

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!

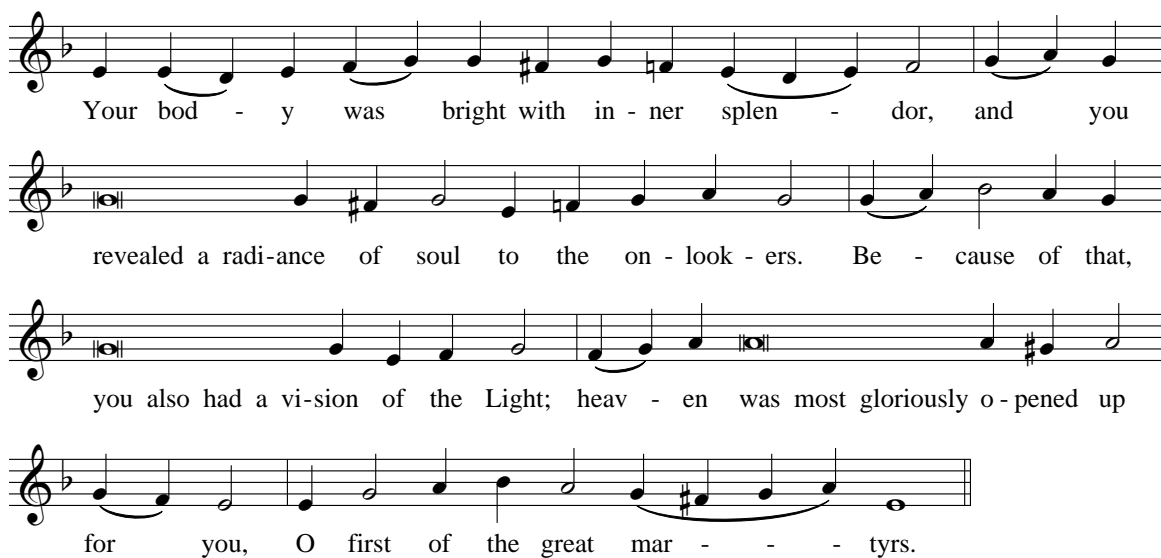
Let your ears be attentive
to the voice of *my* pleading.

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 podoben: Jako dobl'a

⑥

Hav - ing been en - light - ened by the grace of the Spir-it,
O Ste - phen, in ap - pear - ance you seemed to be an an - gel.



Your bod - y was bright with in - ner splen - dor, and you
 revealed a radi-ance 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 - - - tyr's.

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 suf - fer - ings be - came the rungs of the lad - der in - to
 heav - en. When you en - tered, 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 - ser - ved crown. You are stand - ing
 near to Him as a brave vic - tor and the first of the mar - - - tyr's.

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

④

Shin - - ing bright - ly with signs, mar - vels, and teach - ings,
you sur - passed the assembly of the wick - ed. You suf - fered 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 hand - ed o - ver your spir - it
in - to his hands, O ho - - - ly 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 podoben: Jako dobl'ja

③

O ve - ne - ra - ble The - o - dore, to the wounds of scourging were added the wounds
of your ex - ile. The one who unlaw - ful - ly held the throne, cru - el - ly dis - dained
the teach - ings of faith, and hurled down the pre - cious i - con 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!

O Fa - ther The-o-dore, nei-ther pri-son, an-guish or dark - ness, nei-ther

wounds nor beat - ings could sep-a-rate you from the love of God; nei-ther harsh

ill - ness nor un - bear - a - ble pain; nei-ther the scar-ci - ty 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.

In - stead of trib - u - la - tion and pain, you re - ceived rest and joy; in - stead

of darkness, radi-ance was grant-ed to you. In - deed, O won-der - ful one,

be-cause of the mark-ings that were carved on your face, you were in-scribed

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.

