

**Vesper Propers, December 27, 2009**

**The Sunday after Christmas:**

**The Commemoration of the Holy and Righteous Joseph the Betrothed,  
David the King, and James the Brother of God**

**THE HOLY APOSTLE, FIRST MARTYR, AND ARCHDEACON STEPHEN**, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit. First of seven deacons, whom the Apostles chose to be fellow-laborers in the ministry, he was also the first of the disciples of the Lord to pour out his blood at Jerusalem. He provided testimony for Christ Jesus, whom he saw standing in glory at the right hand of the Father. He was covered over by stones while praying for his persecutors.

*Supplement for The Order of Vespers for Sundays After Pentecost, 2006*

*Lamplighting Psalms in the Tone of the Week (Tone 5, p. 69), stichera 10-8.*

**Cantor:** (Tone 2) Let your ears be attentive  
(on 7) to the voice of my pleading.

**Sticheron of the Nativity of Our Lord - Tone 2 samohlasen**

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Come, let us re-joyce in the Lord; let us pro-claim the pres-ent mys-te-ry  
by which the partition has been broken and the flam-ing sword with-held. Now the  
Cher-ubim shall let us all come to the Tree of Life. As for me, I  
am returning to the bliss of Par-a-dise from which I had been banished by  
dis-o-be-dience. Be-hold! The Im-age of the Father and his unchangeable

e - ter - ni - ty has tak - en the form of a serv - ant.

With-out suf - fer - ing he has come forth to us from an all-pure Vir - gin, and

yet he has re-mained un - changed. He is true God as he was be-fore,

and he has tak - en on himself what he had not been, be-com-ing man out of

his love for all. There-fore, let us raise our voices in hymns sing - ing:

O God, born of the Vir - gin, have mer - cy on us.

**Cantor:** (Tone 1) If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt, Lord, who would survive?  
(on 6) But with you is found forgiveness; for this we revere you.

**Stichera of the Relatives of the Lord - Tone 1 samohlasen**

Let us praise Da - vid the King, the an-ces-tor of God, be-cause from him came forth

the branch who is the Vir - gin. From her bloomed the Flow - er, Christ,

by stoning at the hands of sin - ners, you re-ceived a crown from God's right hand

while you cried out: Lord, do not hold this sin a - gainst them.

**Cantor:** Glory...

**Troparion of the Nativity of the Lord - Tone 4**

Your birth, O Christ our God, has shed up - on the world the light of

knowl - edge; for through it, those who wor-shipped the stars have learned from

a star to worship you, the Sun of Jus - tice, and to know you, the Dawn

from on High. Glo - ry to you, O Lord!

of sins and of the heav'n-ly king - - - dom.

**Troparia**

*Troparion of the Resurrection in the Tone of the Week (Tone 5, page 80), then:*

**Troparion of the Relatives of the Lord - Tone 2**

Jo-seph, pro-claim the won - ders you have seen to Da-vid, the fore - fa-ther  
of God: the Vir - gin has giv - en birth; you have giv - en glo - ry  
with the shep - herds and wor-shipped with the wise men; you have  
been in-struct-ed by the an - gel. Ask Christ our God to save our souls.

**Cantor:** (Tone 4) Glory...

**Troparion of the holy first martyr Stephen - Tone 4**

First - mar-tyr and a - pos - tle of Christ, you fought the good fight.  
You con - vict - ed the tyrants of their wick - ed - ness. When you were killed

who sum - moned Adam and Eve from cor - rup - - - tion. He is  
com - pas - sion - ate to all.

**Cantor:** My soul is longing for the Lord, I count on his word.  
(on 5) My soul is longing for the Lord, more than watchman for daybreak.

In his ad-vanced years, Jo-seph clear-ly saw the pro-phe-cies ful-filled.  
It was tru - ly a strange be-troth - al; and he re-ceived a revelation from the  
an-gels who cried out: Glo-ry to God who sent down peace up - on  
the world.

**Cantor:** Let the watchman count on daybreak  
(on 4) and Israel on the Lord.

Let all of us praise the relative of the Lord, the a - pos - tle James, who brave-ly  
suf - fered martyrdom as a bish - op. By his prayers, O Christ our God,

who was wrapped in swad-dling clothes in the cave, save all those  
who ex - tol you.

**Cantor:** (Tone 4) Because with the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.  
(on 3) Israel indeed he will redeem from all its iniquity.

