

MARCH 9

The Holy Forty Martyrs of Sebaste

Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts (sung on Wednesday)

"Lord I Call..." Tone 1

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!

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

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

Tone 1 *Idiomelon* *(from the Lenten Triodion)*

Let us keep a spiritual fast, O brethren!
Let us speak no lies or deceit with our tongue!
Let us not give each other cause for stumbling,
but by repentance let the lamp of our soul shine brightly!//
Forgive us our sins in Thy love for mankind!

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

Tone 1 *(to the Martyrs)*

O Martyrs, truly worthy of praise,
although you were dishonored on earth,
the heavens received you.
The gates of Paradise opened to you,
and now you enjoy the Tree of Life.//
Entreat Christ to grant us peace and His great mercy!

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

Tone 3 *(from the Lenten Triodion, by Joseph) (Great is the power of Your Cross)*

Through the prayers of Your Apostles, O Lord,
grant us to spend this time of fasting with compunction of heart, //
that being saved we may glorify You, O compassionate One!

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

Great and awesome is Your coming, O Lord,
when You will sit in righteous judgment.
Despite my guilt, do not condemn me, O God, //
but by the prayers of Your Apostles, spare me!

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

Tone 6 *(from the Lenten Triodion, by Theodore) (Having placed all their hope)*

O Apostles of Christ,
lights for those born on earth,
rich treasures of the knowledge of God,
by your holy prayers deliver from temptations us who praise you.
Guide us safely through the course of the Fast,
and keep our lives in peace,
so that we may reach Christ's Passion unharmed //
and with boldness offer hymns of praise to our God.

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* *(from the Menaion, for the Holy 40 Martyrs, 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."

* Music for the Holy Forty Martyrs of Sebaste from the Department of Liturgical Music and Translations can be downloaded at www.oca.org.

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

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. (1) For His mercy is confirmed on us, and the truth of the Lord endures forever.

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;

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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 6 **Prokeimenon**

Be glad in the Lord, / and rejoice, O you righteous! *(Ps. 31:11a)*

V. Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven. (Ps. 31:1a)

Reading from Genesis (4:16-26)

Tone 1 **Prokeimenon**

Let Your mercy, O Lord, be upon us / as we have set our hope on You! *(Ps. 32:22)*

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

Reading from Proverbs (5:15-6:3)

Old Testament Readings *(Holy Forty Martyrs)*

Isaiah 43:9-14

Wisdom of Solomon 3:1-9

Wisdom of Solomon 5:15-6:3

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

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.