

Sunday Matins Propers ~ December 27th, 2020

Sunday after Christmas

Commemoration of the Holy & Just Joseph the Betrothed, David the King, & James the Brother of God

The Holy Apostle, Protomartyr, & Archdeacon Stephen, our Patron


in the Fifth Tone with the Gospel for our Patron

Hexapsalmos


*The reader chants only **Psalm 37** on page 2 followed by "Glory..." on page 6.*

Matins continues with the Litany of Peace on page 7.

The Lord is God – Tone 5 (page 9)




The Lord is God and has re-vealed him-self to us; bless-ed is




he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Troparia (page 9)

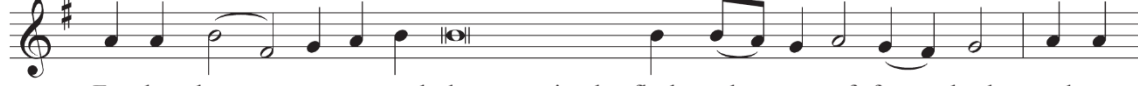
Troparion of the Resurrection – Tone 5




O faith-ful, let us praise and a-dore the Word e-ter-nal with the Fa-ther



and the Spir - it, and born of the Vir-gin for our sal-va - tion.



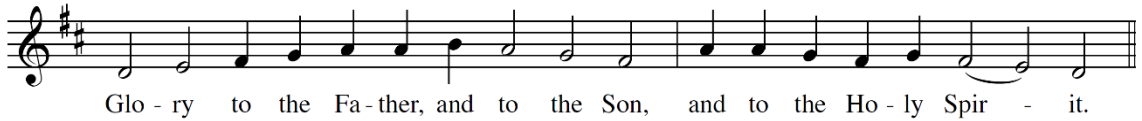
For he chose to as-cend the cross in the flesh and to suf-fer death, and to



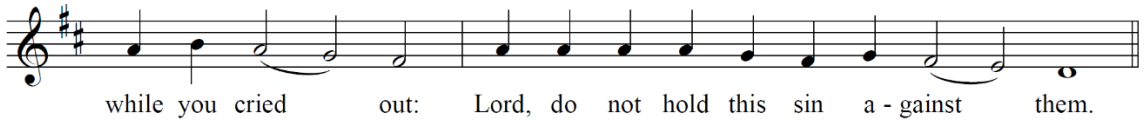
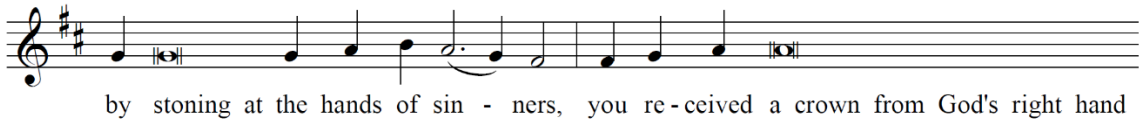
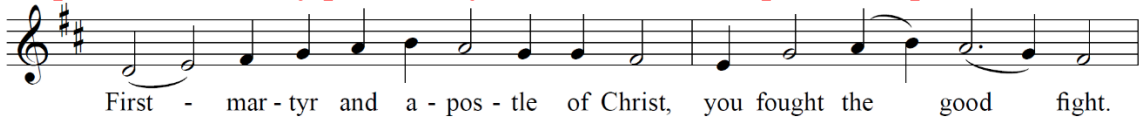
raise the dead by his glo-ri-ous res-ur-rec - - - tion.

The repetition of this Troparion is omitted.

