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The Service of Matins

for Wednesday, December 18, 2019

**Octoechos - Mode 1.
on Wednesday Morning**

**Menaion - December 18
Memory of the Holy Martyr Sebastian**

Text in English

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vol Orthodox Monastery of the Veil of our Lady

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The AGES Digital Chant Stand is supported in part by generous grants from Leadership 100 and the National Forum of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians.

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Octoechos - Mode 1.

On Wednesday Morning

Menaion - December 18

Memory of the Holy Martyr Sebastian

MATINS

CHOIR

Mode 4.

God is the Lord, and He revealed Himself to us. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. [SAAS]

Verse 1: *Give thanks to the Lord and call upon His name.*

or: Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; for His mercy endures forever.

Verse 2: *All the nations surrounded me, but in the name of the Lord I defended myself against them.*

Verse 3: *And this came about from the Lord, and it is wonderful in our eyes.*

Apolytikion. For the Martyrs.

Mode 4. Come quickly.

Your Martyrs, O Lord, were worthily awarded by You * the crowns of incorruption, in that they contested for You our immortal God. * Since they possessed Your power, they defeated the tyrants, * dashing the demons' powerless displays of defiance. * O Christ God, at their fervent entreaties, save our souls.

[SD]

From Octoechos ---

Glory. Both now. **Theotokion.**

Mode 4. Come quickly.

O Mother of Christ our God, all-blameless Virgin most pure, * as Symeon told, a sword pierced through your all-holy soul * when you saw your Son and God * crucified by transgressors of His own will, O Lady. * Cease

not to importune Him, * that He grant the forgiveness * of failings to us your servants, * O only most-blessed one. [SD]

The appointed Kathisma of the Psalter may be read, i.e. Kathisma 10. There is no litany, but immediately the following:

From Octoechos ---

CHOIR

Kathisma I.

For the Cross.

Mode 1.

Save, O Lord, Your people and bless Your inheritance, granting victory to the faithful over the enemy, and by Your Cross protecting Your commonwealth. [SD]

Verse: *Exalt the Lord our God, and worship at the footstool of His feet; for He is holy.*

When You were crucified, O Christ, the enemy's tyranny was lifted and his power was crushed. For it was no Angel nor mere man, but You, the Lord himself, who saved us. Glory to You! [SD]

Glory. Both now. **Stavrotheotokion.**

We have obtained your protection, O immaculate Lady, and by your earnest entreaties we are saved from calamities. In everything we are guarded by the Cross of your Son. We all dutifully magnify you piously. [SD]

The appointed Kathisma of the Psalter may be read, i.e. Kathisma 11. There is no litany, but immediately the following:

CHOIR

From Octoechos - - -

Kathisma II.

For the Cross.

Mode 1. *The stone had been secured.*

We venerate the wood of Your Cross, O humane One, * for You, the Life of all, were nailed to it. * O Savior, You opened Paradise to the Robber who approached You with faith. * He was counted worthy of delight, confessing You, Remember me, O Lord. * Accept us as You accepted him, * for we now cry, We all have sinned * against Your compassion. Do not abandon us. [SD]

Verse: God is our King before the ages; He worked salvation in the midst of the earth.

Mode 1. *The soldiers keeping watch.*

To Constantine the Great, that most pious of Rulers, * in time of war, the Cross was revealed to be armor, * an invincible monument of defeat over foes by faith. * Hostile forces now shudder before it and tremble. * For believers all it has become their salvation, * and the boast of the Apostle Paul.

[SD]

Glory. Both now. **Stavrotheotokion.**

Mode 1. *The soldiers keeping watch.*

The Maiden free of blame, the rational Ewe-lamb, * when she beheld the Lord laid out and crucified, cried out, * "O wonder, most strange indeed! O most dreadful of mysteries! * How can He who holds the whole wide world in His own hand * be convicted by unlawful judges and sentenced * to death and be crucified?" [SD]

From Octoechos - - -

Kathisma III.

For the Cross.

Mode 1. *The soldiers keeping watch.*

By stretching out Your hands on the Cross, loving Master, * You gathered to yourself all the nations that wandered * afar from You, to glorify Your abundant benevolence. * We entreat You now to look upon us the people * of Your inheritance, and smite those warring against us, * by the power of Your precious Cross. [SD]

Verse: God is wondrous in His saints.

