

## The 18<sup>th</sup> Day of December

**Holy Martyr Sebastian and his Companions: the Martyrs  
Nicostratus, Zoë, Castorius, Tranquillinus, Marcellinus, Mark,  
Claudius, Symphorian, Victorinus, Tiburtius and Castulus.**

### Vespers

**At “Lord, I call...,” 3 stichera, in Tone 1: *To the melody, “O all-praised martyrs....”***

**T**hou didst prepare for thyself a costly robe, /  
Dyed with the purple of thy precious blood,  
And having clothed thyself in it thou dost rightly come to the kingdom on high, /  
There to stand before God the King of all. ///  
Beseech Him now to grant peace to our souls and great mercy.

**Z**oë, Mark, and Marcellinus, /  
And Tiburtius the divinely-wise, /  
Suffered together with the others and Sebastian /  
Enduring a great storm of wounds and torments. /  
Now, they abide in divine rest free of their pain and afflictions, /  
And they pray that peace may be granted to our souls and great mercy.

**O** ye blessed and invincible martyrs, /  
Having abandoned all the things of the earth, /  
You hastened to the heavens /  
Adorned with your wounds and the crimson of your sufferings. /  
Pray ye now, that peace may be granted to our souls and great mercy.

***Note: But if we sing “Alleluia” at Matins instead of “God is the Lord,” then the following 3 stichera to the Theotokos are sung at Vespers, at “Lord, I call,” before the above stichera of the Saint, in the same Tone and melody:***

**W**ithout corruption, thou gavest birth to God /  
Who took on our human flesh /  
Pouring forth upon it incorruption, /  
O most pure and immaculate one. /  
Therefore I beseech thee: /  
Renew me through thy prayers, O pure one, /  
Though I am riddled with the sores of corruption /  
That with love I may ever praise and glorify thee ///  
Who raised on high our human race.

**We beseech** thee, all-praised Lady, /  
The hope and confirmation of all the faithful, /  
Our refuge and our helper: /  
Preserve us, thy servants from every calamity, /  
Who with faith worship Him who was born of thee. ///  
Pray to Christ that He grant our souls peace and great mercy.

**Oh**, woe is me, what shall I do? /  
My mind and soul and body are polluted by my transgressions; /  
What can I do to avoid the unquenchable flames and the eternal chains? /  
But do thou help me, O all-pure one ///  
Before the end, beseech thy Son to grant unto me the remission of my sins.

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

**Thou** didst bear Christ, the Fire of Divinity, within thy womb, /  
O all-pure one. /  
Now beseech Him to extinguish the smoldering embers of my passions /  
And deliver me from the eternal flames, ///  
And grant me the brightness of the righteous when He shall come to judge all things.

**Or the Stavrotheotokion, in the same Tone: (and melody)**

**When** the unblemished Virgin beheld upon the tree, /  
Him whom she bore in her womb without seed, /  
Not able to endure her maternal pain, she tore her hair and cried:  
“How art Thou, who by a gesture, dost uphold all creation, /  
Raised upon the Cross as one condemned, ///  
In Thine absolute desire to save mankind?”

**The Aposticha is from the Octoechos.**

**The General Troparion of the Martyrs, in Tone 4:**

Thy holy martyrs, O Lord, /  
Through their sufferings received their incorruptible crowns from Thee, our God /  
For having Thy strength they laid low their enemies /  
And shattered the powerless boldness of demons ///  
Through their intercessions, O Christ God, save our souls.

**Matins**

**Both Canons from the Octoechos, and that of the Martyrs, with 4 Troparia, in**

HOLY MARTYR SEBASTIAN AND HIS COMPANY.

**Tone 4**

*having the acrostic “I lovingly honor thee, O holy martyr”, the composition of Joseph.  
—incomplete as of 12/4/22*

**No Kontakion of the Martyrs given in the Menaion.**

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