

**March 9: On the same day at Vespers
Holy Forty Martyrs of Sebaste**

**Stichera on "Lord I have cried"
Tone 1, Kievan**

(4) Reader: In the 1st Tone—

From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch

I
II

Let Is - ra - el hope in the Lord.

The choir of forty-fold splendor, /

The whole army assembled by God, /

hath shone forth upon the Fast in their honorable sufferings, //

illuminating and enlightening our souls.

**(3) Reader: For with the Lord there is mercy, and with Him is
plenteous redemption;**

And He shall redeem Israel out of all his in - iq - ui - ties.

Repeat: "The choir of forty-fold splendor..."

Evening of March 9: Stichera on "Lord I have cried"

(2) *Reader:* In the 2nd Tone— O praise the Lord, all ye nations;

Praise Him all ye peo - ples.

The mart[~]yr[~]s considered the lake to be as para[~]di[~]se, /
 and winter to be as the heat of the day, O Chri[~]st God; /
 and thou[~]gh[~]t[~]s of the tyrants' threats did not daunt them. /
 Valiant, they feared not the increase of tor[~]tu[~]res, /
 having acqu[~]ir[~]ed the weap[~]on of the Cross; /
 and therewith, as mighty, they van[~]qu[~]ished the foe, //
 for which they have received crown[~]s of grace.

(1) *Reader:* For He hath made his mercy to prevail over us,

And the truth of the Lord abideth for-ev - er.

Who will not hymn the choir of the martyrs forty in number?

For they entered the waters of the lake boldly, /

and huddling together in the cold, they chanted a hymn unto the Lord: /

"Nay, in the rivers art Thou wroth against us, O Lord? /

Nay, in the rivers art Thou wroth against us, O Thou Who lovest mankind? /

Lighten Thou the oppression and bitterness of the wind, /

for our feet are empurpled with our own blood. /

But lead us into thine everlasting habitations, O God, //

and let the bosom of Abraham warm us!"

Evening of March 9: Stichera on "Lord I have cried"

Reader: Glory, in the same tone.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Ho-ly Spi - rit.

Prophetically David cried aloud in the Psalms: /

We went through fire and water, /

and Thou didst bring us out into refreshment! /

and ye, O martyrs of Christ, /

fulfilling the word in very deed, /

passed through fire and water /

and entered into the kingdom of heaven. //

Wherefore, pray, O ye forty athletes, that we be given great mercy.

Reader: Both now, in the same tone.

Both now and ever, and unto the ages of a - ges. A-men.

All my hope do I set on thee, /

O Mother of God, //

Shelter me beneath thy protection.