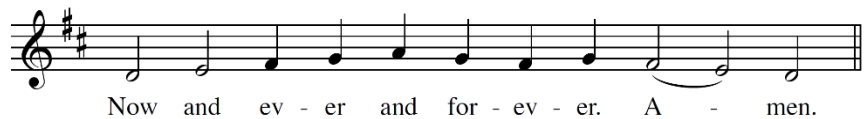
Cantor (*Tone 4*):



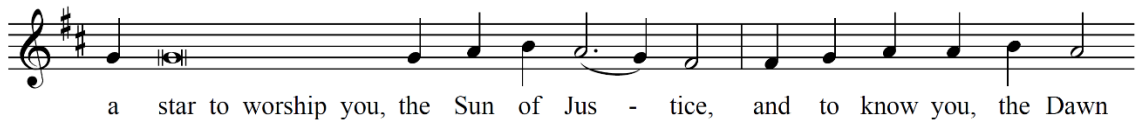
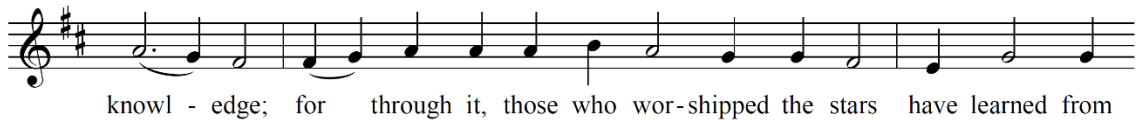
Troparion of the holy protomartyr & archdeacon Stephen, our patron – Tone 4



Cantor (*Tone 4*):



Troparion of the Nativity – Tone 4





Kathismata (page 10)

People: Lord, have mercy (*three times*)
Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit

Reader: Now and ever and forever. Amen.

from the Second Kathisma:

Psalm 15

Preserve me, God, I take refuge in you. I say to you Lord: "You are my God. My happiness lies in you alone." To all the saints in his land, the Lord has shown all the wonders of his will. Those who choose other gods increase their sorrows. Never will I offer their offerings of blood. Never will I take their name upon my lips. O Lord, it is you who are my portion and cup; it is you yourself who are my prize. The lot marked out for me is my delight: welcome indeed the heritage that falls to me! I shall bless you, Lord, you give me counsel, and even at night direct my heart. I set the Lord ever before me; with him at my right hand I shall not be disturbed. And so, my heart rejoices, my soul is glad; even my body shall rest in safety. For you will not leave my soul among the dead, nor let your beloved know decay. You will show me the path of life, the fullness of joy in your presence, at your right hand happiness forever.

Reader: Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit

People: Now and ever and forever. Amen.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! Glory to you, O God! (*three times*)

Matins continues with the Small Litany on page 10.

Sessional Hymn (page 11)

the Theotokion of the first set of Sessional Hymns in Tone 5:

Re-joice, O ho - ly moun-tain which the Lord as-cend - ed! Re-joice,
O liv-ing bush, un - con-sumed by the fire! Re-joice, on - ly bridge reach-ing
from the world to God and lead-ing the dead to e - ter - nal life!
Re-joice, O pure one free of cor-rup - tion; you gave birth with-out the
aid of man to the Sav - ior of the world!

Matins continues with the Polyeleos on page 12.

Festal Exaltation (page 14)

After the Polyeleos, we sing the exaltation and enthrone the icon of St. Stephen.

We extol you, * O holy Protomartyr Stephen, * and we honor your precious sufferings ** which you endured for the sake of Christ.

verse: God is our refuge and strength unto generation and generation.

verse: Glory... now and ever...

Three times

Al - le - lu - ia. al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, glo - ry to you. O God.

"Hosts of Angels..." is omitted & Matins continues with the Small Litany on page 21.

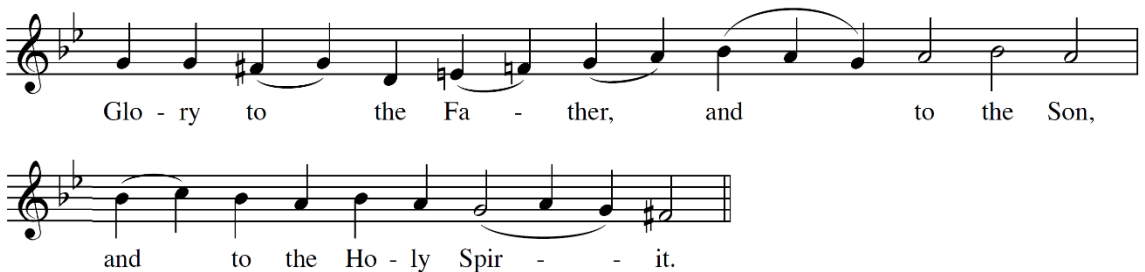
Ἡψαλμὸς (page 21)

