

**Vesper Propers, March 9, 2008**  
**Fifth Sunday of the Great Fast**  
**The Forty Holy Martyrs of Sebaste**

**The forty holy martyrs of Sebaste in Armenia.** They were comrades, not in blood, but in faith and obedience to the will of their heavenly Father. At the time of the emperor Licinius, after binding and savage tortures, they were ordered to pass the night naked at the coldest time of winter in a swamp in the open air. They consummated their martyrdom by the breaking of their legs at crucifixion. (320)

*All page references are to **The Order of Vespers for Sundays after Pentecost, 2006***

*Beginning Prayers, p. 1*

*Psalm 103, p. 2 (chant) or p. 6 (melodic)*

*Litany of Peace, p. 8*

*First Kathisma, p. 10*

*Lamplighting Psalms and stichera 10-7 in Tone 8, beginning on page 102*

**Cantor:** (Tone 2) If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt, Lord, who would survive?  
(on 6) But with you is found forgiveness: for this we revere you.

**Stichera of the martyrs - Tone 2 samohlasen**

Brave-ly en - dur - ing the pres - ent hap - pen - ings and re - joic - ing in things  
hoped for, the ho - ly mar - tyrs said to each oth - er: We have not stripped  
our-selves of a gar - ment, but we have put off the old per - son.  
The win - ter is bitter but Par - a - dise is sweet. Al - though the chill is painful, it

be - comes sweet en - joy - ment. Let us not bow down, O cap - tains.

We suf - fer a lit - tle at pres - ent that we may re - ceive the crowns of

vic - tory from Christ, since he is God and the Sav - ior of our souls.

**Cantor:** My soul is waiting for the Lord. I count on his word.  
(on 5) My soul is waiting for the Lord more than watchman for daybreak.  
*All repeat "Bravely enduring..."*

**Cantor:** Let the watchman count on daybreak  
(on 4) and Israel on the Lord.

Throw - ing off their gar - ments and go - ing in - to the lake with - out trem - bling,

the ho - ly mar - tyrs said to each oth - er: Since we have lost Par - a - dise,

let us not care for a cor - rup - ti - ble gar - ment to - day. Hav - ing once

been clothed in corrup - tion through the ser - pent, let us now beseech res - ur - rec - tion

for all. Let us de - spise the i - cy destroying cold and scorn the flesh,



that we may re-ceive the crowns of vic - t'ry from Christ for he is God and the




Sav - ior of our souls.

**Cantor:** (Tone 1) Because with the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption,  
(on 3) Israel indeed he will redeem from all its iniquity. *All repeat "Throwing off..."*

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



Look-ing up - on the tor - tures as pleas - ures and has - ten - ing towards the icy



lake as towards the heat, the ho - ly mar - tyrs said to each oth - er:



Let us stand fear - less in the win - ter sea - son that we may es - cape



the dread - ful fire of Ha - des. Let a foot be burnt that it may re - joice for - ev - er;



let a hand be lost that it may be lift - ed towards the Lord; let us not spare



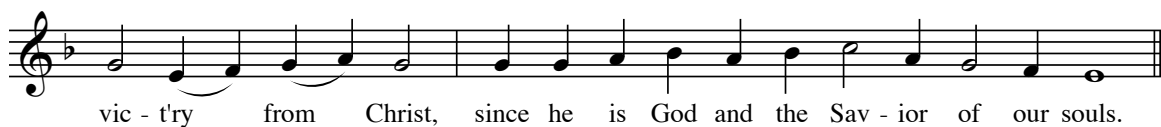
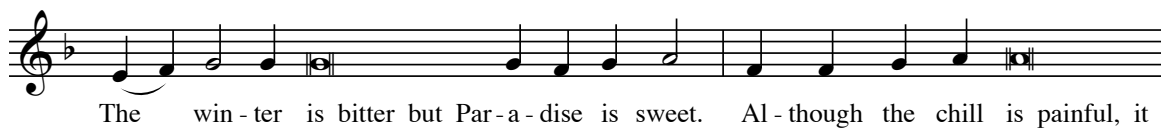
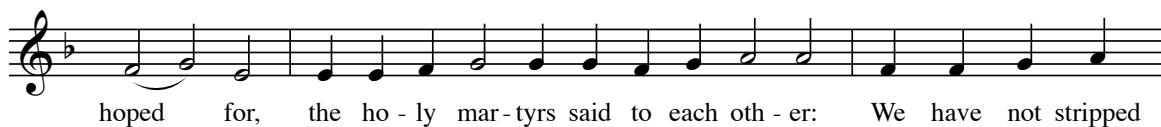
the dy - ing na - ture. Let us now ac - cept death that we may re - ceive crowns of



**Cantor:** Strong is the love of the Lord for us;  
(on 1) he is faithful forever. *All repeat "Looking upon the tortures..."*