**Stichera of the holy first martyr Stephen - Tone 4 samohlasen**

Hav-ing been enlightened by the grace of the Spir - it, O Stephen, in appearance  
you seemed to be an an - gel. Your body was bright with in - ner splen - dor,  
and you re - vealed a radiance of soul to the on - look - ers. Be - cause of  
that, you also had a vi - sion of the Light; heav - en was most gloriously o - pened  
up for you, O first of the great mar - - - tyrs.

**Aposticha**

*Aposticha in the Tone of the Week (Tone 5, page 77), concluding with:*

**Cantor:** (Tone 6) Glory...

**Aposticha doxastikon of the Relatives of the Lord - Tone 6 samohlasen**

The re-mem-brance of your na - tiv - i - ty brings happiness to priests and might  
to kings. Let us al - so boast of it and say: Our Fa - ther who art in  
heav - en, hal - lowed be thy name, O Lov - er of us all.

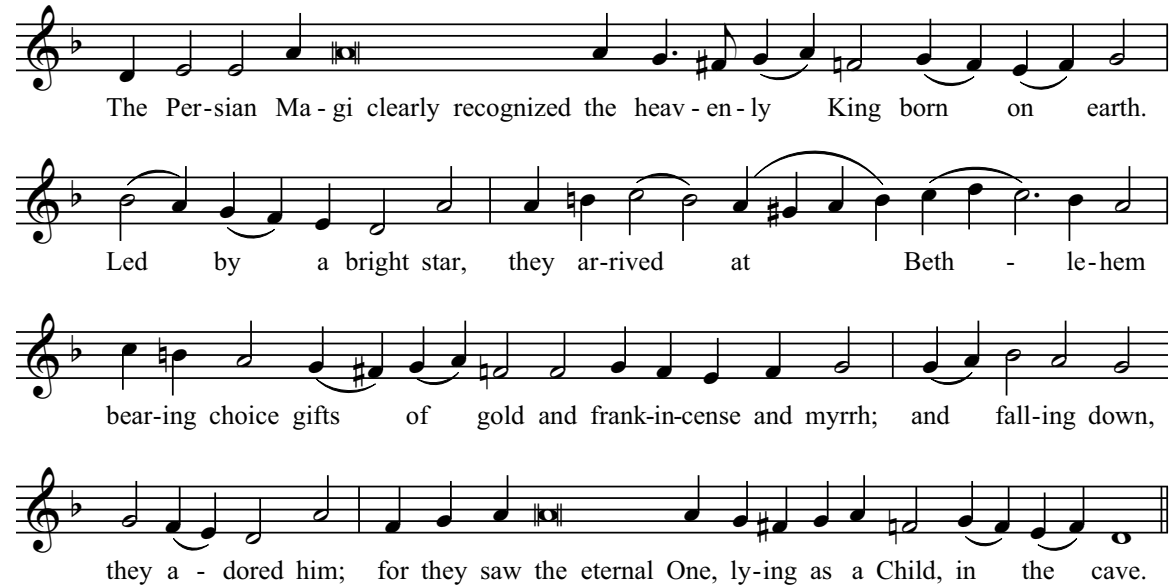
**Cantor:** Now and ever...

**Aposticha doxastikon of the holy first martyr Stephen - Tone 6 samohlasen**

You showed yourself, O A - pos - tle Ste - phen, to be the first of the martyrs and of the  
dea - cons. You are the glo - ry of the just, and the pride of the faith - ful.  
As one standing before the throne of Christ, the King of all, in be - half of those who  
cel - e - brate your mem - o - ry, pray that they may be made worthy of the cleans - ing

