposticha**

**Tone 6 Idiomelon** *(from the Lenten Triodion)*

The Life of all was hung on the wood of the Cross.

Give life to my soul, slain by my sins, O Christ!

Do not forsake Thy lost sheep forever, O gracious Shepherd,

though I have forsaken Thy commandments and the riches of sinlessness!

Like the Prodigal I have corrupted myself through foolish endeavors,//

but draw me in repentance and renew me, O only merciful One!

*v: I lift up my eyes to Thee, 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: “The Life of all was hung …” )

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

**Tone 6** *(to the Martyrs)*

Thy martyrs, O Lord, did not deny Thee.

nor did they turn from Thy commandments.//

By their intercessions have mercy on us!

*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!

Ye 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,

thou art the true vine from whom the Fruit of Life blossomed.

We entreat thee, O Lady:

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

that mercy may be granted to our souls!”

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

Through the sufferings which Thy holy Forty Martyrs endured for

 Thy sake, O Lord,

we beseech Thee, 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 thee, O Virgin, saying “Rejoice!”

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

the holy Ark, spoken of by the righteous David!

Thy womb became more spacious than the heavens,

for thou didst carry thy Creator.

Glory to Him Who took abode in thee!

Glory to Him Who came ^forth from thee!

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

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