

**Vesper Propers, December 27**  
**Postfestive Day of the Nativity of Our Lord**

**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.

**Our venerable father and confessor Theodore of Apamea** in Bithynia, a monk of the laura of St. Sabbas in Palestine, priest and martyr. In Constantinople with his brother St. Theophane (the Hymnographer) he endured much in the defense of the Holy Images. He endured scourging, prisons, exile, and even brands on his forehead, for which reason he was called Graptus. He expired in prison. (845)

*Supplement for The Order of Vespers for Sundays After Pentecost, 2006*  
*"O Lord, I have cried" is sung in Tone 4, page 58.*

Bring my soul out of this prison  
and then I shall praise *your* name.

Around me the just will assemble  
because of your goodness *to* me.

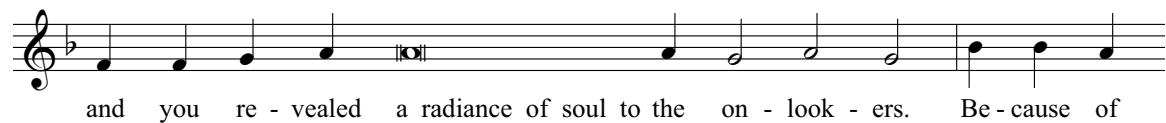
Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord;  
Lord, hear *my* voice!

Let your ears be attentive  
to the voice of *my* pleading.

**Cantor:** 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 Stephen, the First Martyr - Tone 4 samohlasen**

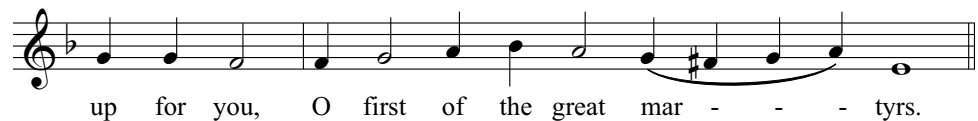
Hav - ing been enlightened by the grace of the Spir - it, O Stephen, in appearance  
you seemed to be an an - gel. Your body was bright with in - ner splen - dor,



and you re - vealed a radiance of soul to the on - look - ers. Be - cause of

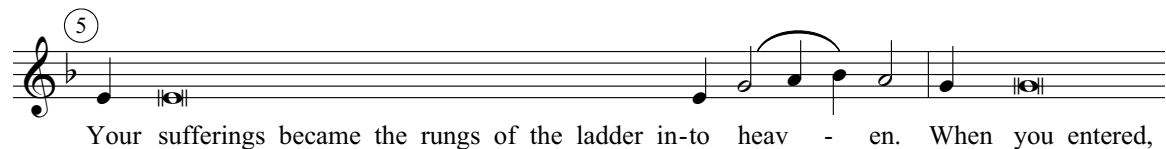


that, you also had a vi - sion of the Light; heav - en was most gloriously o - pened

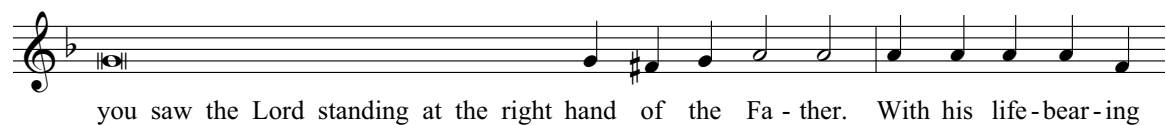


up for you, O first of the great mar - - - tyrs.

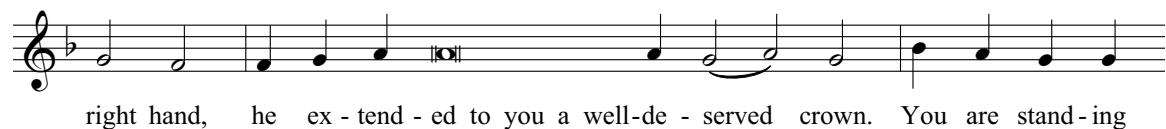
**Cantor:** My soul is longing for the Lord, I count on his word.  
(on 5) My soul is longing for the Lord, more than watchman for daybreak.