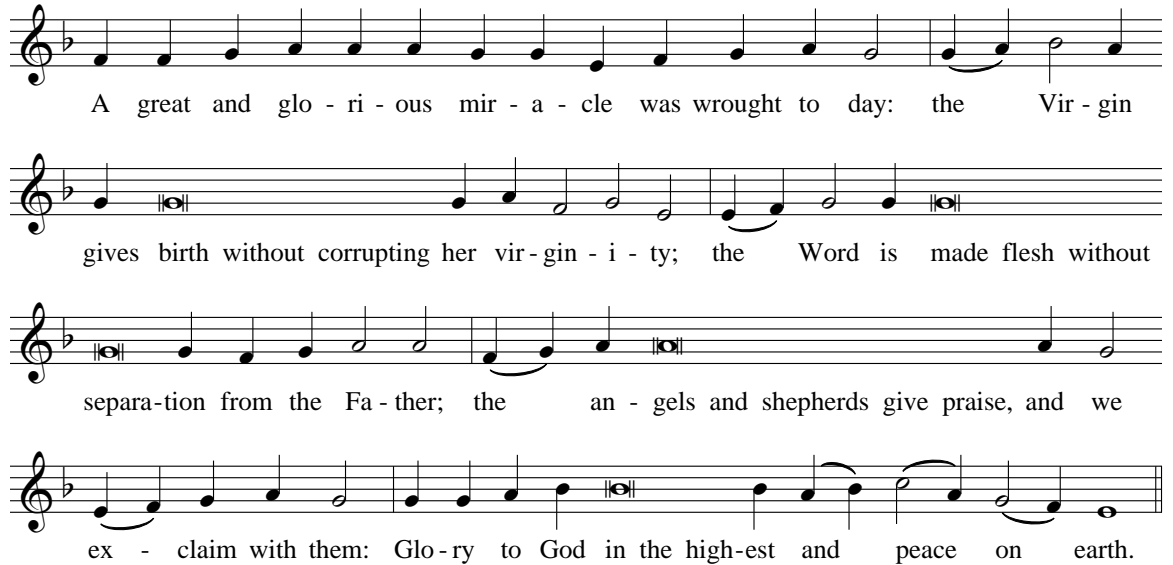
Cantor: (Tone 2) Glory...

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...

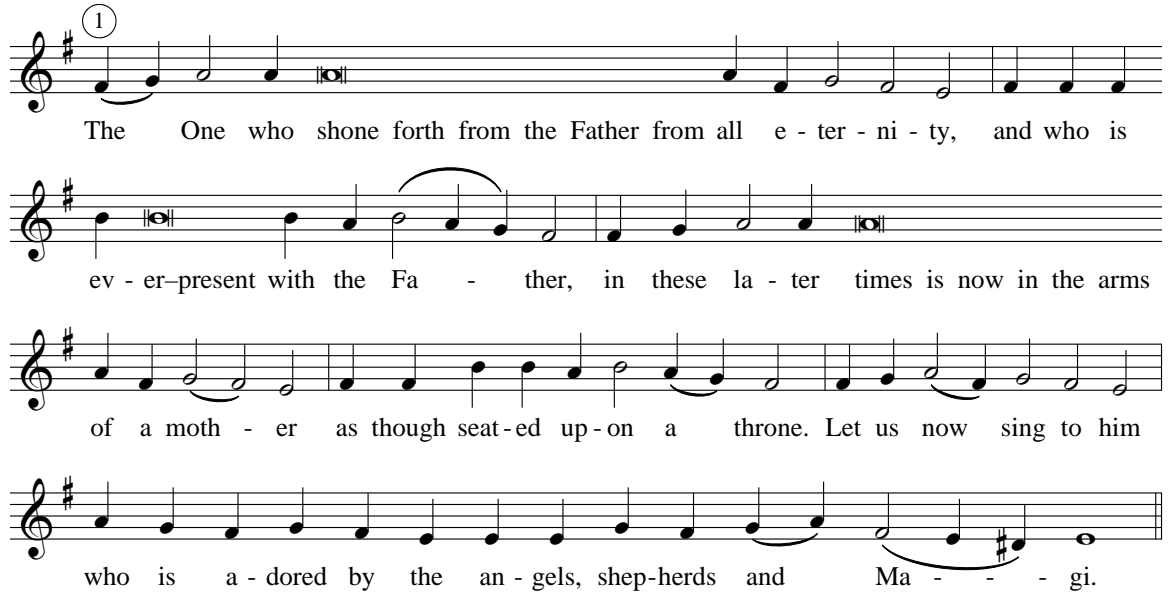
Theotokion



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.

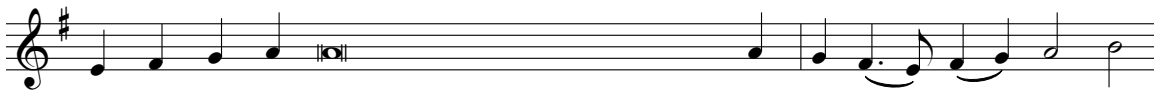
Aposticha

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.

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.

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;
 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!