For the Martyrs.

The holy martyrs suffered painful tortures for Your sake, O Lord; be compelled by what they endured, and heal our every pain, we entreat You, as the only One who loves humanity. [SD]

Glory. Both now. **Stavrotheotokion.**

Mode 1. *The soldiers keeping watch.*

The Maiden free of stain, the rational Ewe-lamb, * when she beheld the Lamb and Shepherd crucified, cried out, * lamenting and shedding tears as she saw her Son hanging dead, * "How shall I extol Your condescension which no one * comprehends, my Son, and Your voluntary Passion, * O God most benevolent?" [SD]

READER

Lord, have mercy. (3)

Glory. Both now.

Psalm 50 (51).

Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your great mercy; and according to the abundance of Your compassion, blot out my transgression. Wash me thoroughly from my

lawlessness and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my lawlessness, and my sin is always before me. Against You only have I sinned and done evil in Your sight; that You may be justified in Your words, and overcome when You are judged. For behold, I was conceived in transgressions, and in sins my mother bore me. Behold, You love truth; You showed me the unknown and secret things of Your wisdom. You shall sprinkle me with hyssop, and I will be cleansed; You shall wash me, and I will be made whiter than snow. You shall make me hear joy and gladness; my bones that were humbled shall greatly rejoice. Turn Your face from my sins, and blot out all my transgressions. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Do not cast me away from Your presence, and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me with Your guiding Spirit. I will teach transgressors Your ways, and the ungodly shall turn back to You. Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, the God of my salvation, and my tongue shall greatly rejoice in Your righteousness. O Lord, You shall open my lips, and my mouth will declare Your praise. For if You desired sacrifice, I would give it; You will not be pleased with whole burnt offerings. A sacrifice to God is a broken spirit, a broken and humbled heart God will not despise. Do good, O Lord, in Your good pleasure to Zion, and let the walls of Jerusalem be built; then You will be pleased with a sacrifice of righteousness, with offerings and whole burnt offerings; then shall they offer young bulls on Your altar. [SAAS]

Synaxarion.

From the Menaion.

On December 18, we commemorate the holy martyr Sebastian and those with him: Zoe, Tranquillinus, Nikostratos, Claudius, Castor, Tiburtius, Castulus, Marcellinus, and Mark

On this day we also commemorate the holy martyr Eubiotus.

On this day we also commemorate our devout father Florus, Bishop of Amisus.

On this day we also commemorate the holy martyrs Phokas and Hermylus, who died by the sword.

On this day we also commemorate the holy martyrs Zacchaeus the Deacon and Alfaeus the Reader, who contested in Caesarea.

On this day we commemorate the holy miracle-worker Sophia. Also, the Consecration of the eminent Church of the Most Holy Theotokos in Chalkoprateia.

We also commemorate our devout father Michael the Chancellor, the Confessor.

By the intercessions of the Saints, O God, have mercy on us. Amen.

DEACON

Let us honor and magnify in song the Theotokos and the Mother of the light.

CHOIR

Ode ix.

Megalyarion. Mode 1.

Verse: *My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior.* [NKJV]

Greater in honor than the Cherubim, and in glory greater beyond compare than the Seraphim; you without corruption gave birth to God the Word, and are truly Theotokos. You do we magnify. [SD]

Verse: *For He has regarded the lowly state of His maidservant; for behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed.* [NKJV]

Greater in honor than the Cherubim, and in glory greater beyond compare than the Seraphim; you without corruption gave birth to God the Word, and are truly Theotokos. You do we magnify. [SD]

Verse: *For He who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is His name. And His mercy is on those who fear Him from generation to generation.* [NKJV]

Greater in honor than the Cherubim, and in glory greater beyond compare than the Seraphim; you without corruption gave birth to God the Word, and are truly Theotokos. You do we magnify. [SD]

Verse: *He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.* [NKJV]

Greater in honor than the Cherubim, and in glory greater beyond compare than the Seraphim; you without corruption gave birth to God the Word, and are truly Theotokos. You do we magnify. [SD]

