Moleben to the Holy Apostle, Protomartyr, and Archdeacon Stephen

Priest: Blessed is our God, always, now and ever and forever.

Response: 

A - men.

Glo - ry to you, our God, glo - ry to you.

Heavenly King, Comforter, Spirit of Truth,
everywhere present and filling all things,
Treasury of Blessings and Giver of Life,

come and dwell within us,
cleanse us of all stain,
and save our souls, O gracious One.

During the Paschal season, omit "Glory to you" and "Heavenly King" and sing three times:

Christ is ris - en from the dead! By death he tram-pled death,

and to those in the tombs he gran- ted life.

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy and Immortal,

have mercy on us. (3 times)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,

now and ever and forever. Amen.
Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us;
Lord, cleanse us of our sins;
Master, forgive our transgressions;
   Holy One, come to us and heal our infirmities for your name's sake.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
now and ever and forever.  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, Father, Son, and
Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.

Response:  

Glory to the Father, and to the the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
now and ever and forever.  Amen.
Come, let us worship our King and God. Come, let us worship Christ, our King and God.

Come, let us worship and bow before the only Lord Jesus Christ, the King and our God.

Psalm 142

O Lord, listen to my prayer: turn your ear to my appeal.
You are faithful, you are just; give answer.

Do not call your servant to judgment
for no one is just in your sight.

The enemy pursues my soul;
he has crushed my life to the ground;

he has made me dwell in darkness
like the dead, long forgotten.

Therefore my spirit fails;
my heart is numb within me.

I remember the days that are past:
I ponder all your works.

I muse on what your hand has wrought
and to you I stretch out my hands.
Like a parched land my soul thirsts for you.

Lord, make haste and answer;
for my spirit fails within me.
Do not hide your face
lest I become like those in *the* grave.

In the morning let me know your love
for I put my trust *in* you.

Make me know the way I should walk:
to you I lift up *my* soul.

Rescue me, Lord, from my enemies;
I have fled to you *for* refuge.

Teach me to do your will
for you, O Lord, are *my* God.

Let your good spirit guide me
in ways that are level *and* smooth.

For your name's sake, Lord, save my life;
in your justice save my soul from *distress*.

In your love make an end of my foes;
destroy all those who oppress me
for I am your servant, *O* Lord.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit:
now and ever and forever. *Amen.*

*Three times, each with a reverence:*
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Glory to you, *O* God!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Glory to you, *O* God!

*The third time, with melody:*

\[
\text{Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Glo - ry to you, O God!}
\]
The deacon chants on one tone:

Deacon: The Lord is God and has revealed himself to us; blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Response: The Lord is God and has revealed himself to us; blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

The deacon remains at the ambon and chants the verses. If there is no deacon, the priest remains at the holy doors and chants the verses.

Deacon: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his love endures forever.

Response: repeat "The Lord is God..."

Deacon: They encircled me, compassed me about; in the Lord's name I crushed them.

Response: repeat "The Lord is God..."

Deacon: I shall not die, I shall live and recount the deeds of the Lord.

Response: repeat "The Lord is God..."

Deacon: The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. This is the work of the Lord, a marvel in our eyes.

Response: repeat "The Lord is God..."
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: Glory...now and ever...

The mystery hidden from all ages and unknown to the angels has been made known to those on earth through you, O Theotokos.

God has taken flesh in a union without confusion, and willingly accepted the Cross for us; whereby he raised the first-formed Adam and saved our souls from death.
We extol you, O holy martyr Stephen, and we honor your precious sufferings which you endured for Christ.

The deacon chants the following verses, and the faithful repeat the Exaltation after each verse.

Verse: God is for us a refuge and strength, a helper close at hand in times of distress.

Verse: We went through fire and water, but then you brought us relief.

Verse: Many are the trials of the just one, but from them all the Lord will rescue him.

Verse: The just will rejoice in the Lord and fly to him for refuge. All the upright hearts will glory.

Verse: Glory...now and ever...

Then three times, each with a reverence:

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! Glory to you, O God!