Tone 5



The minds of the myrrh-bearing women were dazzled by the an-gel - ic vi - sion,
and their souls were il - lu - mined by the di - vine Res - ur - rec - tion.
There-fore they spoke to the a - pos - tles, say - ing: De - clare
to the na - tions the Re-sur - rec - tion of the Lord who works his
won - ders with us and be - stows on us great mer - cy.

Cantor (*Tone 3*):



Glo - ry to the Fa - ther, and to the Son,
and to the Ho - ly Spir - it.

Sedalion (Sessional Hymn) from the Menaion (Tone 3):

She who conceived without seed * gives birth to the Deliverer; * Magi come to worship Life, * and men and angels give glory. * The manger and the cave offer gifts, * raising a hymn to the newborn Babe, ** the pre-eternal God.

Cantor (Tone 4):



Sedalion (Sessional Hymn) from the Menaion (Tone 4):

How can He who is without limits be contained in a womb? * How can He that is in the bosom of the Father rest in the arms of a Mother? * He knows all things as He has been well-pleased and has willed; * for, though incorporeal, He willingly became incarnate, * and for our sake became that which He had not been, * and, without departing from His essence, * partook of our nature. * Christ has been twice begotten, ** wishing to fill the world on high!

Stepenna (page 21)

The Stepenna (Gradual Hymns) are omitted & Matins continues with the Prokeimenon on p. 22.

Prokeimenon (page 22) (Tone 4 ~ Psalm 91:13, 14)

The Prokeimenon is for the Protomartyr.

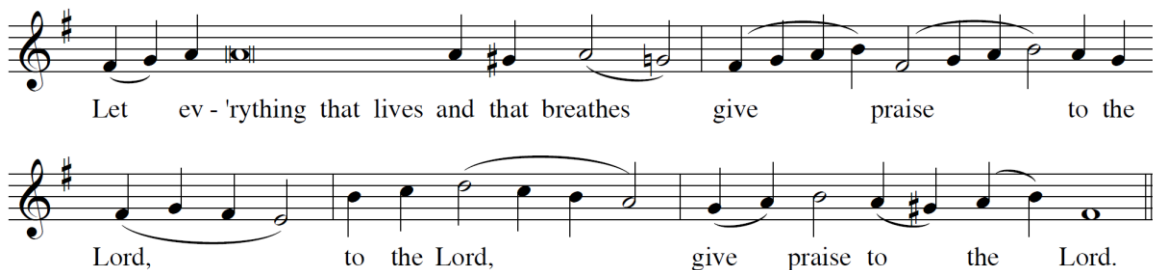
The just man will flourish like the palm tree * and grow like a cedar of Lebanon.

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

Matins continues with the Preparation for the Gospel ("Let us pray...") on page 22.

Let everything that lives... (page 22)

Tone 5



The Preparation for the Gospel continues with "That we may be deemed..." on page 23.

The Gospel for St. Stephen is read (Luke 12:2-12).

The Hymn of the Resurrection is sung (p. 24) and then Psalm 50 (p. 26).

The usual stichera at Psalm 50 (p. 28) are sung.

The Canon (page 32)

Tone 4

*The faithful **come forward** to venerate the Gospel Book on the tetrapod & be **anointed**.*

Odes 1-4 are omitted & the Canon of the Protomartyr continues with Ode 5.

(The Canons of the Resurrection from the Oktoechoes & of the Nativity are omitted)

Ode 5

Irmos

Tone 5

O Lord, you are clothed with light as with a cloak; I keep watch be - fore
you and cry out to you: Il - lu - mine the dark-ness of my soul,
O Christ, be-cause of your great love.

Refrain: Holy Protomartyr Stephen, pray to God for us.