Verse: *He has put down the mighty from their thrones, and exalted the lowly. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich He has sent away empty.* [NKJV]

Greater in honor than the Cherubim, and in glory greater beyond compare than the Seraphim; you without corruption gave birth to God the Word, and are truly Theotokos. You do we magnify. [SD]

Verse: *He has helped His servant Israel, in remembrance of His mercy, as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his seed forever.* [NKJV]

Greater in honor than the Cherubim, and in glory greater beyond compare than the Seraphim; you without corruption gave birth to God the Word, and are truly Theotokos. You do we magnify. [SD]

Heirmos. Mode 1.

Burning, yet remaining unconsumed, * the bush disclosed a type of your virgin childbirth. * And now we entreat that you extinguish the furnace of * fierce temptations, for it is besetting us; * that we, O Theotokos, * may praise you ceaselessly and magnify. [SD]

It is truly right to bless you, Theotokos, ever blessed, most pure, and Mother of our God. Greater in honor than the Cherubim, and in glory greater beyond compare than the Seraphim; you without corruption gave birth to God the Word, and are truly Theotokos. You do we magnify.

DEACON

Again and again, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

(Lord, have mercy.)

Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and protect us, O God, by Your grace.

(Lord, have mercy.)

Commemorating our most holy, pure, blessed, and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.

(To You, O Lord.)

PRIEST

For all the powers of heaven praise You and give You glory, to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

(Amen.)

CHOIR

Exaposteilarion. For the Cross.

From Octoechos - - -

Mode 2. O Women, hearken.

We praise you now, O holy Cross, and venerate you faithfully, * and worthily we extol you, * for you are the Faith's supporter, * the weapon undefeatable, a refuge great and most secure, * the guardian of the Orthodox, * the pride and joy of all Christians, * the glory of holy martyrs. [SD]

Another.

From Octoechos - - -

Mode 3. Having embellished heaven.

You are the great shield and armor * of pious Orthodox Christians, * of old the victory of rulers, * and always the fall of demons, * O Cross of Christ, guard and give grace * to us who with zeal venerate you. [SD]

Stavrotheotokion.

From Octoechos - - -

Mode 3. Having embellished heaven.

We honor with heart undoubting * and venerate with devotion * your Son's holy

Cross and Passion, * O all-holy Theotokos. * Make us citizens of Eden, * and grant us glory, we pray you. [SD]

READER

Lauds. (read)

Psalm 148.

Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise Him in the highest. Praise Him, all you His angels; praise Him, all you His hosts. Praise Him, sun and moon; praise Him, all you stars and light. Praise Him, you heavens of heavens, and you waters above the heavens. Let them praise the Lord's name, for He spoke, and they were made; He commanded, and they were created. He established them forever and unto ages of ages; He set forth His ordinance, and it shall not pass away. Praise the Lord from the earth, you dragons and all the deeps, Fire and hail, snow and ice, stormy wind, which perform His word, mountains and all the hills, fruitful trees and all cedars, wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds, kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all judges of the earth, young men and maidens, elders with younger, let them praise the Lord's name, for His name alone is exalted; His thanksgiving is in earth and heaven. And He shall exalt the horn of His people, a hymn for all His saints, for the children of Israel, a people who draw near to Him. [SAAS]

Psalm 149.

Sing to the Lord a new song, His praise in the assembly of His holy ones. Let Israel be glad in Him who made him, and let the children of Zion greatly rejoice in their King. Let them praise His name with dance; with

tambourine and harp let them sing to Him; for the Lord is pleased with His people, and He shall exalt the gentle with salvation. The holy ones shall boast in glory, and they shall greatly rejoice on their beds; the high praise of God shall be in their mouth and a two-edged sword in their hand, to deal retribution to the nations, reproving among the peoples, to shackle their kings with chains and their nobles with fetters of iron, to fulfill among them the written judgment: This glory have all His holy ones. [SAAS]

Psalm 150.

