

**Vespers Propers on the Afternoon of  
The Second Sunday of the Great Fast  
March 8, 2009**

**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 on Sunday Afternoons in the Great Fast***

*"O Lord, I have cried" in Tone 8 (Tone 1, p. 52). The Penitential Stichera are not used; instead, sing the following.*

**Cantor:** (Tone 8) Bring my soul out of this prison, and then I shall praise your name.  
(on 10)

**Stichera from the Triodion - Tone 8 samohlasen**

I have sinned against you with-out meas - ure, and my pun-ish-ment will be  
great in - deed: the sigh - ing without comfort and the gnash - ing of teeth;  
the fire of Hades and the dark - ness of the damned. Give me tears of repentance,  
O most just Judge, that, by fast - ing, I may obtain forgive - ness of my sins  
as I cry to you, O Christ my Lord; have mer - cy on me,

in your great good - ness.

**Cantor:** Around me the just will assemble  
 (on 9) because of your goodness to me.  
*All repeat "I have sinned against you without measure..."*

**Cantor:** Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord;  
 (on 8) Lord, hear my voice!

Come, O Word, up-on the moun - tain where my sins have made me wan - der,

seek me out and call me back to you; chase the e - vil thoughts far

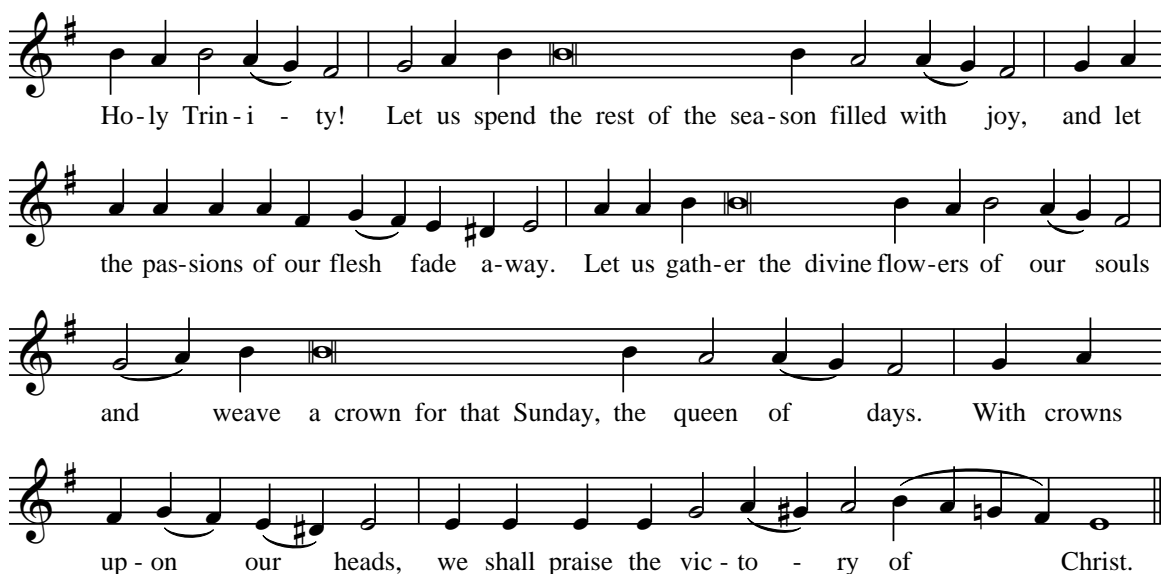
from me and bring me back to life, for I am giv-en o - ver to death.

So pu - ri - fy me through fast - ing, that I may cry out to you in unending

tears, O Christ my Lord: Have mer-cy on me, in your great good - ness.