**Cantor:** Glory...

**Doxastikon of the Martyrs - Tone 2 samohlasen**



**Cantor:** (Tone 8) Now and ever...

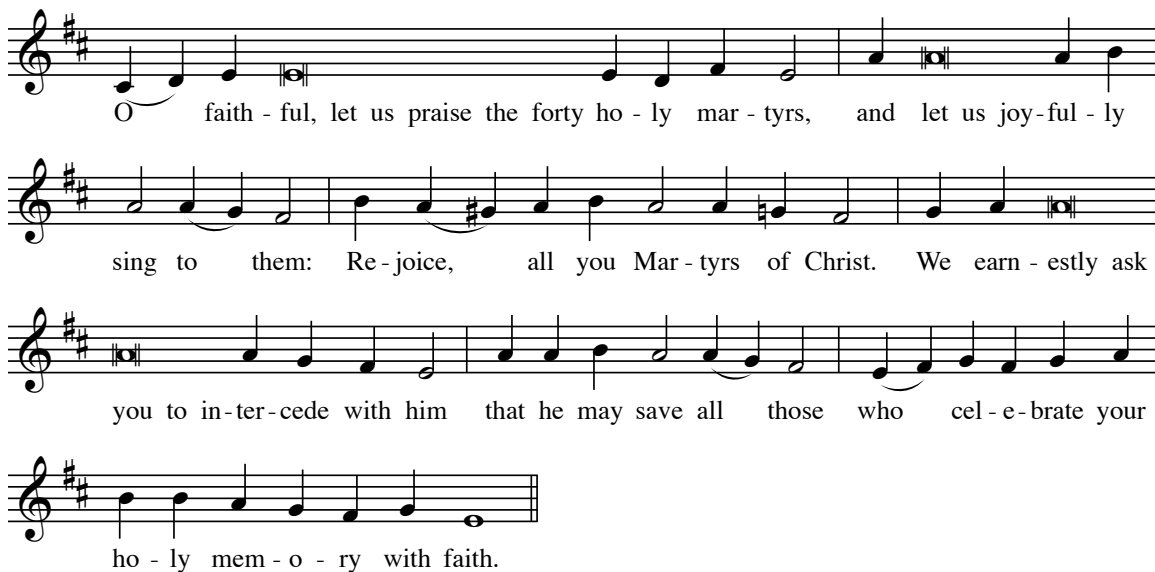
*Dogmatikon, Tone 8, p. 107*  
*Hymn of the Evening, p. 12*  
*Saturday Prokeimenon, p. 13*

**Readings:** Isaiah 43: 9-14  
Wisdom 3: 1-9  
Wisdom 5: 15 - 6: 3

*Litany of Fervent Supplication, p. 13*  
*Hymn of Glorification, p. 14*  
*Litany of Supplication, p. 16*  
*Apostichera, Tone 8, p. 108*

**Cantor:** (Tone 6) Glory...

**Doxastikon of the Martyrs - Tone 6**



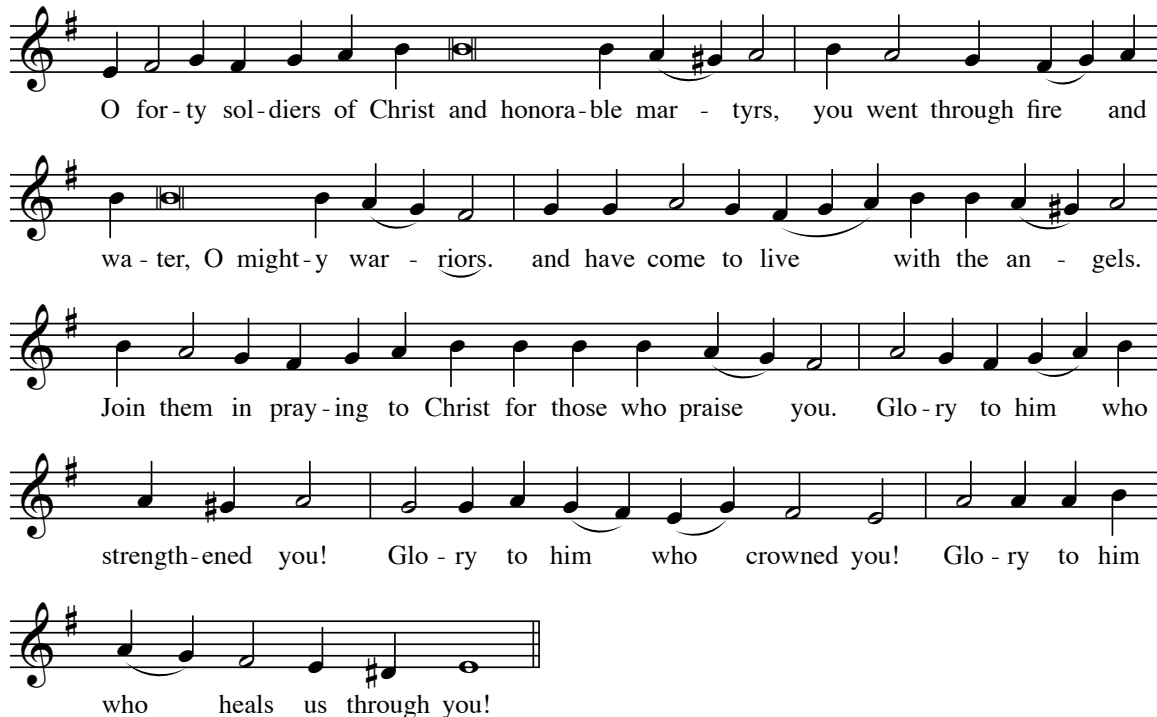
O faith-ful, let us praise the forty ho-ly mar-tyrs, and let us joy-ful-ly  
sing to them: Re-joice, all you Mar-tyrs of Christ. We earn-estly ask  
you to in-ter-cede with him that he may save all those who cel-e-brate your  
ho-ly mem-o-ry with faith.

**Cantor:** Now and ever...

*Aposticha Theotokion, Tone 6, p. 90*  
*Prayer of St. Simeon, p. 19*  
*Trisagion Prayers, p. 19*

*Troparion, Tone 8, p. 111*  
*Glory...*

**Troparion of the Martyrs - Tone 1**



O for-ty sol-diers of Christ and honora-ble mar - tyrs, you went through fire and  
wa - ter, O might-y war - riors. and have come to live with the an - gels.  
Join them in pray-ing to Christ for those who praise you. Glo-ry to him who  
strength-ened you! Glo - ry to him who crowned you! Glo - ry to him  
who heals us through you!

*Now and ever...*  
*Festal Theotokion, Tone 1, p. 34*