

Sunday, March 9, 2025
First Sunday of Great Lent, Sunday of Orthodoxy
The Holy Forty Martyrs of Sebaste

Troparion (Tone 4) *(Resurrection)*

When the women disciples of the Lord
learned from the angel the joyous message of Your Resurrection,
they cast away the ancestral curse
and elatedly told the apostles:
“Death is overthrown!
Christ God is risen,
granting the world great mercy!”

Troparion (Tone 2) *(Sunday of Orthodoxy, Triodion)*

We venerate Your most pure image, O Good One;
and ask forgiveness of our transgressions, O Christ our God.
Of Your own will You were pleased to ascend the Cross in the flesh
and deliver Your creatures from bondage to the Enemy.
Therefore with thankfulness we cry aloud to You:
“You have filled all with joy, O our Savior,
by coming to save the world.”

Troparion (Tone 1) *(Holy 40 Martyrs)*

Through the sufferings which Your holy Forty Martyrs endured for Your sake, O Lord,
we beseech You, O Lover of mankind:
“Heal all of our infirmities!”

Kontakion (Tone 4) *(Resurrection)*

My Savior and Redeemer
as God rose from the tomb and delivered the earth-born from their chains.
He has shattered the gates of hell,
and as Master,
He has risen on the third day!

Glory...

Kontakion (Tone 6) *(40 Martyrs)*

You have abandoned all earthly armies,
cleaving to the heavenly Master, O Forty Martyrs of the Lord.
Having passed through fire and water, O blessed ones,
you have fittingly received heavenly glory and many crowns.

Now and ever . . .

Kondakion (Tone 8) *(Sunday of Orthodoxy, Triodion)*

No one could describe the Word of the Father;
but when He took flesh from you, O Theotokos, He accepted to be described,
and restored the fallen image to its former state by uniting it to divine beauty.
We confess and proclaim our salvation in words and images.

Prokeimenon (Tone 4) *(Song of the three Holy Children, v. 3, 4)*

Blessed are You, O Lord God of our fathers, / and praised and glorified is Your Name forever!
v. *For You are just in all that You have done for us!*

Prokeimenon (Tone 5) *(Holy 40 Martyrs)*

You, O Lord, shall protect us / and preserve us from this generation forever. *(Ps. 11:7)*

Epistle (Hebrews 11:24-26; 32-12:2)

By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward. And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets: who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. Women received their dead raised to life again. Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented – of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us. Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Epistle (Hebrews 12:1-10) *(Martyrs)*

Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls. You have not yet resisted to bloodshed, striving against sin. And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: "My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; for whom the LORD loves He chastens, and scourges every son whom He receives." If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten? But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons. Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected us, and we paid them respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live? For they indeed for a few days chastened us as seemed best to them, but He for our profit, that we may be partakers of His holiness.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia! (Tone 4) *(Ps. 98:6, 7a)*

v. *Moses and Aaron were among His priests; Samuel also was among those who called on His Name.*
v. *They called to the Lord and He answered them.*

Tone 4 *(40 Martyrs)*

v. *Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth! Sing of His name, give to Him glorious praise! (Ps. 65:1)*

Gospel (John 1:43-51)

The following day Jesus wanted to go to Galilee, and He found Philip and said to him, "Follow Me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found Him of whom Moses in the law, and also the prophets, wrote – Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." And Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward Him, and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no deceit!" Nathanael said to Him, "How do You know me?" Jesus answered and said to him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." Nathanael answered and said to Him, "Rabbi, You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" Jesus answered and said to him, "Because I said to you, 'I saw you under the fig tree,' do you believe? You will see greater things than these." And He said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, hereafter you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

Gospel (Matthew 20:1-16) (Holy 40 Martyrs)

For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. Now when he had agreed with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. And he went out about the third hour and saw others standing idle in the marketplace, and said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and whatever is right I will give you.' So they went. Again he went out about the sixth and the ninth hour, and did likewise. And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing idle, and said to them, 'Why have you been standing here idle all day?' They said to him, 'Because no one hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and whatever is right you will receive.' So when evening had come, the owner of the vineyard said to his steward, 'Call the laborers and give them their wages, beginning with the last to the first. And when those came who were hired about the eleventh hour, they each received a denarius. But when the first came, they supposed that they would receive more; and they likewise received each a denarius. And when they had received it, they complained against the landowner, saying, 'These last men have worked only one hour, and you made them equal to us who have borne the burden and the heat of the day.' But he answered one of them and said, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius? Take what is yours and go your way. I wish to give to this last man the same as to you. Is it not lawful for me to do what I wish with my own things? Or is your eye evil because I am good?' So the last will be first, and the first last. For many are called, but few chosen.'"

Instead of "It is truly meet..." we sing

Hymn to the Theotokos

All of creation rejoices in you, O Full of Grace:
the assembly of angels and the race of men.
O sanctified temple and spiritual paradise,
the glory of virgins,
from whom God was incarnate and became a Child –
our God before the ages.
He made your body into a throne,
and your womb He made more spacious than the heavens.
All of creation rejoices in you, O Full of Grace. Glory to you!

Communion Hymn

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! *(Ps. 148:1)*

Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous; praise befits the just! *(Ps. 32:1)*

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Open to Me the Doors of Repentance

(From the Lenten Triodion, Sung after Psalm 50 at Matins)

Open to Me the Doors of Repentance, O Life Giver,

for my spirit rises early to pray towards Your holy Temple,

bearing the temple of my body all defiled;

but in Your compassion, purify me by the loving kindness of Your mercy.

Lead me on the paths of salvation, O Mother of God, for I have profaned my soul with shameful sins,
and have wasted my life in laziness;

but by your intercessions deliver me from all impurity.

Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your great mercy, and according to the abundance of Your
compassions, blot out my transgression.

When I think of the many evil things I have done, wretch that I am, I tremble at the fearful day of
judgment; but trusting in Your loving kindness, like David I cry to You:

Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me, O God, according to Your
great mercy!