**Cantor:** (Tone 5) Glory...

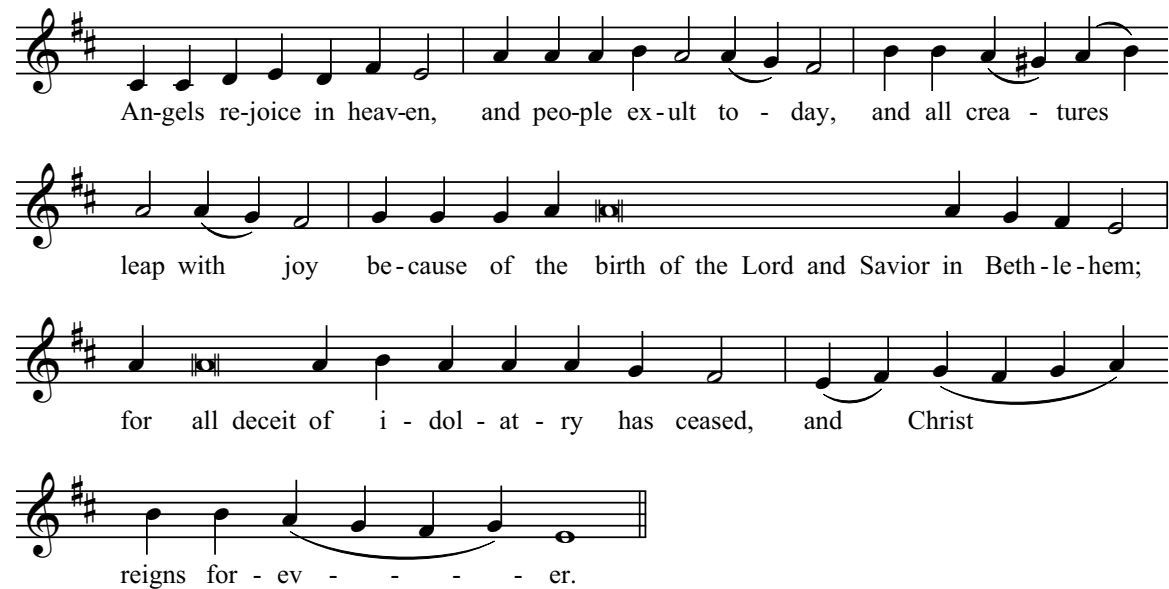
**Doxastikon - Tone 5 Bolhar**



The Per-sian Ma-gi clearly recognized the heav-en-ly King born on earth.  
 Led by a bright star, they ar-rived at Beth-le-hem  
 bear-ing choice gifts of gold and frank-in-cense and myrrh; and fall-ing down,  
 they a-dored him; for they saw the eternal One, ly-ing as a Child, in the cave.

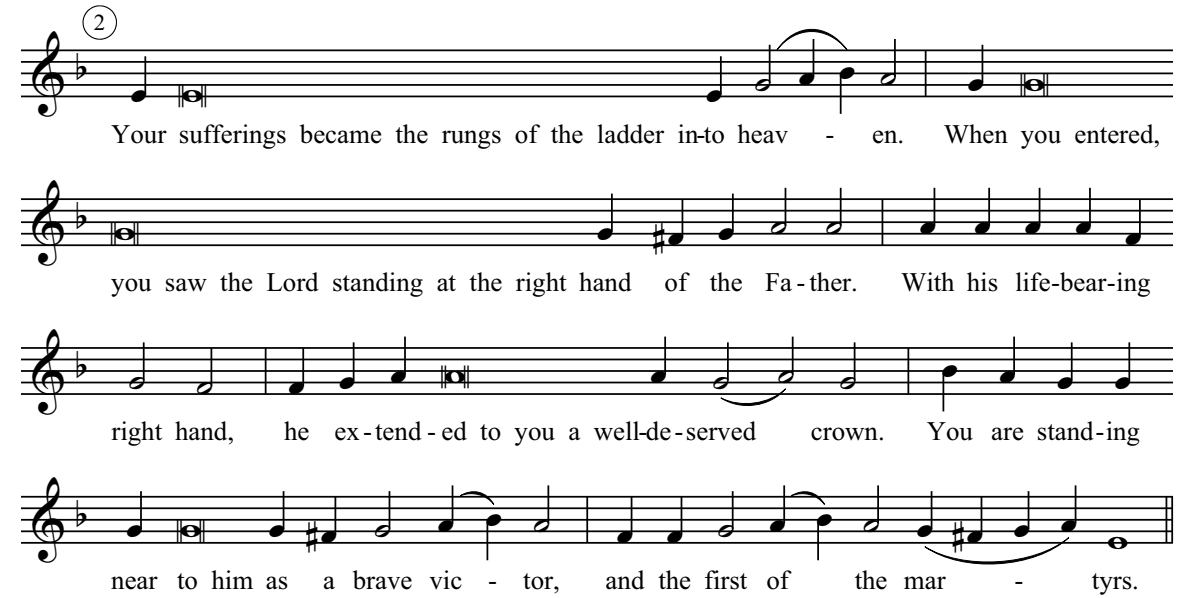
**Cantor:** (Tone 6) Now and ever...