**Cantor:** Let your ears be attentive  
 (on 7) to the voice of my pleading.

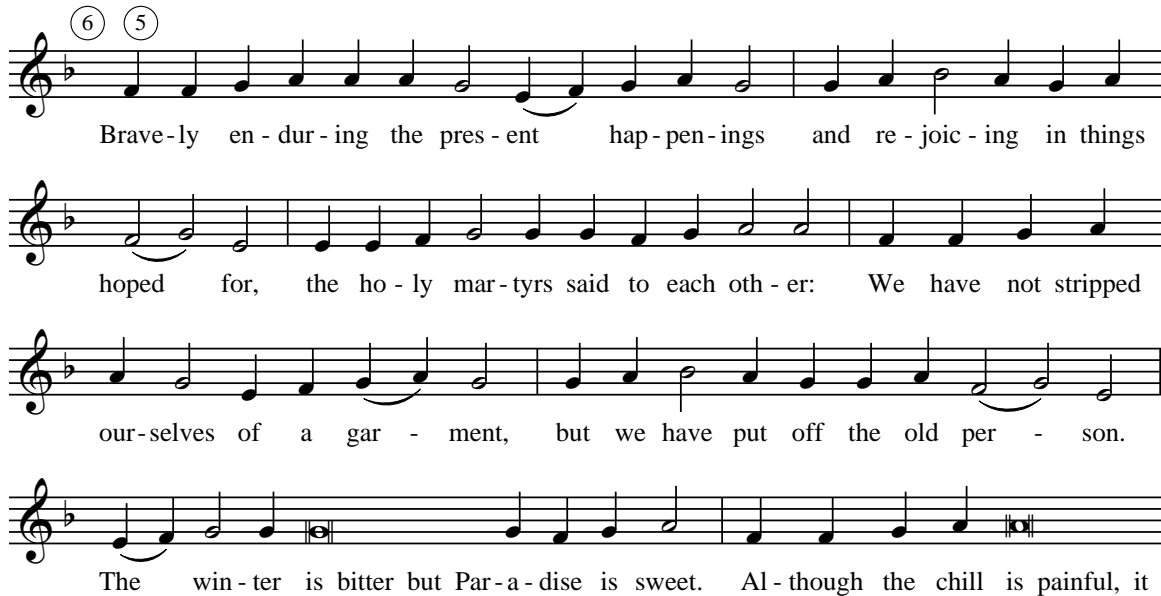
As we begin the third week of this ho - ly Fast, O faith - ful, let us praise the



Ho-ly Trin-i - ty! Let us spend the rest of the sea-son filled with joy, and let  
the pas-sions of our flesh fade a-way. Let us gath-er the divine flow-ers of our souls  
and weave a crown for that Sunday, the queen of days. With crowns  
up - on our heads, we shall praise the vic - to - ry of Christ.

**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 Forty 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 - try 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



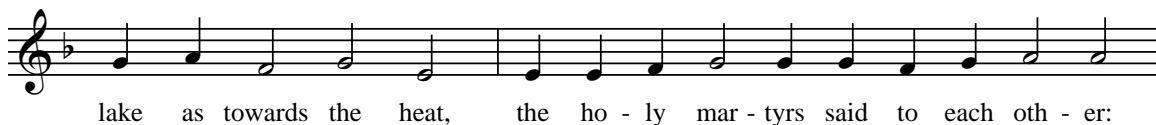
Sav-ior of our souls.

**Cantor:** 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



vic - t'ry from Christ, for he is God and the Sav - ior of our souls.


**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**




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.



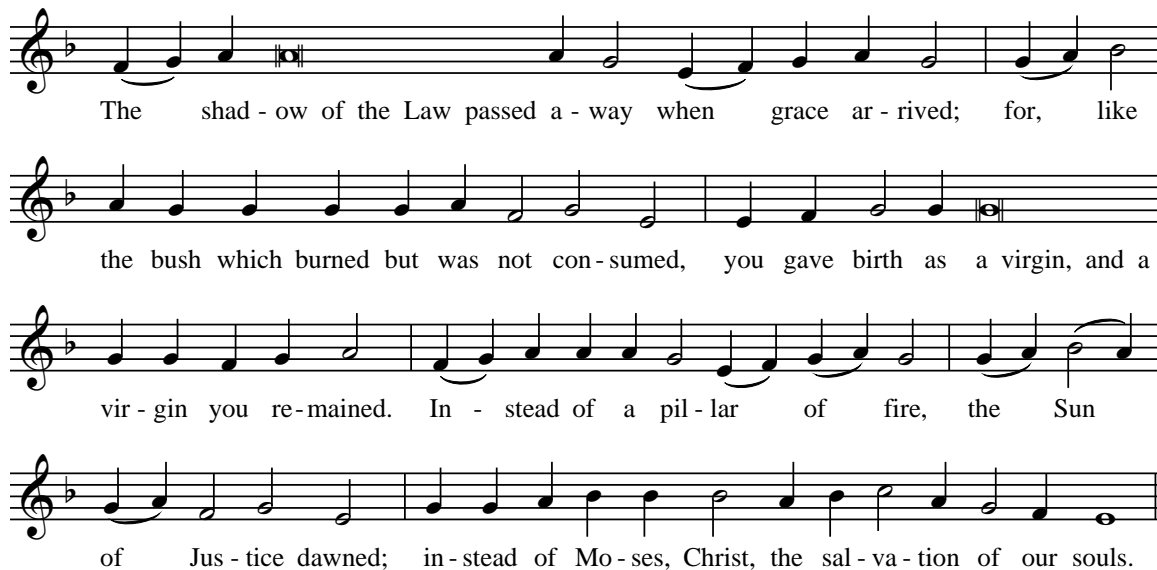
We suf - fer a lit - tle at pres - ent that we may re - ceive the crowns of



