

First Sunday of the Great Fast
February 10, 2008

The holy martyr Blaise, bishop of Sebaste, who suffered martyrdom at Sebaste in the power-struggle between Licinius and the Emperor Constantine. (316)

*All page references are to **The Order of Vespers on Sunday Afternoons in the Great Fast***

Psalm 140 and Stichera of Forgiveness, Tone 4, p. 36

Stichera of the First Sunday, p. 61

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.

Stichera of the Bishop-Martyr Blaise - Tone 1 samohlasen

The height of the virtues and foundation of the faithful, the glory
of bishops and boast of the martyrs summons all the faithful to his holy
memorial with splendor that they may sing to him as a victor who
glorified God on earth!

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

You were moved by a vision of Christ, the angel of great counsel,
as you beheld the evil assembly, wise martyr. You went at once to

the tri - bu - nal. You took the trophies of vic-to - ry in your hand!

Now you dwell in the heav-ens, all - ho - ly one.

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

With the drops of your blood, mar - tyr Blaise, you wove a beau - ti - ful robe

for the church. Em - broid - ered by your well-a-noint - ed fin - gers

and dyed with your man - i - fold suf - fer - ings, she wears it as a beau - ti - ful bride,

sing - ing hymns to Christ the bride - groom!

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 First Sunday, p.10
Aposticha of the First Sunday, p. 64*