Stichera of the Martyrs for Friday Evening Vespers
Tone 3, Kievan

(8) Reader: In the 3rd tone, Out of the depths have I cried unto Thee, O Lord;

Great is the power of Thy martyrs, O Christ!
Though they lie in their tombs, they drive out evil spirits/
and fight in defence of true devotion, //
subduing the dominion of the enemy through faith in the Trinity.

(7) Reader: Let Thine ears be attentive

The prophets, the apostles of Christ and the martyrs/
have taught mankind to sing the praises of the consubstantial Trinity;
they have given light to the nations that were gone astray,//
and have made the sons of men companions of the angels.

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(6) Reader: If Thou shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, O Lord, who shall stand?

Supported by faith and made strong by hope, / Thy martyrs, O Lord, destroyed the tyranny of the enemy; / and receiving crowns of glory, // together with the angels they make intercession for our souls.

(5) Reader: For Thy name's sake have I patiently waited for Thee, O Lord; my soul hath waited patiently for Thy word,

Great is the power of Thy Cross, O Lord! / It was set up in the place of the skull, and it acts in all the world; / it made fishermen into apostles / and the Gentiles into martyrs, // that they might intercede for our souls.

Next we sing 4 stichera of the saint of the day, from the Menaion; and then Glory: the sticheron for the dead in the Tone of the week.
Sticheron of the Dead, Tone 3

On "Lord I have cried", at Glory, we sing the sticheron of the Dead in the Tone of the week.

Reader: Glory, in the 3rd Tone.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

All human things are vain, /
and endure not after death. /
Our wealth will not remain, /
our glory will not go with us upon the way; /
for when death comes all these things will disappear. /
Therefore let us cry to Christ who is immortal: /
Give rest to our departed brethren //
and make them dwell with the joyful.

English text: "The Lenten Triodion Supplement", translated by Mother Mary and Archimandrite Kallistos, Monastery of the Veil of our Lady, ©1979

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