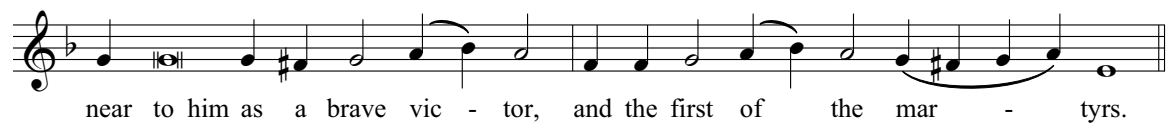
5  
Your sufferings became the rungs of the ladder in-to heav - en. When you entered,



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



4  
Shin - ing brightly with signs, marvels, and teach - ings, you surpassed the assem - bly

in - ter - cede 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 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 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:** 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 venera-ble The - o - dore, to the wounds of scourging were added the wounds

of your ex - ile. The one who unlawfully held the throne, cruel-ly dis-dained

the teach-ings of faith, and hurled down the precious icon of the Sav - ior,

was put to shame by you, de - fend - er of Christ.

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

②

O Fa-ther The - o - dore, nei - ther prison, an - guish or dark - ness, nei - ther  
wounds nor beat - ings could sep - arate you from the love of God; nei - ther harsh  
ill - ness nor un - bear - a - ble pain; nei - ther scarcity of food nor all you suffered, O  
preach - er of God. You foresaw the re - ward for your la - - bors.

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

①

In - stead of trib - u - la - tion and pain, you re - ceived rest and joy; in - stead  
of darkness, radiance was grant - ed to you. In - deed, O won - der - ful one,  
be - cause of the markings that were carved on your face, you were inscribed in the  
Book of Life. You were com - mit - ed to the church of the first - born in the high - est  
and you have joyful - ly joined the choir of the an - gels.

## Troparia

### Troparion of the Holy 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  
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.

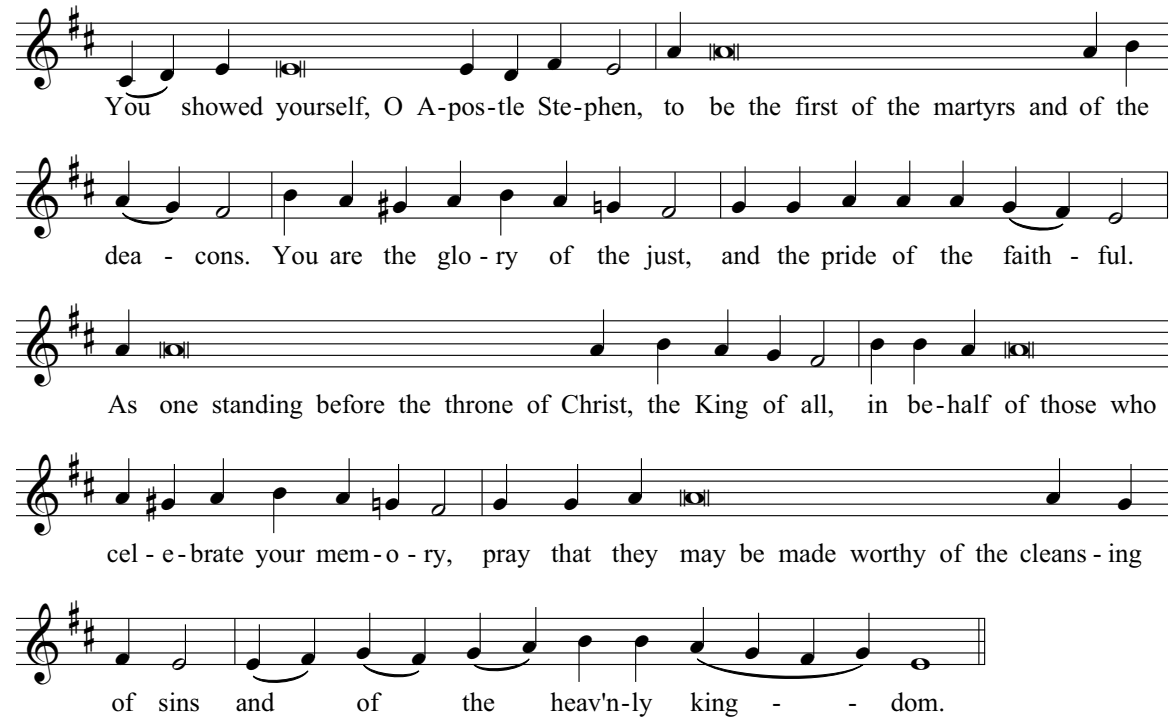
**Cantor:** (Tone 8) Glory...