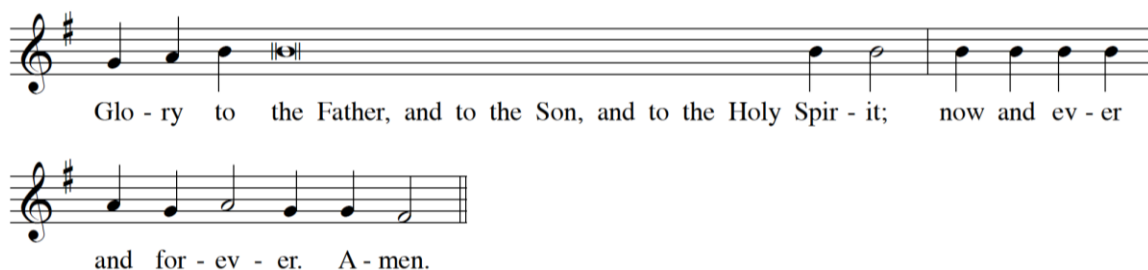
More exalted than the heavenly spheres and full of your ineffable glory, O Christ, your protomartyr has shone forth like an angel.

Refrain: Holy Protomartyr Stephen, pray to God for us.

With deluges of divinely eloquent words, the protomartyr inundated the vile murderers; and, pelted by their countless stones, he received a victor's crown.

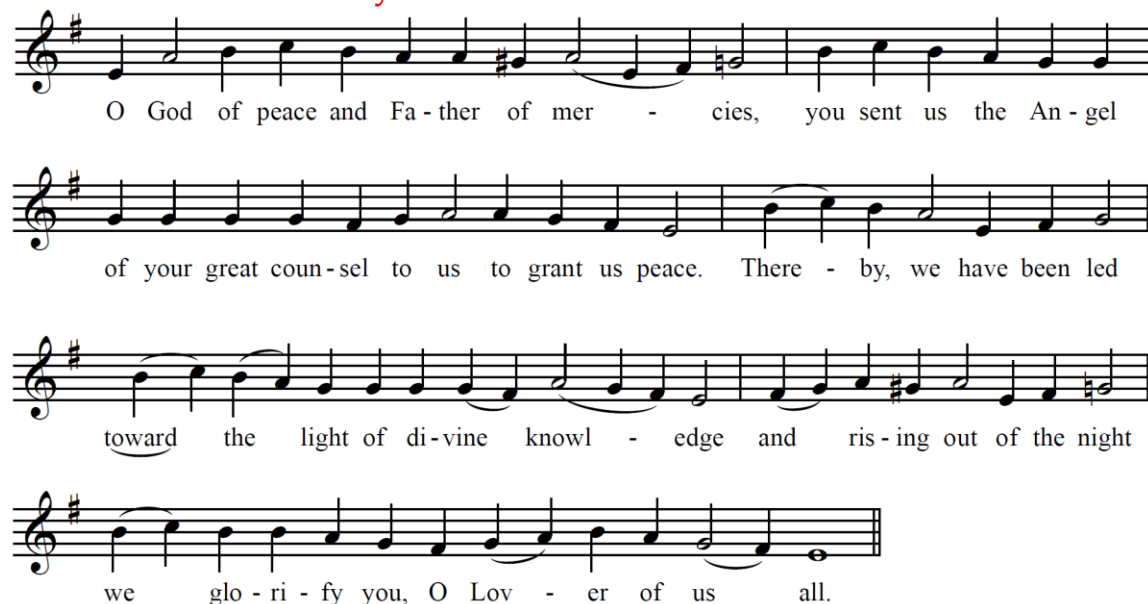
Refrain: Holy Protomartyr Stephen, pray to God for us.

The boldness of the divine zeal of the protomartyr was invincible, for manfully did he stand against the deicides, even unto the shedding of his blood.



