Having been enlightened by the grace of the Spirit, O Stephen, in appearance you seemed to be an angel. Your body was bright with inner splendor,
and you revealed a radiance of soul to the onlookers. Because of that, you also had a vision of the Light; heaven was most gloriously opened up for you, O first of the great martyrs.

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.

Your sufferings became the rungs of the ladder into heaven. When you entered, you saw the Lord standing at the right hand of the Father. With his life-bearing right hand, he extended to you a well-deserved crown. You are standing near to him as a brave victor, and the first of the martyrs.

Cantor: Let the watchman count on daybreak and Israel on the Lord.
(on 4)  
Shining brightly with signs, marvels, and teachings, you surpassed the assembly
You handed over your spirit into his hands, O Stephen.

Cantor: 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 Venerable Father and Confessor Theodore - Tone 4

O venerable Theodore, to the wounds of scourging were added the wounds of your exile. The one who unlawfully held the throne, cruelly disdained the teachings of faith, and hurled down the precious icon of the Savior, was put to shame by you, defender of Christ.

Cantor: Praise the Lord, all you nations; acclaim him, all you peoples!

Psalm 116
O Father Theodore, neither prison, anguish or darkness, neither wounds nor beatings could separate you from the love of God; neither harsh illness nor unbearable pain; neither scarcity of food nor all you suffered, O preacher of God. You foresaw the reward for your labors.

Cantor: Strong is the love of the Lord for us; he is faithful forever.

In stead of tribulation and pain, you received rest and joy; instead of darkness, radiance was granted to you. Indeed, O wonderful one, because of the markings that were carved on your face, you were inscribed in the Book of Life. You were committed to the church of the first-born in the highest and you have joyfully joined the choir of the angels.
Shining brightly, Stephen comes forth to the King of the universe and the Master born on earth. He is not adorned with precious stones, but with garments crimsoned in his own blood. O lovers of the martyrs, come forth.

Let us make a bouquet of our sacred hymns; with heads covered in flowers, let us sing: O Proto-martyr, you illumined your soul with wisdom and grace.

Ask Christ God to grant each of us peace and great mercy.

Theotokion

A great and glorious miracle was wrought to day: the Virgin gives birth without corrupting her virginity; the Word is made flesh without
separation from the Father; the angels and shepherds give praise, and we exclaim with them: Glory to God in the high-est and peace on earth.

Apostich

Of the post-feast - Tone 1

The One who shone forth from the Father from all eternity, and who is ever-present with the Father, in these later times is now in the arms of a mother as though seated upon a throne. Let us now sing to him who is adored by the angels, shepherds and Magi.

Cantor

Before the day-star, like the dew, I have begotten you. The Lord has sworn and he will not repent.
O faithful, having come together in Bethlehem, we see, lying in a crib, the Creator of all. From the land of Chaldea comes an excellent triple gift; it is offered to him as King and God. For our sake he was also dead for three days.

Cantor

The Lord said to my Lord: Sit at my right hand.

You were born of the Virgin in a cave; the angels were present and cried out:

Glory to you, O God, in the highest; for you were born from the womb of a Virgin and Mother ever pure, in the form of a servant who renewed the world.
You showed yourself, O Apostle Stephen, to be the first of the martyrs and of the deacons. You are the glory of the just, and the pride of the faithful.

As one standing before the throne of Christ, the King of all, in behalf of those who celebrate your memory, pray that they may be made worthy of the cleansing of sins and of the heavenly kingdom.

Angels rejoice in heaven, and people exult today, and all creatures leap with joy because of the birth of the Lord and Savior in Bethlehem; for all deceit of idolatry has ceased, and Christ reigns forever.
First martyr and apostle of Christ, you fought the good fight.

You convicted the tyrants of their wickedness. When you were killed by stoning at the hands of sinners, you received a crown from God's right hand while you cried out: Lord, do not hold this sin against them.

Cantor:  
(Tone 8) Glory...

Guide to Orthodoxy, teacher of piety and holiness, luminary for the world, inspired adornment of bishops, O wise Theodore, harp of the Spirit, you enlightened all by your teachings;
intercede with Christ our God to save our souls.

Cantor: (Tone 4) Now and ever...

Troparion of the Nativity - Tone 4

Your birth, O Christ our God, has shed upon the world the light of knowledge, for through it, those who worshipped the stars have learned from a star to worship you, the Sun of Justice, and to know you, the Dawn from on high. Glory to you, O Lord!