*Tone 6 samohlasen*



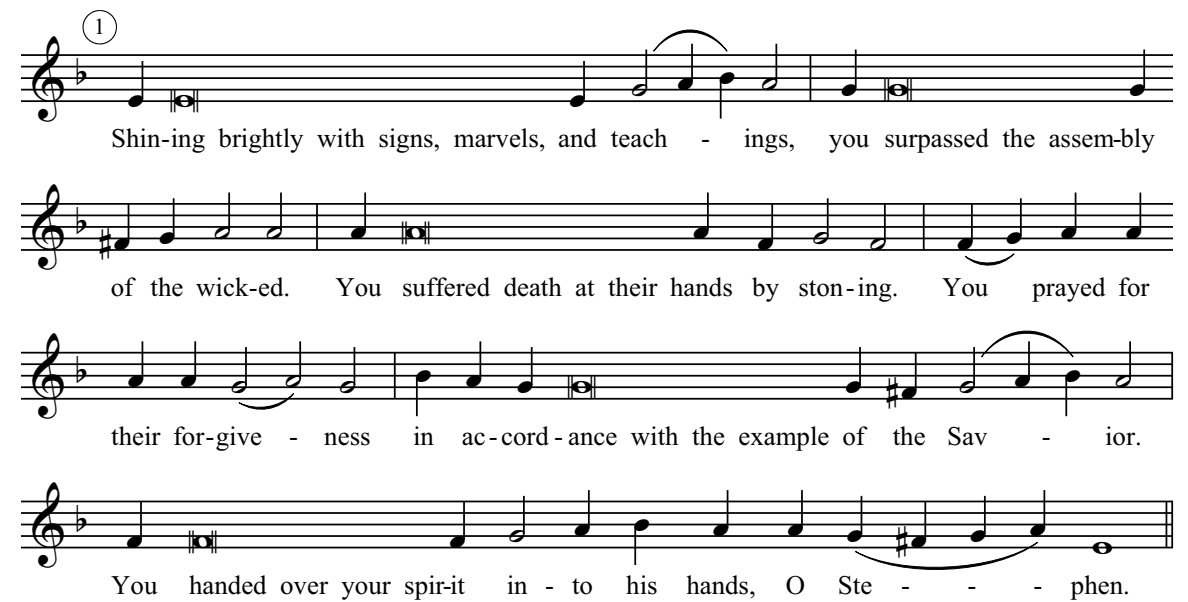
An-gels re-joice in heav-en, and peo-ple ex-ult to-day, and all crea-tures  
 leap with joy be-cause of the birth of the Lord and Savior in Beth-le-hem;  
 for all deceit of i-dol-at-ry has ceased, and Christ  
 reigns for-ev-er.

**Cantor:** Praise the Lord, all you nations; Psalm 116  
 (on 2) acclaim him, all you peoples!



Your sufferings became the rungs of the ladder in-to heav-en. When you entered,  
 you saw the Lord standing at the right hand of the Fa-ther. With his life-bear-ing  
 right hand, he ex-tend-ed to you a well-de-served crown. You are stand-ing  
 near to him as a brave vic-tor, and the first of the mar-tyrs.

**Cantor:** Strong is the love of the Lord for us;  
 (on 1) he is faithful forever.



Shin-ing brightly with signs, marvels, and teach-ings, you surpassed the assem-bly  
 of the wick-ed. You suffered death at their hands by ston-ing. You prayed for  
 their for-give-ness in ac-cord-ance with the example of the Sav-ior.  
 You handed over your spir-it in-to his hands, O Ste-phen.

Cantor: (Tone 6) Glory...

**Doxastikon of the Relatives of the Lord - Tone 6 samohlasen**

We are com-mem-orating the noble Da-vid and James, the king and prophet, the apostle and first bish - op. be-cause by their teaching we have been de-liv - ered from er - ror. Let us sing the prais-es of Christ who came forth from the Vir - gin, and be - came in - car - nate to save our souls.

Cantor: (Tone 5) Now and ever...

*Dogmatikon of the Resurrection tone in the Tone of the Week (Tone 5, page 76).*

**Litija**

*Tone 1 Bolhar*

May heav-en and earth re-joyce pro-phet - ic - 'ly this day. May an-gels and peo - ple spir - it - ually cel - e - brate, for God ap - peared in the flesh to those grop-ing in the dark-ness and rest-ing in a shad - ow. Hav-ing been born of a Vir - gin, a cave and a man - ger re-ceived him. Shep-herds re-late a mir - a - cle; the Ma-gi from the East bring gifts to Beth-le-hem, while we, with un-wor-thy lips, ren - der him an - gel - ic praise: Glo-ry to God in the high-est and peace on earth, for the hope of na - tions has ar-rived. Hav - ing come, he has saved us from hos - tile bond - age.