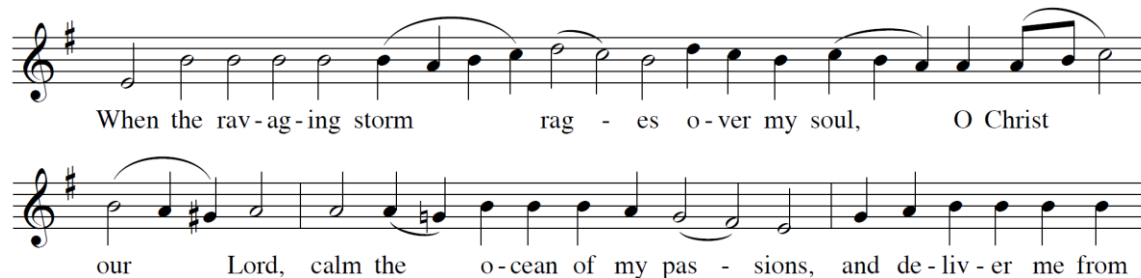
Theotokion: The protomartyr beheld Him who came forth from the Mother who knows not man, standing in the heavens in the immutable divinity and glory of the Father.

Katavasia 5 of the Nativity



Ode 6 Irmos

Tone 5





Refrain: Holy Protomartyr Stephen, pray to God for us.

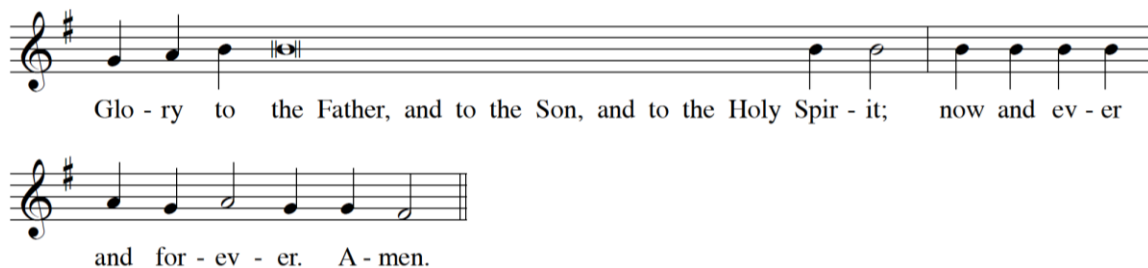
Stephen, the glorious chief of the martyrs, having transcended the faithful laws of nature by grace, is made luminous by the glory of God.

Refrain: Holy Protomartyr Stephen, pray to God for us.

Being a most renowned emulator of your honored Passion, O Master Christ, Stephen repays his murderers with a blessing.

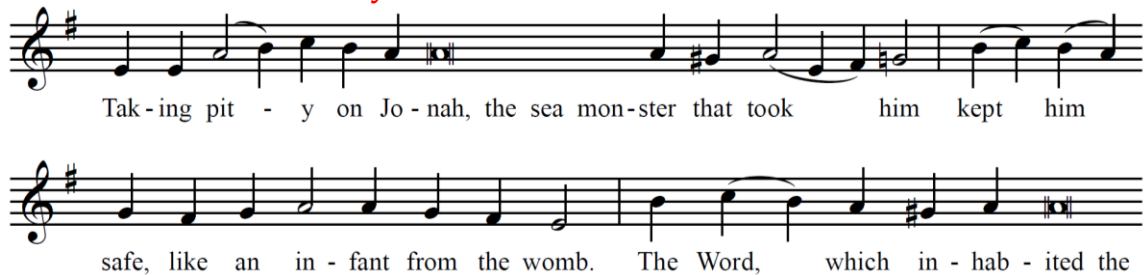
Refrain: Holy Protomartyr Stephen, pray to God for us.

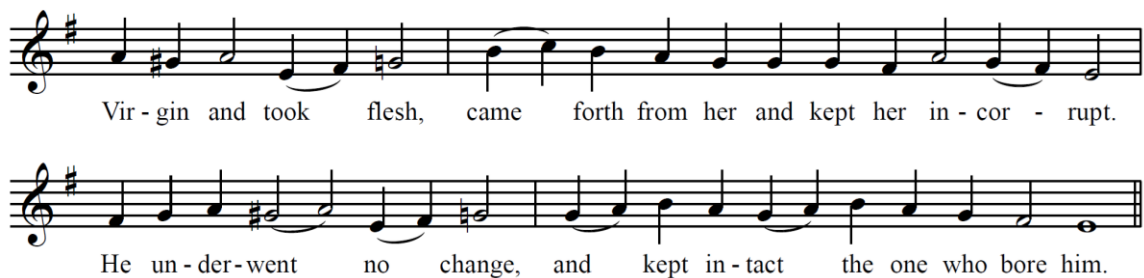
Preserve them that hymn the protomartyr untouched by vile murder, and vouchsafe them your inheritance, in that you are compassionate.



