

DIVINE LITURGY PROPER FOR JULY 23RD

Saint Stephen Byzantine Catholic Church

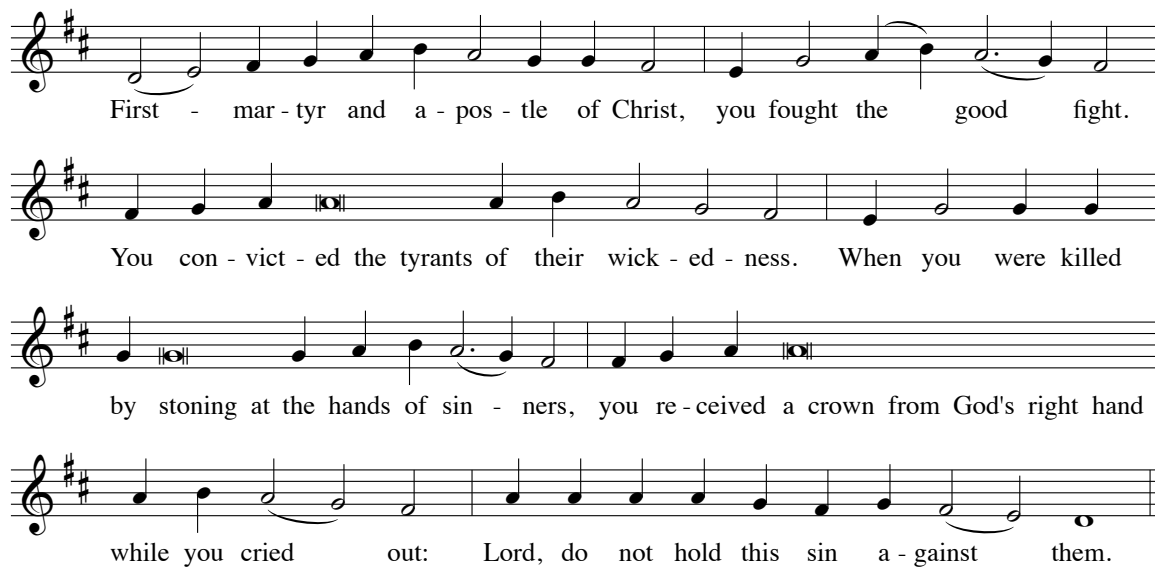
The holy martyrs Trophimus and Theophilus and their companions suffered martyrdom by beheading during the reign of the emperor Diocletian. (4th century)

Blessed Basil Hopko, Bishop of Medila, son of Anna Petrenko and Basil Hopko, poor, landless peasants. His father died when the boy was just a year old, and when he was four his mother emigrated to the United States to look for work. Educated in Hungary, graduating with honors in 1923. Trained at the Eparchial Seminary, Prjashev, Czechoslovakia. He had dreams of joining his mother in the United States, and of pursuing his vocation there, but the cost of recurring health problems left him unable to afford to travel. When he finally decided to serve in his native land, he was suddenly cured, and realized he was been given a sign about his calling. Ordained on 3 February 1929. Parish priest in Prague where he was noted for a mission to the poor, the unemployed, and to students. Taught at the Eparchial Seminary in Prjashev. Awarded the title of Monsignor in 1936. Doctor of Theology in 1940. Auxiliary bishop of Prjashev on 11 May 1947. Arrested on 28 April 1950 as part of the Communist government's suppression of the Greek Catholic Church. He was kept on starvation rations and tortured for weeks, he was eventually given a show trial and sentenced to 15 years for the "subversive activity" of staying loyal to Rome. He was repeatedly transferred from prison to prison, and continually abused. His health, physical and emotional, failed, and in 1964 he was transferred to a home for the aged and kept under guard there. Though he managed to overcome severe depression, and went on to minister to a group of 120 nuns imprisoned at the home, he never recovered his physical health. On 13 June 1968 his original eparchy was restored, but a group of activists insisted that a Slovak bishop be appointed to the see, and Basil was removed. Deep divisions occurred throughout the eparchy, not all of which have yet been settled. Father Basil died without being able to resume leadership of his flock. His death was a direct result of imprisonment, and he is considered one of the many martyred by Communism.

