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 brethren, come, let us laud
with hymns and praises that battalion of martyred Saints
who burned in the wintry freezing and with their fiery hot
zeal utterly have burned up error's bitter cold;
that noble array in war, that most sacred of companies,
that never moved and indestructible soldierly,
those high-towered walls, those strong guardians of the Faith:
even the valiant choir of Forty Martyrs inspired of God,
the Church's bold intercessors, those men of
prayer who most mightily entreat Christ the Savior
to send down His holy peace and Great Mercy to our souls.

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Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America, Rev. 0, 2/21/19, CAH
Verse: Thou hast proven us, O God, by fire hast Thou tried us even as silver is tried by fire.

2) Rejoice, as sembly might y in strength,
O sacred army bearing trophies of victory,
ye towers of true religion and fearless soldiers of Christ, O ye stalwart hop lites who were not subdued;
in mind, ye were firm as stone, and in soul, brave above all men;
ye truly godly, who are truly belov'd of God;
O ye holy choir and divinely elect array;
O Forty Martyrs, equal both in contest and in resolve:
ye had the same disposition, and have received now the self-same crowns. En treat Christ the Savior to grant pardon of our sins and Great Mercy to our souls.
Verse: We went through fire and water, and Thou didst bring us out into refreshment.

3) Rejoice, great host that bare off the prize and that courageously excelled in the time of war;

ye lustrous and state ly stars that passed through the fire and the frost and dissolved the water frozen hard as stone;

ye made the earth heav en ly and enlightened all things there in and now are cherished in the bos om of Abraham as ye dance for joy with the armies of angel kind.

O holy Forty Martyrs, fairest flowers that ever breathe the fragrance of the bestow al of true and spiritual gifts of grace. Entreat Christ the Savior that He graciously bestow His Great Mercy on our souls.

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