

March 9th  
**The Forty Holy Martyrs of Sebastia**  
Stichera at the Aposticha at Vespers

Byzantine Chant Tone 5  
Special Melody: *Rejoice*

Adapted by Dn. John El Massih

1) Come ye, O breth - ren, come, — let us laud  
with hymns and prais - es that bat - tal - ion of mar - tyred Saints  
who burned in the win - try freez - ing and with their fier - y - hot  
zeal ut - ter - ly have burned up — er - ror's bit - ter cold;  
that no - ble ar - ray in war, that most sa - cred of com - pa - nies,  
that nev - er moved and in - de - struc - ti - ble sol - dier - y,  
those high - tow - ered walls, those strong guard - i - ans of the Faith:  
e - ven the val - iant choir of For - ty Mar - tyrs in - spired of God,  
the Church - 's bold in - ter - ces - sors, those men of  
prayer who most might - i - ly en - treat Christ the Sav - ior  
to send down His ho - ly peace and Great Mer - cy to our souls.

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Verse: Thou hast proven us, O God, by fire hast Thou tried us even as silver is tried by fire.

2) Re - jice, \_\_\_\_\_ as - sem - bly might - y in strength,  
 O sa - cred ar - my bear - ing tro - phies of vic - to - ry,  
 ye tow - ers of true re - li - gion and fear - less sol - diers of  
 Christ, O ye stal - wart hop - lites \_\_\_\_\_ who were not sub - dued;  
 in mind, ye were firm as stone, and in soul, \_\_\_\_\_ brave a - bove all men;  
 ye tru - ly god - ly, who are tru - ly be - lov'd of God;  
 O ye ho - ly choir and di - vine - ly e - lect ar - ray;  
 O For - ty Mar - tyrs, e - qual both in con - test and in re - solve:  
 ye had the same dis - po - si - tion, and have re -  
 - ceived now the self - same crowns. En - treat Christ the Sav - ior  
 to grant par - don of our sins \_\_\_\_\_ and Great Mer - cy to our souls.

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Verse: We went through fire and water, and Thou didst bring us out into refreshment.

3) Re - jice, great host that bare off the prize  
and that cou - ra - geous - ly ex - celled in the time of war;  
ye lus - trous and state - ly stars that passed through the fire and the  
frost and dis - solved the wa - ter fro - zen hard as stone;  
ye made thē earth heav - en - ly and en - light - ened all things there - in  
and now are cher - ished in the bos - om of A - bra - ham  
as ye dance for joy with thē ar - mies of an - gel - kind.  
O ho - ly For - ty Mar - tyrs, fair - est flow - ers that ev - er breathe  
the fra - grance of the be - stow - al of true and  
spir - i - tual gifts of grace. En - treat Christ the Sav - ior  
that He gra - cious - ly be - stow His Great Mer - cy on our souls.