All repeat "We extol you..."
The just man will flourish like the palm tree and grow like a cedar of Lebanon.

Deacon: Planted in the house of the Lord, he will flourish in the courts of our God.

All repeat the prokeimenon

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: For you are holy, O our God, and you dwell in the holy place, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.

Response: Amen.
Deacon: Let everything that lives and that breathes give praise to the Lord!

Response: Let everything that lives and that breathes give praise to the Lord,

give praise to the Lord!

Deacon: Praise God in his holy place; praise him in his mighty heavens.

All repeat "Let everything that lives..."

Deacon: That we may be deemed worthy of hearing the holy Gospel, let us pray to the Lord, our God.

Response: Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Wisdom! Let us stand and listen to the holy Gospel.

Priest: Peace be to all!

Response: And to your spirit.

Priest: A reading of the holy Gospel according to Luke

Response: Glory to you, O Lord, glory to you.
Deacon: Let us be attentive.

Priest: [Luke 12:2-12 - Friday of the 24th Week after Pentecost]

Response:

Cantor: (Tone 6) Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.


Cantor: (Tone 4) Have mercy on me, O God, in your kindness.
In your compassion blot out my offense.

Cantor: 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-i-or.

You handed over your spir-it in-to his hands, O Ste-phen.

Ode 9 - Irmos

Re-joice, O I-sai-ah! The Vir-gin was with child and bore a Son, Em-ma-nu-el. He is God and man:

His name is Ris-ing of the Sun. By ex-tol -ling him, we bless, we bless the Vir-gin.

Refrain

Ho-ly Pro-to-mar-tyr Ste-phen, pray to God for us.
O Stephen, you have surpassed all the degrees of praise, and with every word you carried away trophies of victory. For the human mind is incapable of weaving a crown of praise worthy of you. 

Refrain

O, the blessed voice with which you held forth, O Stephen! Lay not this sin to the charge of my murderers, O Master Christ, you cried: But, as you are my God and Creator, receive my spirit as a sacrifice of most sweet scent. 

Refrain

You received recompense for your sufferings: a victor's wreath from the right hand of the Almighty, and now, O most blessed one, standing before the King of all, with glory and grace crown them that praise you. 

Refrain

O Stephen, you have surpassed all the degrees of praise, and with every word you carried away trophies of victory. For the human mind is incapable of weaving a crown of praise worthy of you. 

Refrain

O, the blessed voice with which you held forth, O Stephen! Lay not this sin to the charge of my murderers, O Master Christ, you cried: But, as you are my God and Creator, receive my spirit as a sacrifice of most sweet scent. 

Refrain

You received recompense for your sufferings: a victor's wreath from the right hand of the Almighty, and now, O most blessed one, standing before the King of all, with glory and grace crown them that praise you.

The lector chants the verses recitando:

The timeless Son, begotten of the Father, has received from the Virgin a beginning of existence in time. Slain for his sake, Stephen, the imitator of Christ, has now inherited everlasting life from its origin.
Then we sing the Hymn to the Theotokos:

"It is truly proper to glorify you, O Theotokos, the ever-blessed, immaculate, and the mother of our God. More honorable than the Cherubim and beyond compare more glorious than the Seraphim, who, a Virgin, gave birth to God the Word; you, truly the Theotokos, we magnify."

During the Paschal season, “Shine in splendor” is sung in place of “It is truly proper.”

Trisagion Prayers

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

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
now and ever and forever. Amen.

Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us; Lord, cleanse us of our sins; Master, forgive our transgressions; Holy One, come to us and heal our infirmities for your name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
now and ever and forever. 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 glory,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.


Troparion - Tone 6 (adapt.):

Have mer - cy on us, O Lord, have mer - cy on us: since we have no
de-fense, we sin - ners offer this supplica-tion to you, our Mas - ter;
have mer - cy on us.

Glo - ry to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spir - it.
Lord, have mercy on us, for in you we place our hope.

Be not exceeding ly angry with us, nor mindful of our transgressions, but look upon us even now with mercy, and deliver us from our enemies. For you are our God and we are your people: we all are the work of your hands, and we call upon your name.

