

## The 20<sup>th</sup> Day of March

### Holy Fathers Slain at the Monastery of St. Sabbas.

#### Evening Service

**At “Lord, I call...,” 3 Stikhera, 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 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)**

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.

**Morning Service**

**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. ..."**

**H**aving 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.