

Vesper Propers, March 9, 2025
First Sunday of the Great Fast: Sunday of Orthodoxy
Memory of the Holy Prophets

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)

Supplement for The Order of Vespers for Sundays after Pentecost, 2006

Lamplighting Psalms in the Tone of the Week (Tone 1, page 24), stichera 10-8.

Cantor: (Tone 6) Let your ears be attentive
(on 7) to the voice of my pleading.

Stichera of the Sunday of Orthodoxy - Tone 6 samohlasen

⑦

O Lord, whom the universe can - not con - tain, be - fore the dawn of time
you were born of the immaterial and incor-po - re - al Fa - ther;
through the Ho - ly Spirit, the prophets have announced your coming as an in - fant
who took flesh of the most pure Vir - gin so that you might converse with
mor-tals and be seen by them. Count us wor-thy of your light, O com-pas-sion-ate



Lord, for we praise your ineffa-ble and ho - ly Res-ur-rec - tion.

Cantor: 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.



The ho - ly proph - ets have merited e - ter - nal life, for they an-nounced you by



their word and served you by their works. They did not wish to serve



cre - a - tion in - stead of you, the Cre - a - tor, O God; they de-spised the



world to an - nounce you. They were con - formed to your Pas - sion,



which they have seen in a pro-phet - ic vi - sion. By their prayers, grant that we



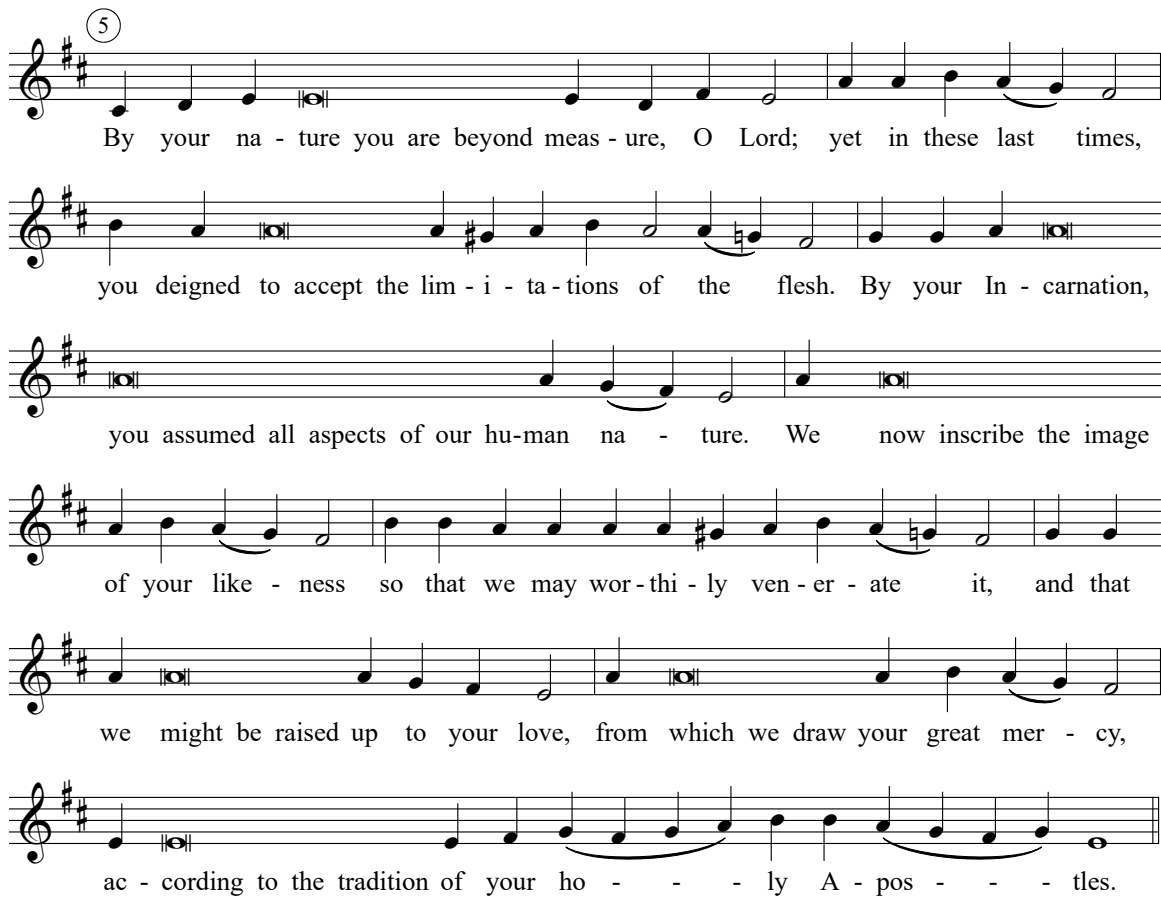
may complete the course of this Fast in all pu - ri - ty, O



Lord most mer - ci - ful.

Cantor: My soul is waiting for the Lord, I count on his word.
(on 5) My soul is longing for the Lord, more than watchman for daybreak.