The holy martyrs Appolinaris and Vitalis, bishops of Ravenna. While spreading the unsearchable riches of Christ among the nations, Appolinaris was a good pastor who went before his flock (cf John 10:4) It is said that he was decorated with the glorious honor of martyrdom at the church of Classis near Ravenna in Flaminia. He is said to have been the first bishop of Ravenna. On this day, it is said, it was commanded by God that a famous basilica be built under the name of Vitalis, bishop at Ravenna in Flaminia, in that city. Because of his undaunted faith, tenaciously held, he has been honored from time immemorial with the holy martyrs Valeria, Gervasius, Protasius and Ursicinus. (2nd century)

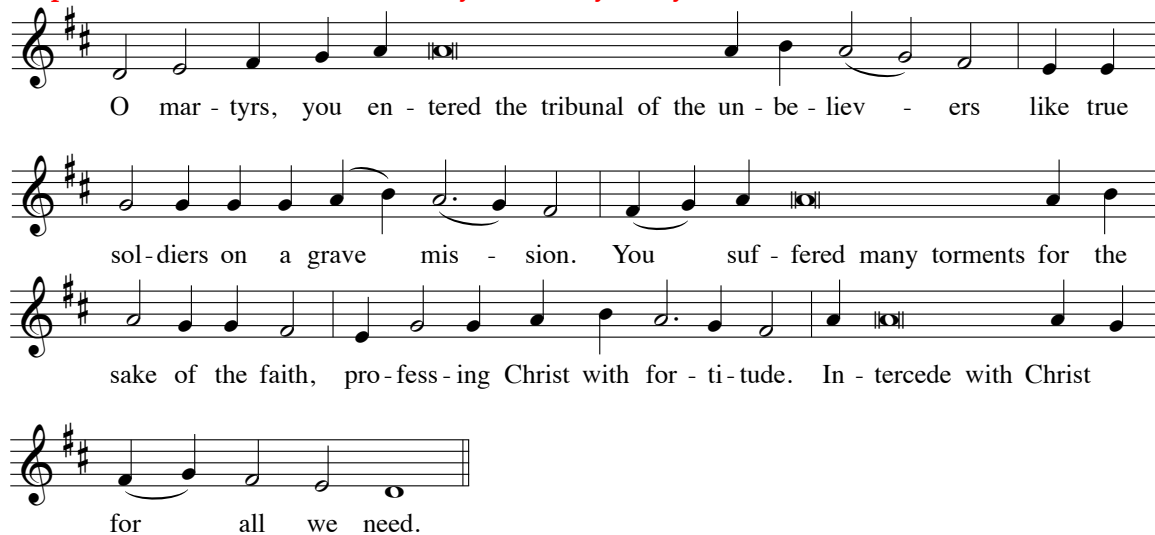
Our holy father Sharbel (Joseph) Makhlof, priest of the Lebanese Maronite Church. Desirous of strict solitude and a higher perfection, he withdrew from the monastery of Annaias in Lebanon to a hermitage. There he served God in the greatest austerity of life, fasting and praying to God day and night. His wonder-working is well known by the faithful. (1898)

Troparion of the Patron of the Church – The holy apostle, martyr, and deacon Stephen – *Tone 4*



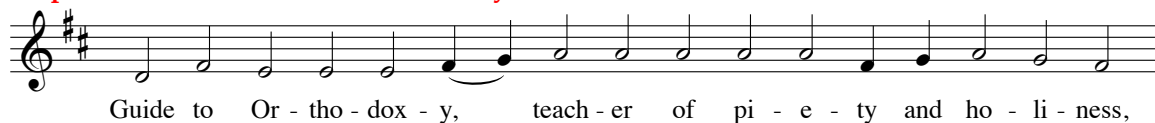
First - mar - tyr and a - pos - tle of Christ, you fought the good fight.
You con - vict - ed the tyrants of their wick - ed - ness. When you were killed
by stoning at the hands of sin - ners, you re - ceived a crown from God's right hand
while you cried out: Lord, do not hold this sin a - gainst them.

Troparion of the First Saint of the Day – The holy martyrs – *Tone 4*



O mar - tyr, you en - tered the tribunal of the un - be - liev - ers like true
sol - diers on a grave mis - sion. You suf - fered many torments for the
sake of the faith, pro - fess - ing Christ with for - ti - tude. In - tercede with Christ
for all we need.

