

MARCH 20

**The Holy Fathers who were slain at the Monastery of St. Sabbas
Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts (sung on Wednesday)**

"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!*
- 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 4 *Idiomelon* *(from the Lenten Triodion)*

Like the Prodigal,
I recklessly squandered my Father's riches.
Forlorn and destitute, I dwelt in a land of evil men.
In my foolishness I became like the senseless beasts,
stripped of all divine grace.
But now I have returned and cry to You,
the compassionate and merciful Father://
"I have sinned, O God, but receive me in repentance, and have mercy on me!"

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

Tone 4 *(for the Martyrs)*

O Martyrs of the Lord,
living sacrifices, spiritual oblations,
perfect victims, sheep who know God and are known by Him,
whose fold no wolf can enter;//
pray that we too may graze with you beside still waters!

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

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

O Apostles, eyewitnesses of God,
rays of light from the spiritual Sun:
entreat Him to enlighten our souls and deliver us from the dark night of
passions!

Pray that we may see the day of salvation!
By your prayers and intercessions,
may our hearts, which the Evil One has wounded, be cleansed,
so that, saved by faith, we may always honor you, //
who save the world by your wise preaching.

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.

Like the Prodigal, I wandered off into an evil land.
I recklessly squandered the riches that You gave me.
Now I pine with hunger, starved of good deeds.
Stripped of divine grace, I am clothed with the shame of sin.
I have sinned, and yet I know Your goodness.
Receive me as one of Your hired servants, O compassionate Christ, //
by the prayers of the Apostles, who loved You!

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

Tone 6 *(from the Triodion, by Theodore)* *(At the right hand of the Savior)*

O Apostles of the Savior,
lights of the world, its benefactors and its saviors,
like the heavens you tell the glory of God,
adorned with stars of miracles and signs of healing.
Fervently intercede before the Lord for us,
that He may accept our prayers as incense,
and make us worthy to behold and kiss the life-giving Cross with fear!
As we venerate Your Cross, O Savior, //
send down on us great mercy in Your love for mankind!

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 4 *(from the Menaion, for the Martyrs of St. Sabbas)*
(As one valiant among the martyrs)

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.

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

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.
You placed yourselves upon the altar of God//
as unblemished sacrifices, O passion-bearers.

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

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 bodiless Powers
and inherited the everlasting glory.//
Ever pray that those who sing praises to you may also share in that glory!

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;
now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

Tone 4 *(Theotokion)*

O Maiden, who brought forth God my Savior,
do you yourself grant me perfect repentance,
the means of salvation and safety, the streams of tears,
and the thought of the terrible dread hour and the impartial judgment;
and by your prayers, O Virgin,//
grant that I may escape the trembling of punishments and gain divine grace!

Tone 4 Prokeimenon

I will trust in the mercy of God / for ever and ever. *(Ps. 51:8b)*

*V. Why dost thou boast, O mighty man, of mischief done against the godly?
(Ps. 51:1)*

Reading from Genesis (7:6-9)

Tone 4 Prokeimenon

When the Lord turns back / the captivity of His people. [/ let Jacob rejoice and let Israel be glad.] *(Ps. 13:8b)*

V. The fool says in his heart, "There is no God." (Ps. 13:1)

Reading from Proverbs (9:12-18)

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

Prepared by the Department of Liturgical Music and Translations, Orthodox Church in America.