

The 20th Day of March

Holy Fathers Slain at the Monastery of St. Sabbas.

Vespers

At “Lord, I call...,” 3 stichera, in Tone 4: *To the melody, “As one valiant among the martyrs....”*

United in loving the Highest of all desires /
You disregarded as refuse the pleasures of this life, /
And in vigil and prayer, O holy fathers, /
In snowstorms and in burning heat, ye longed for only that which abideth forever. /
Ye became dwellers of the caves, and shone forth in grace, ///
As fellow citizens with the angels.

Wickedly whipped with flagella /
Struck with stones and dismembered by swords /
Together you stood bound by love and brotherly affection
Not breaking your accord, O martyrs, /
And together you were put to death /
Cut limb from limb, O bearers of victory, ///
You were brought to God as blameless sacrificial offerings.

Consumed by fire, and choked by suffocation /
You committed your souls, O glorious martyrs /
As pure and undefiled offerings /
Into the hands of the King of all, /
Thus you were united to the choir of the angels /
And inherited everlasting glory. ///
Ever pray that those who praise you may partake of that glory.

Glory..., now and ever..., Theotokion, in the same Tone: *(and melody)*

O thou, who didst bear God my Savior, /
Do thou grant me repentance, /
The best and saving medicine, /
And grant me streams of tears, /
Through which to remember the fearful and awesome hour of the impartial Judgment; /
That by thy prayers, O Virgin, /
I may escape the fearsome punishment, ///
And attain unto divine grace.

Or the Stavrotheotokion, in the same Tone:

20 MARCH

Seeing Thee nailed to the Cross, O Lord, /
The ewe-lamb, Thy Mother, cried out in amazement: /
'What is this sight, O Most-desired Son? /
What has the ungrateful assembly done to Thee /
Having once delighted themselves in Thy many miracles? ///
But I glorify Thy ineffable condescension, O Master!'

The Troparion of the Martyrs, in Tone 2: *(not in the Slav Menaion)*

O victory-bearers of the Lord, /
Blessèd is the earth enriched by your blood, /
And the holy dwellings which received your spirits; /
For in the arena you vanquished the enemy and with boldness proclaimed Christ. /
We pray you, intercede with Him for He is Good, ///
That He may save our souls.

Matins

The Canon of the Martyrs, in Tone 8,

*Having the acrostic: "I praise the martyrs who lived and died as one,"
the composition of Theodore of St. Sabbas Monastery.
— incomplete as of 1/3/2014*

After the Sixth Ode,

The Kontakion of the Martyrs, in Tone 4: *To the melody, "Having been lifted up...."*

Having distained the corruptible pleasures of the earth, /
And despising all worldly beauty and the enjoyment of food for they pass away, /
In their stead you chose life in the desert /
And were accounted worthy of the heavenly kingdom, O most holy ones. /
Now you rejoice with the choirs of fellow-fasters and martyrs, /
And honoring your memory, we cry out to you: ///
Deliver us from all troubles, O blessèd fathers.

RLE 1/3/2014 SDA
UPDAYED 3/9/2023 SDA