Troparion of the Second Saint of the Day – Blessed Basil – *Tone 8*



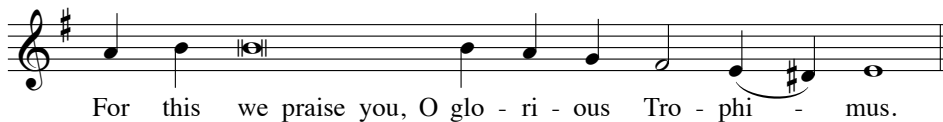
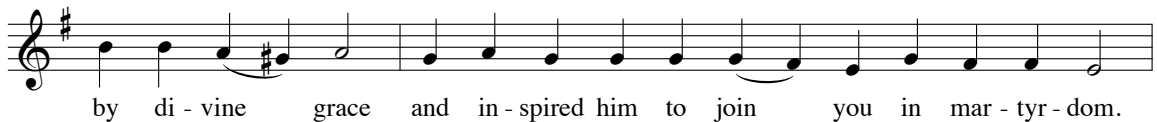
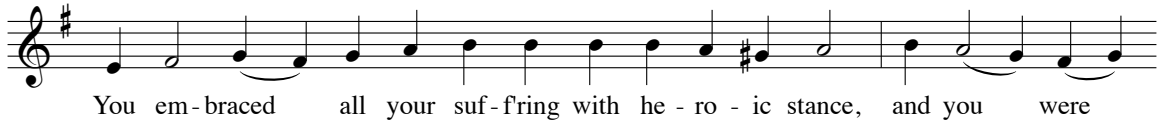
Guide to Or - tho - dox - y, teach - er of pi - e - ty and ho - li - ness,



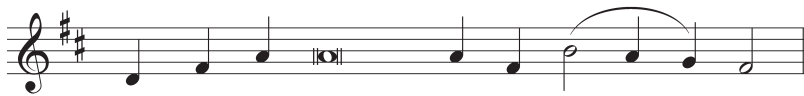
Cantor (Tone 1):



Kontakion of the First Saint of the Day – The holy martyrs – Tone 1



Cantor (Tone 6):



Now and ev - er and for-ev - er. A - men.

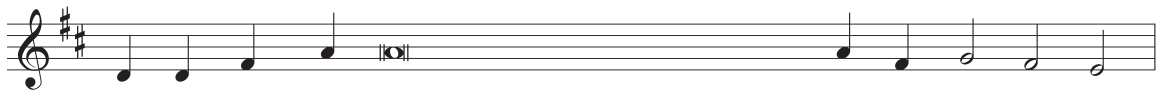
Theotokion – Tone 6:



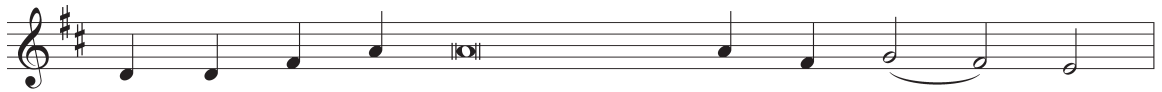
Stead-fast Pro - tec-tress of Chris - tians, un - shak - able Mediatrix before the



Cre - a - tor, do not de - spise the prayerful voic-es of sin - ners;



but in your good - ness hurry to assist those who faithful-ly cry out to you.



Has - ten to in - tercede and heed our sup - pli - ca - tion,



in - ter - ced - ing always, Theotokos, in behalf of those who hon - or you.

Prokeimenon for the Martyrs - Tone 4 (Psalm 15:3,8):



To all the saints in his land, the Lord has shown all the



won - ders of his will.

Verse: I set the Lord ever before me; with him at my right hand I shall not be disturbed.

Alleluia for the Martyrs - Tone 4 (Psalm 33:18,20):




Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - - - ia!

Verse: When the righteous cried out, the Lord heard; and from all distress he saved them.

Verse: Many are the troubles of the righteous, but from them all the Lord will rescue them.


Communion Hymn for the Martyrs (Psalm 32:1):

D




Re-joyce in the Lord, you righ - teous ones; praise from the up-right,

Refrain



the up - right is fit-ting. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!



Al - - le - lu - ia!

Format 3: Two Saints on a Weekday