Theotokion: Your birth was the beginning of the salvation of the universe and the foundation of the godly confession of the martyrs.

Katavasia 6 of the Nativity



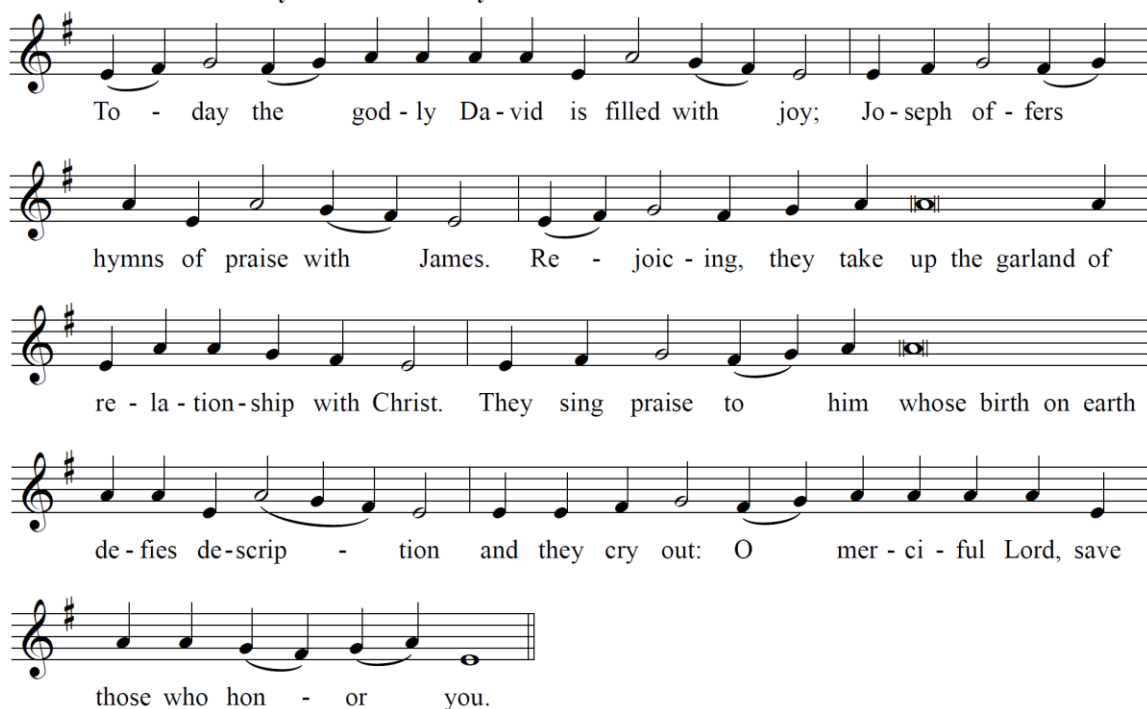


Matins continues with the Small Litany on page 33.

Kontakion & Ikos (page 34)

