

**Vespers Propers on the Evening of the  
Third Sunday of the Great Fast  
March 19, 2017**

**Our venerable fathers of the St. Sabbas Monastery**, killed by Saracens in 796. The monks refused to flee from the Muslim invasion, saying “We have fled from the world into this wilderness for the love of Christ; it would be shame to us now to flee from the wilderness for fear of men. If we are killed here, we shall be killed through love of Christ, for whose sake we have come here to live.”

*Supplement for The Order of Vespers on Sunday Afternoons in the Great Fast.*

*Psalm 140 and Stichera of Forgiveness in the tone of the week (Tone 3, p. 32)*

*Stichera of the third Sunday of the Great Fast, p. 69*

**Cantor:** (Tone 4) Because with the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.  
(on 3) Israel indeed he will redeem from all its iniquity.

**Stichera for our Venerable Fathers of the St. Sabbas Monastery - Tone 4 samohlasen**

O venerable fa - thers, since you cherished the object of your desires with your  
whole heart, you considered the pleasures of this life to be ash-es and dust.  
You were en - am - ored only of the goods that endure for ev - er. In the midst  
of vigils and prayers, in spite of the cold and burn-ing heat, in the caverns which  
served as your dwell-ings, you became fellow-citizens with the an - gels through the

grace of God.

**Cantor:** Praise the Lord, all you nations; **Psalm 116**  
*(on 2)* acclaim him, all you peoples!

②

Struck by clods of dirt, stones, and fists, O holy martyrs, you all maintained the same  
 sen-ti-ments to-geth-er, u-nited by fraternal love and af-fec-tion. Sent to-geth-er  
 to death, your limbs cut off, you vic-to-rious ath-letes were off-ered  
 as accepta-ble vic-tims at the ta-ble of God!

**Cantor:** Strong is the love of the Lord for us;  
*(on 1)* he is faithful forever.

①

Suf-focated and burned a-live in the fire, O illustrious martyrs, you com-mend-ed  
 your souls in-to the hands of the Almighty as spot-less vic-tims, in or-der  
 to be united to the choirs of bodi-less Pow-ers and re-ceive the inheritance

of e - ter - nal bliss: pray unceasingly that those who sing to you  
 may share your lot.

**Cantor:** (Tone 4) Glory...now and ever...

**Theotokion** - Tone 4 samohlasen

O Most Im-mac-u-late One, wheth-er I sail on the sea, travel on land, or rest at home,  
 give me grace and keep my mind a - lert. En - a - ble me to do God's will,  
 so that be-cause of the sins of my life, I will find myself hastening under  
 your pro - tec - tion on the day of judg - - - ment.

*The service continues on page 9.*

*Prokeimenon for the third Sunday of the Great Fast, p.10*

*Aposticha of the third Sunday of the Great Fast, p. 71*