

**March 9, 2013**

**The Holy Forty Martyrs of Sebaste**

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**DIVINE LITURGY**

***Troparion and Kontakion***

*Troparion, Tone 1:* Be swayed by the pains that the saints have suffered, for You, O Lord,\* , and heal all our pains,\* O Lover of mankind, for this we pray.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever. Amen.

*Kontakion, Tone 6:* Leaving behind every army on earth,\* you cleaved to the Master in heave,\* O Forty passion-bearers of the Lord.\* For passing through fire and water\* you rightly received glory from heaven\* and a myriad of crowns, O blessed saints.

***Prokeimenon, Tone 5***

You, O Lord, will guard and will keep us, from this generation and for ever.  
*verse:* Save me, O Lord, for there is no longer left a just man. (Psalm 11:8,2)

***Epistle***

*Hebrews 12:1-10*

Brethren, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted. In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. And have you forgotten the exhortation which addresses you as sons? – "My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor lose courage when you are punished by him. For the Lord disciplines him whom he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives." It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons; for what son is there whom his father does not discipline? If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. Besides this, we have had earthly fathers to discipline us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live? For they disciplined us for a short time at their pleasure, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness.

***Alleluia, Tone 4***

*verse:* Shout to the Lord, all the earth, sing now to His name, give glory to His praise.

*verse:* For You, O God, have tested us, You have tried us by fire as silver is tried. (Psalm 65:2,10)

***Gospel***

*Matthew 20:1-16*

The Lord told this parable, "The kingdom of heaven is like a householder who went out early in the morning to hire labourers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the labourers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the market place; and to them he said, 'You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you.' So they went. Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same. And about the

eleventh hour he went out and found others standing; and he said to them, 'Why do you stand here idle all day?' They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You go into the vineyard too.' And when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his steward, 'Call the labourers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last, up to the first.' And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. And on receiving it they grumbled at the householder, saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius? Take what belongs to you, and go; I choose to give to this last as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?' So the last will be first, and the first last."

***Communion Verse***

Rejoice in the Lord, O you just;\* praise befits the righteous.\* Alleluia, alleluia,\* alleluia. (Psalm 32:1)