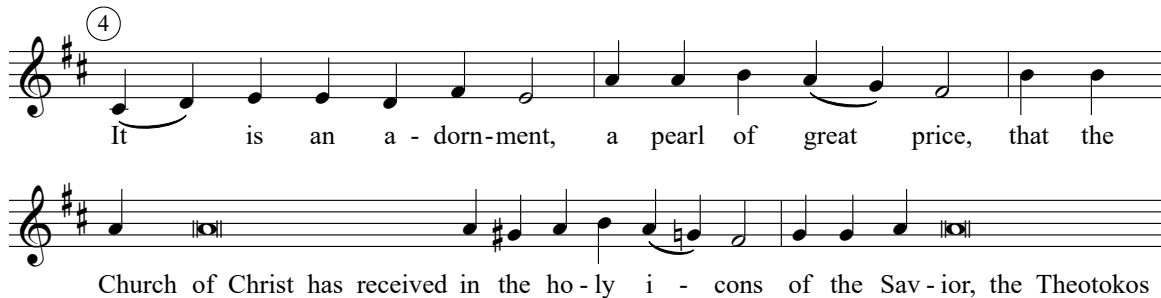
5



By your na - ture you are beyond meas - ure, O Lord; yet in these last times,
 you deigned to accept the lim - i - ta - tions of the flesh. By your In - carnation,
 you assumed all aspects of our hu - man na - ture. We now inscribe the image
 of your like - ness so that we may wor - thi - ly ven - er - ate it, and that
 we might be raised up to your love, from which we draw your great mer - cy,
 ac - cording to the tradition of your ho - - - ly A - pos - - - tles.

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

4



It is an a - dorn - ment, a pearl of great price, that the
 Church of Christ has received in the ho - ly i - cons of the Sav - ior, the Theotokos

and all the saints. Rais - ing them on high, she shines with splen - dor and bright - ness
 and puts down all her - e - sies. In joy, she glorifies God, who by
 his love for us, has deigned to free - ly suf - fer his Pas - sion.

Cantor: (Tone 2) 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 Forty Maryrs - Tone 2 samohlasen

③

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

②

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

①

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: (Tone 2) Glory...

Doxastikon of the Sunday of Orthodoxy - Tone 2 samohlasen

The grace of truth has shown forth; that which was for - mer - ly pre - fig - ured

ob-scure - ly is now o - pen - ly ful-filled. Be - hold the Church is clothed
as with a heav'n-ly gar - ment by the i - con of the Bod - y of Christ,
which was pre - fig - ured by the Ark of the Cov - e - nant. She pre - serves
the true faith, so that we might keep with - out blem - ish the im - age
of the One whom we wor - ship. May those who do not believe this be cov - ered
with shame! For we glo - ry in the image of the in - car - nate Word, which we
ven - e - rate but do not wor - ship as an i - dol. O faith - ful, let us hold it in
rev' - rence and sing: Save your peo - ple, O God, and bless your in - he - ri - tance.

Cantor: (Tone 1) Now and ever...

Dogmatikon in the Tone of the Week (Tone 1, page 30).

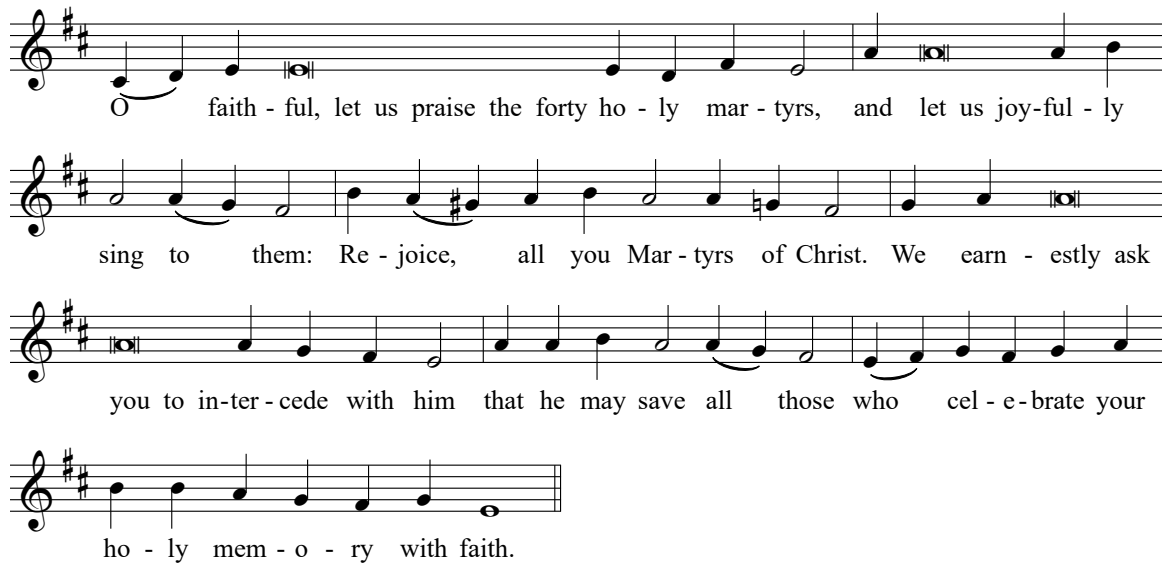
Readings: Isaiah 43:9-14
Wisdom 3:1-9
Wisdom 5:15 - 6:3

Aposticha

Aposticha in the Tone of the Week (Tone 1, p. 31), concluding with:

Cantor: (Tone 6) Glory...