Praise God in His saints; praise Him in the firmament of His power; praise Him for His mighty acts; praise Him according to the abundance of His greatness. Praise Him with the sound of a trumpet; praise Him with the harp and lyre; praise Him with timbrel and dance; praise Him with strings and flute; praise Him with resounding cymbals; praise Him with triumphant cymbals; let everything that breathes praise the Lord. Alleluia. [SAAS]

Glory to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Both now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Doxology *(read)*

To you belongs glory, O Lord our God, and to you we send up glory, to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen. Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will to men. We praise you, we bless you, we worship you, we glorify you, and we thank you, for your great glory. Lord, King, Heavenly God, Father Almighty; only-begotten Son, Lord Jesus Christ and Holy

Spirit. Lord God, the Lamb of God, the Son of the Father, who take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us, you who take away the sins of the world. Accept our supplication, you who sit at the right of the Father, and have mercy on us. For you are the only Holy One, you are the only Lord, Jesus Christ, to the glory of God the Father. Amen. Every day I shall bless you, and I shall praise your name forever, and unto the ages of ages. Lord, you have become for us a refuge from generation to generation. I have said: Lord, have mercy on me, heal my soul, for I have sinned against you. Lord, to you I have fled; teach me to do your will, for you are my God. For with you is the fountain of life; in your light we shall see light. Extend your mercy to those who know you. Grant, O Lord, that in this day we may be kept without sin. Blessed are you, O Lord, the God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified is your name unto the ages. Amen. Let your mercy, Lord, come upon us, just as we have hoped in you. Blessed are you, O Lord, teach me your commandments. Blessed are you, O Master, make me understand your commandments. Blessed are you, O Holy One, enlighten me with your commandments. Lord, your mercy remains forever, do not turn away from the works of your hands. To you belongs praise, to you belongs a hymn, to you belongs glory, to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

DEACON

Let us complete our morning prayer to the Lord.

(Lord, have mercy.)

Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and protect us, O God, by Your grace.

(Lord, have mercy.)

That the whole day may be perfect, holy, peaceful, and sinless, let us ask the Lord.

(Grant this, O Lord.)

For an angel of peace, a faithful guide, a guardian of our souls and bodies, let us ask the Lord.

(Grant this, O Lord.)

For pardon and remission of our sins and transgressions, let us ask the Lord.

(Grant this, O Lord.)

For that which is good and beneficial for our souls, and for peace for the world, let us ask the Lord.

(Grant this, O Lord.)

That we may complete the remaining time of our life in peace and repentance, let us ask the Lord.

(Grant this, O Lord.)

And let us ask for a Christian end to our life, peaceful, without shame and suffering, and for a good defense before the awesome judgment seat of Christ.

(Grant this, O Lord.)

Commemorating our most holy, pure, blessed, and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.

(To You, O Lord.)

PRIEST

For You are the God of mercy and compassion and love for mankind, and to You we give glory, to the Father and the Son and

the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to ages of ages.

(Amen.)

PRIEST

Peace be with all.

(And with your spirit.)

DEACON

Let us bow our heads to the Lord.

(To You, O Lord.)

PRIEST *(in a low voice)*

Holy Lord, dwelling on high and beholding things below and, with your eye that observes all, keeping watch over the whole creation, to you we have bowed the neck of our soul and body, and we beseech you, O Holy of Holies: Stretch forth your invisible hand from your holy dwelling and bless us all. And, as you are good and love humankind, pardon us if we have sinned in anything, voluntarily or involuntarily, granting us your blessings both of this world and of the world above.

PRIEST

For Yours it is to show mercy and to save us, O our God, and to You we give glory, to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to ages of ages.

(Amen.)

From Octoechos - - -

CHOIR

Aposticha of the Octoechos.

Mode 1.

To You, who were nailed to a cross, and who granted us life, our Savior and Master, we sing praises unceasingly. ^[SD]

Verse: *We were filled with Your mercy in the morning, and in all our days we greatly rejoiced and were glad; gladden us in return for the days You humbled us, for the years we saw evil things.*

And behold Your servants and Your works, and guide their sons. [SAAS]

By means of Your Cross, O Christ, there is now one flock and one Church, of Angels and humans. Heaven and earth are exultant. Glory to You, O Lord. [SD]

Verse: *And let the brightness of the Lord our God be upon us, and prosper for us the works of our hands.* [SAAS]

O Martyrs extolled in all the world, neither tribulation nor distress, neither persecution nor famine, neither flogging nor angry beasts, neither sword nor threat of fire, could separate you from God. Rather, moved by your love for Him, you competed as though you were not in your own bodies, and in scorning death your eluded nature. Therefore you have worthily received the reward for your labors, and you have become heirs of the kingdom of heaven. We pray you never cease interceding on behalf of our souls.