Tone 3

Kontakion of the Sunday after the Nativity - Tone 3



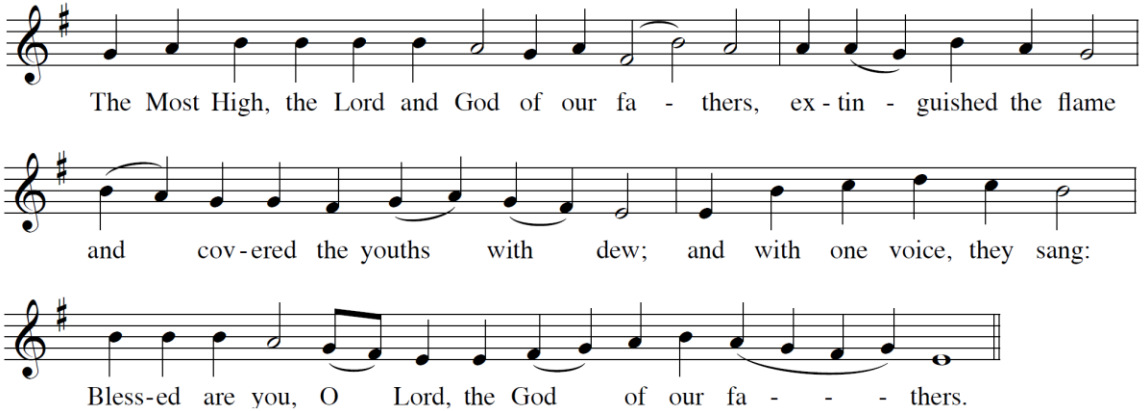
Ikos: The Incorporeal One is, through the ineffable Counsel, born in the flesh; He that is uncontainable is now contained in a body and preserves both essences immutably; He that is without beginning and Who alone is beyond time takes on a beginning; an Infant of surpassing perfection is beheld; He that bears all things is born in arms. Wherefore, as God, He crowns through His birth those who are honored by

their kinship with Him, and, glorifying them with faith, we cry out unceasingly:
O Compassionate One, save them that honor you!

The Synaxarion is omitted & the Canon continues with Ode 7.

Ode 7
Irmos

Tone 5



Refrain: Holy Protomartyr Stephen, pray to God for us.

The iniquitous, gnashing their teeth like beasts and falling upon Stephen with murderous intent, slew him as he chanted in godly manner: Blessed are you, O God!

Refrain: Holy Protomartyr Stephen, pray to God for us.

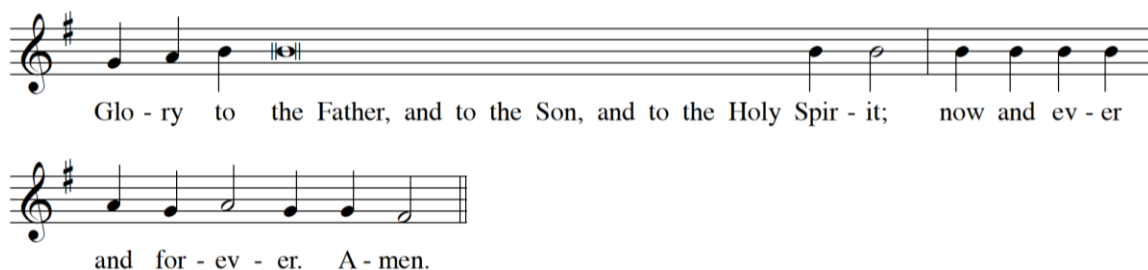
O Stephen, adorned with stones as with many-colored and comely flowers, you offered yourself unto Christ, the Bestower of life, crying out: Blessed are you, O God!

Refrain: Holy Protomartyr Stephen, pray to God for us.

Almost insurmountable was the opposition of Paul, who at first persecuted the saints, but later led the Gentiles unto Christ forever.