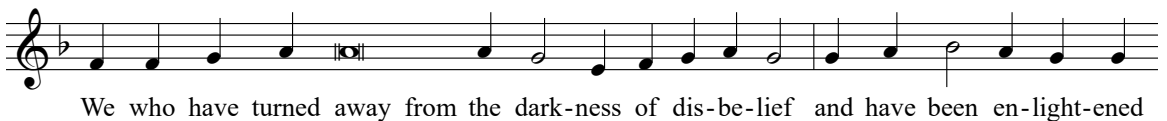
Aposticha doxastikon of the Forty Martyrs - Tone 6



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: (Tone 2) Now and ever...

Aposticha doxastikon of the Sunday of Orthodoxy - Tone 2



We who have turned away from the dark - ness of dis - be - lief and have been en - light - ened



by the light of knowl - edge, now sing our psalms of ac - cla - ma - tion. May our



praise and thanksgiv - ing rise up to God! And let us bow with respect before the



ho - ly i - cons of Christ, the Theotokos, and of all the saints. Let us



re - ject the godlessness of those who do not fol - low the true faith. For



Saint Ba - sil has said: The ve - ne - ra - tion of the icon passes over to the one who



is re - pre - sent - ed. Through the prayers of your most pure Moth - er and all the saints,



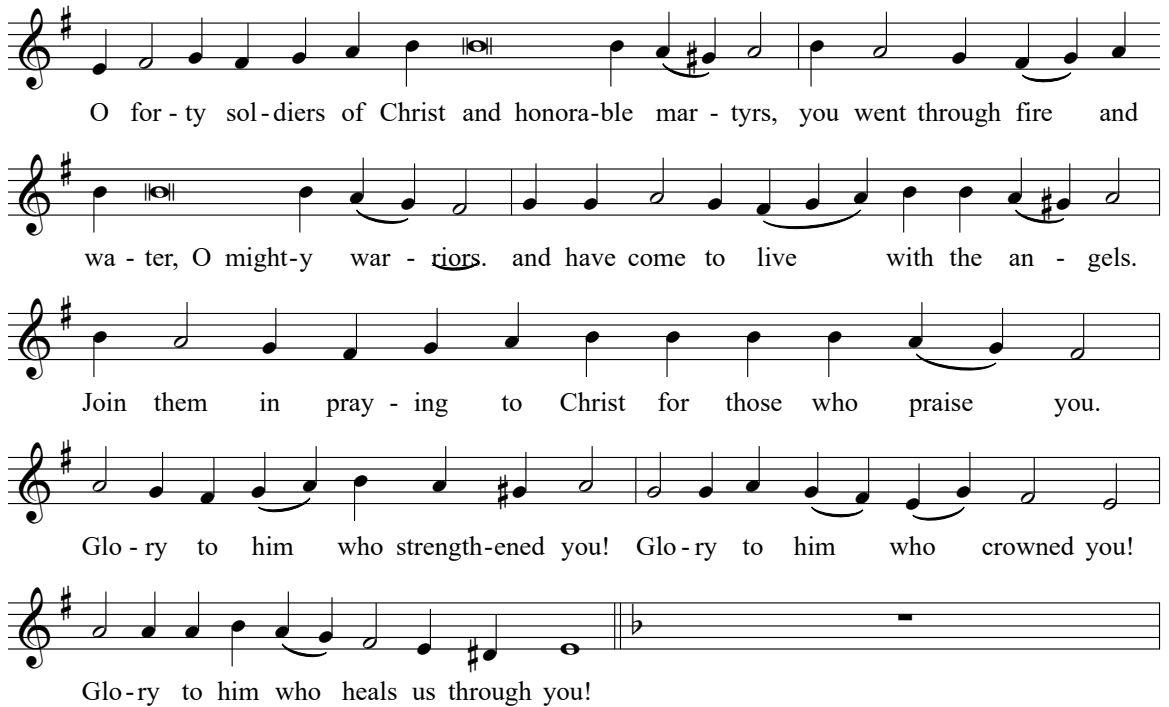
we im - plore you, O Christ, to grant us your great mer - cy.

Troparia

Troparion of the Resurrection in the Tone of the Week (Tone 1, p. 34).

Cantor: (Tone 1) Glory...


Troparion of the Forty 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!

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

Troparion of the Sunday of Orthodoxy - Tone 2



We bow be - fore your sa - cred im - age, O gra - cious Lord, and beg for - giveness for
our of - fens - es, O Christ our God; for you, of your own good will, ascended



the cross in your hu - man na - ture to de - liv - er from the enemy's



bondage those whom you cre - a - ted. There-fore, we grate-ful - ly cry



out to you: By your com - ing to save the world, O Sav - ior,



you have filled all with joy.