Now and ever and forever. Amen.

O - pen unto us the doors of mercy, O blessed The - o - to - kos.

Let us not perish who place our trust in you, but rather through you be delivered
from mis-fortune. For you are the sal-va-tion of all Chris-tians.

Litany of Fervent Supplication

Deacon:    Have mercy on us, O God, according to your great mercy, we pray you, hear and have mercy.

Response:  

Deacon:    Again we pray for our holy father, (Name), pope of Rome, and for our most reverend metropolitan, (Name), for the God-loving bishop, (Name), for those who serve and have served in this holy church, for our spiritual fathers, and for all our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Response:  

Deacon:    Again we pray for our government and for all in the service of our country.

Response:  

(Special petitions may be inserted here if desired.)

Deacon:    Again we pray for the people here present who await your great and abundant mercy, for those who show us mercy, and for all Christians of the true faith.
Response:

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

Priest: For you are a merciful and loving God, and we give glory to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.


Deacon: Bowing our heads in humility, let us pray.

Response: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: Holy Apostle Stephen, you shone forth as the first deacon and the first martyr. You were full of faith and strength in teaching and great works. No one was able to oppose what you said in wisdom and spirit, for your face shone like that of an angel. Therefore, you were full of the Holy Spirit, and saw the heavens open, and the divine glory of the Son of Man, our Lord Jesus Christ standing at the right hand of God the Father. Then, out of cruelty and murderous intent, those standing by took up stones to kill him, as he knelt and cried out in a loud voice, “Father, do not hold this sin against them,” and thus you joyfully gave up your spirit to your Lord Jesus. Therefore, because of your prayers and intercession for them, we too pray to you, bending the knees of our soul and heart: raise your hands before the Lord, and, by the intercession and protection of his most holy virgin mother, bring the whole human race to her Son, and always pray for us, who are troubled by sins and laziness.
Priest: Give us the grace of timely aids to repentance, and by the intercession and assistance of your most holy mother, on that fearful and just day, that we may not stand before him in our sins, but in his compassionate love and mercy, and that he may say to our soul: I am your salvation forever and ever.

Response:

A - men.

Dismissal
(In Paschal time, see page 25)

Deacon: Wisdom!

Response:

Give the bles - sing.

Priest: Blessed is Christ our God, the One-Who-Is, always, now and ever and forever.

Response:

A - men. O God, strengthen the true faith, for - ev - er and ev - er.

Priest: O most holy Theotokos, save us!

Response:

More honorable than the cheru-bim, and beyond compare more glorious than the sera-phim,

who, a virgin, gave birth to God the Word, you, truly the Theotokos, we mag - ni - fy.
Priest: Glory to you, O Christ God, our hope; glory to you!

Response:

Glo-ry to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spir-it; now and ever and for ev-er.

A-men. Lord, have mercy, Lord have mercy, Lord, have mer-cy. Give the bless-ing.

Priest: May Christ our true God, have mercy on us and save us through the prayers of his most pure Mother; through the prayers of the holy, glorious, and illustrious apostle, protomartyr and archdeacon Stephen, [of the holy saint of the day], and through the prayers of all the saints; for Christ is good and loves us all.

Response:

A - men. O God, strengthen the true faith, for-ev-er and ev-er.

Priest: O most holy Theotokos, save us!
Response:

Shine in splendor, O new Jerusalem; for the glory of the Lord is risen upon you. O Zion, now dance and be glad; and you, pure Theotokos, rejoice in the resurrection of your Son.

Priest: Glory to you, O Christ God, our hope; glory to you!

Response:

Christ is risen from the dead! By death he trampled death; and to those in the tombs he granted life. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Give the blessing.

Priest: May Christ our true God, have mercy on us and save us through the prayers of his most pure Mother; through the prayers of the holy, glorious, and illustrious apostle, protomartyr and archdeacon Stephen, [of the holy saint of the day], and through the prayers of all the saints; for Christ is good and loves us all..

Response: Amen.