### Troparion of the Venerable Father and Confessor Theodore - Tone 8

Guide to Or - tho - dox - y, teach - er of pi - e - ty and ho - li - ness,  
lu - mi - nar - y for the world, in - spired  
a - dorn - ment of bish - ops, O wise The - o - dore, harp of the  
Spir - - - it, you en - light - ened all by your teach - ings;

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

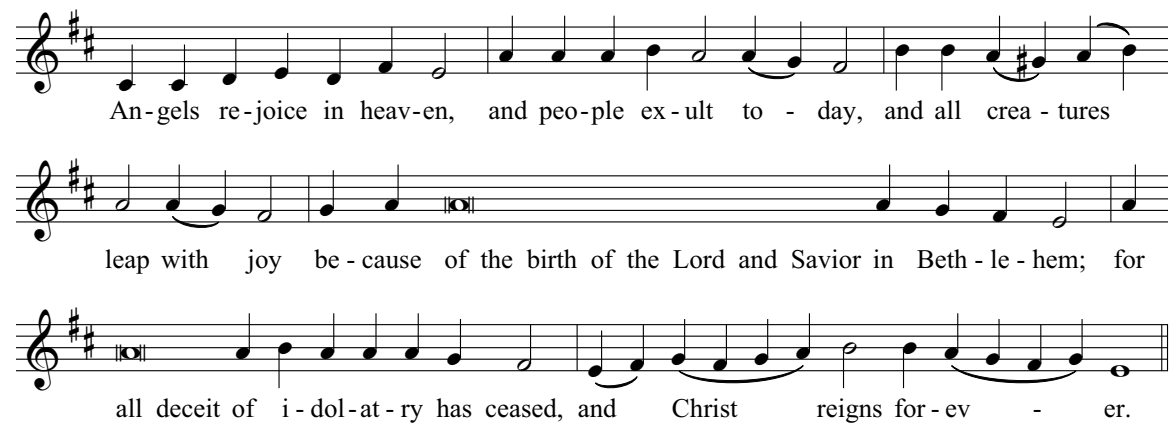
**Aposticha Doxastikon of the Holy Martyr Stephen - Tone 6**