[SD]

Glory. Both now. **Stavrotheotokion.**

Mode 1. *For the celestial orders.*

Logos of God, when your Mother, the rational Ewe, * stood by Your Cross, she cried out as she loudly lamented, *"How is it, my Son, that You die on a cross? Sweetest light of my eyes, alas! * Where has the fairness and handsomeness of Your face, * which surpasses that of all men, now set?" [SD]

PRIEST

It is good to give thanks to the Lord and to sing to Your name, O Most High, to proclaim Your mercy in the morning and Your truth at night. [SAAS]

READER

Trisagion Prayers.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. (3)

Glory to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Both now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

All-holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, forgive our sins. Master, pardon our transgressions. Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for your name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Glory to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Both now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

PRIEST

For Thine is the Kingdom and the power and the glory, of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

(Amen.)

CHOIR

Apolytikion. For the Martyrs.

Mode 4. *Come quickly.*

Your Martyrs, O Lord, were worthily awarded by You * the crowns of incorruption, in that they contested for You our immortal God. * Since they possessed Your power, they

defeated the tyrants, * dashing the demons' powerless displays of defiance. * O Christ God, at their fervent entreaties, save our souls.

[SD]

From Octoechos - - -

Glory. Both now. **Theotokion.**

Mode 4.

We magnify you, O Theotokos, and cry out: You are the bush in which, without being burnt, Moses saw, as a flame, the fire of Divinity. [SD]

DEACON

Have mercy on us, O God, according to Your great mercy, we pray You, hear us and have mercy.

(Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.)

Let us pray for pious and Orthodox Christians.

(Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.)

Again we pray for (episcopal rank) (name).

(Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.)

Again we pray for our brethren: the priests, the hieromonks, the hierodeacons, the monastics, and all our brotherhood in Christ.

(Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.)

Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, protection, forgiveness, and remission of the sins of the servants of God, all pious Orthodox Christians residing and visiting in this city: the parishioners, the members of the parish council, the stewards, and benefactors of this holy church.

(Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.)

Again we pray for the blessed and ever-memorable founders of this holy church, and for all our fathers and brethren who have fallen asleep before us, who here have been piously laid to their rest, as well as the Orthodox everywhere.

(Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.)

Again we pray for those who bear fruit and do good works in this holy and all-venerable church, for those who labor and those who sing, and for the people here present who await Your great and rich mercy.

(Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.)

PRIEST

For You are a merciful God Who loves mankind, and to You we offer up glory, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

(Amen.)

DEACON

Wisdom.

(Father, bless!)

PRIEST

Blessed are You, Christ our God, always now and forever and to the ages of ages. *(Amen.)*

Make firm, Lord our God, the holy and pure faith of the pious Orthodox Christians, together with the Holy Church and this city forever.

READER

Amen.

Greater in honor than the Cherubim, and in glory greater beyond compare than the

Seraphim; you without corruption gave birth
to God the Word, and are truly Theotokos.
You do we magnify.

Glory to the Father and the Son and the
Holy Spirit. Both now and ever and to the ages
of ages. Amen.

Lord, have mercy. (3) Father, bless!

PRIEST

May Christ our true God, through
the intercessions of His all-pure and all-
immaculate holy Mother, the power of the
precious and life-giving Cross, the protection
of the honorable, bodiless powers of heaven,
the supplications of the honorable, glorious
prophet and forerunner John the Baptist, of
the holy, glorious, and praiseworthy apostles,
of the holy, glorious, and triumphant martyrs,
of our righteous and God-bearing fathers,
(local patron saint); of the holy and righteous
ancestors of God Joachim and Anna, and of all
the saints, have mercy on us and save us, for
He is good and loves mankind.

Through the prayers of our holy fathers,
Lord Jesus Christ, our God, have mercy on us
[and save us].

(Amen.)