vic - t'ry from Christ, since he is God and the Sav - ior of our souls.

**Cantor:** (Tone 2) Now and ever...

**Dogmatikon - Tone 2 samohlasen**



The shad - ow of the Law passed a - way when grace ar - rived; for, like  
the bush which burned but was not con - sumed, you gave birth as a virgin, and a  
vir - gin you re - mained. In - stead of a pil - lar of fire, the Sun  
of Jus - tice dawned; in - stead of Mo - ses, Christ, the sal - va - tion of our souls.

*The service continues on page 9.*

*Prokeimenon for the Second Sunday, p.10, followed by the Readings for the Martyrs:*

Isaiah 43:9-14 (EOT 303)

Wisdom 3: 1-9 (EOT 315)

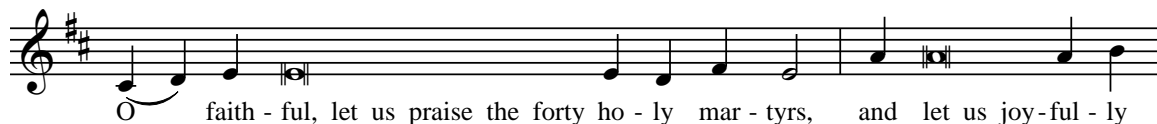
Wisdom 5:15 - 6:3 (EOT 303)

*The service continues with the Hymn of Glorification on page 11.*

*Aposticha of the Second Sunday, p. 67, concluding with:*

**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-joyce, 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:** (Tone 6) Now and ever...

**Theotokion - Tone 6 samohlasen**

O Theo-o-to-kos, you are the true vine laden with the fruit of life.  
 There-fore, we im-plore you, O La-dy, to in-tercede together with the apos-tles  
 and the saints so that we may ob-tain mer-cy for our souls.

*Continue with the Prayer of Simeon on page 14.*

*After the Trisagion Prayers and Our Father, the usual Lenten troparia, conclusion and dismissal are not used, because of the feast. Instead, the following troparia are sung in place of the usual Lenten dismissal troparia:*

**Troparion of the Forty Holy Martyrs of Sebaste - 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!

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

**Festal theotokion - Tone 1**

O ho - ly Tab - er - na - cle, Gabriel cried out to you: Re-joice, O Vir - gin,  
full of grace: the Lord of All be - came in - car - nate of you,  
as the right-eous Da - vid had fore<sub>9</sub> - told. In bear-ing your Cre - a - tor,

you have shown yourself to surpass the vastness of the heav - ens. We there-fore  
cry out: Glo - ry to him who dwelt in you! Glo - ry to him who came forth  
from you. Glo-ry to him who has set us free through your life-giv - ing birth.

*Then the Litany of Fervent Supplication is taken, and three prostrations are made in silence. (The Prayer of Saint Ephrem is **not** said.)*

*The Lenten dismissal is replaced with the festal dismissal:*

**Deacon:** Wisdom!

**Response:** Give the blessing.

**Priest:** Blessed is Christ our God, the One-Who-Is, always, now and ever and forever.

**Response:** Amen. O God, strengthen the true faith, forever and ever.

**Priest:** O most holy Theotokos, save us!

**Response:** More honorable than the cherubim, and beyond compare more glorious than the seraphim, who, a virgin, gave birth to God the Word, you, truly the Theotokos, we magnify.

**Priest:** Glory to you, O Christ our God, our hope; glory to you!

**Response:** Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen. Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy. Give the blessing!

**Priest:** May Christ our true God have mercy on us and save us through the prayers of his most pure Mother; through the prayers of *(Name)*, *(patron of the church)* and of the Forty Holy Martyrs of Sebaste, and of all the saints; for Christ is good and loves us all.

**Response:**   
A - - - - - men.