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

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

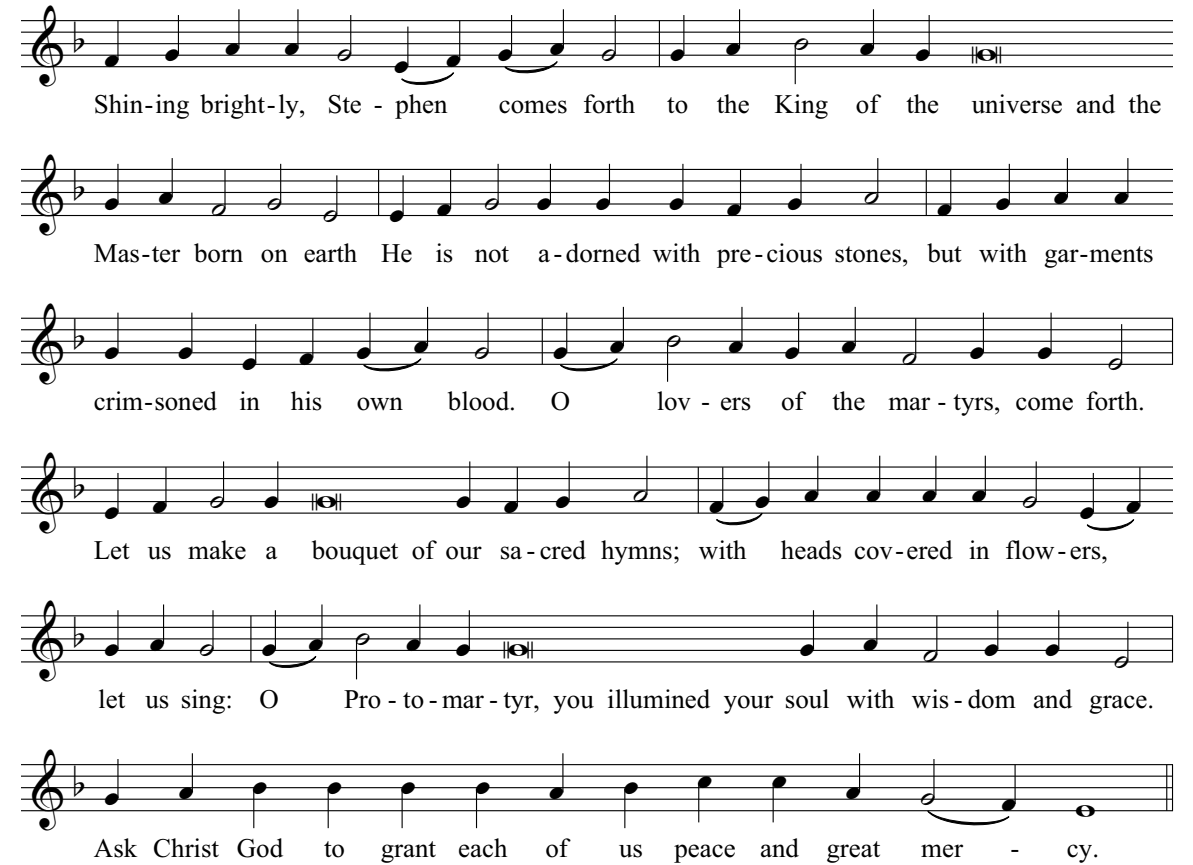
**Theotokion**



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:** (Tone 2) Glory...

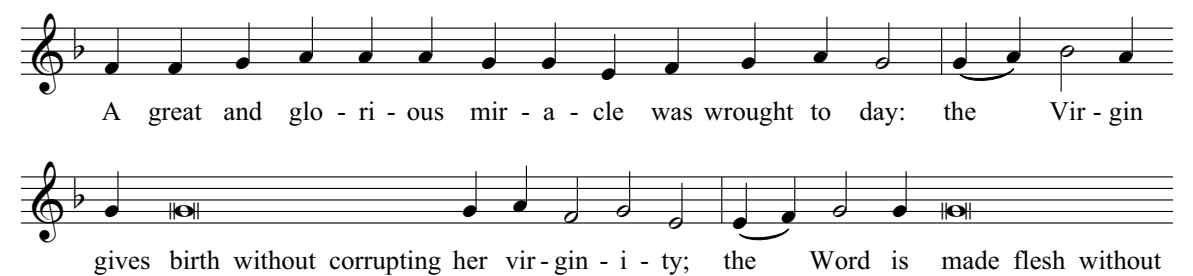
**Doxastikon of the Holy Martyr Stephen - Tone 2**



Shin-ing bright-ly, Ste - phen comes forth to the King of the universe and the  
Mas-ter born on earth He is not a-dorned with pre-cious stones, but with gar-ments  
crim-soned in his own blood. O lov - ers of the mar - tyrs, come forth.  
Let us make a bouquet of our sa-cred hymns; with heads cov-ered in flow-ers,  
let us sing: O Pro - to - mar - tyr, you illumined your soul with wis - dom and grace.  
Ask Christ God to grant each of us peace and great mer - cy.

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

**Theotokion**



A great and glo - ri - ous mir - a - cle was wrought to day: the Vir - gin  
gives birth without corrupting her vir - gin - i - ty; the Word is made flesh without

separa-tion from the Fa - ther; the an - gels and shepherds give praise, and we  
ex - claim with them: Glo-ry to God in the high-est and peace on earth.

**Aposticha**

**Of the post-feast - Tone 1**

The One who shone forth from the Father from all e - ter - ni - ty, and who is  
ev - er-present with the Fa - ther, in these la - ter times is now in the arms  
of a moth - er as though seat-ed up-on a throne. Let us now sing to him  
who is a - dored by the an - gels, shep-herds and Ma - - gi.

*Cantor*

Be - fore the day - star, like the dew, I have begotten you. The Lord has sworn and  
he will not re - pent.

O faith - ful, having come togeth-er in Beth - le - hem, we see, ly - ing in a crib,  
the Cre - a - tor of all. From the land of Chaldea comes an ex-cel - lent tri - ple gift;  
it is of-fered to him as King and God. For our sake he was al - so  
dead for three days.

*Cantor*

The Lord said to my Lord: Sit at my right hand.  
You were born of the Vir-gin in a cave; the an - gels were pres-ent and cried out:  
Glo-ry to you, O God, in the high - est; for you were born from the womb  
of a Virgin and Moth - er ev - er - pure, in the form of a serv - ant who  
re - newed the world.