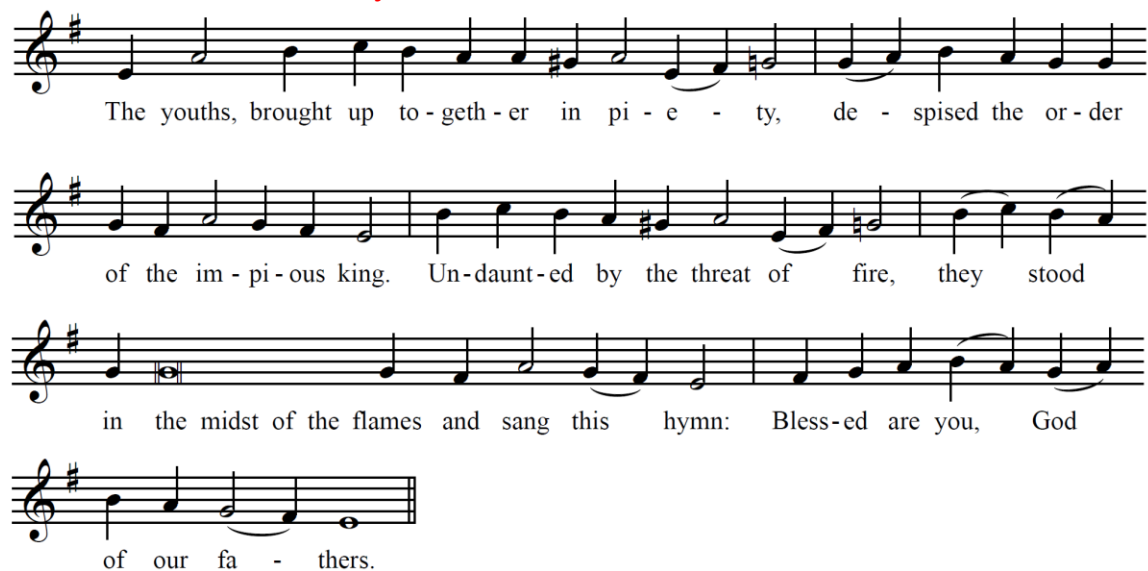
Refrain: Holy Protomartyr Stephen, pray to God for us.

Caught up by the Holy Spirit, O Stephen, you ineffably behold the Son and the Father, and you cry out to the Trinity: Blessed are you, O God!



Theotokion: An animate crown is offered to you as to a king, O you who have shone forth from the divine and pure Virgin, for in godly manner we chant to you: Blessed are you, O God!

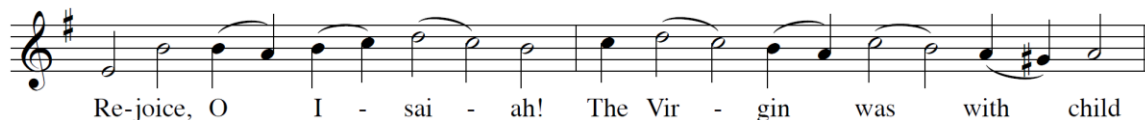
Katavasia 7 of the Nativity

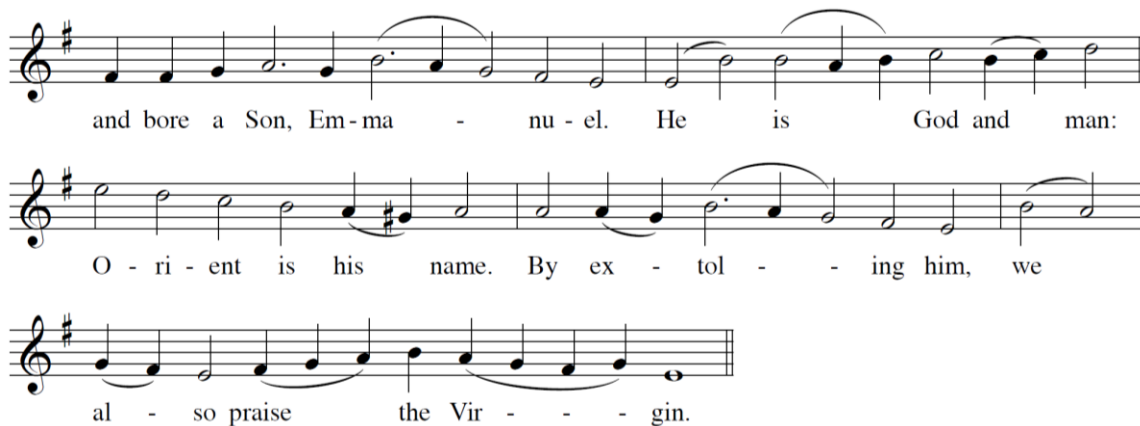


Ode 8 is omitted & Matins continues with "Let us greatly extol..." & the Cantic of the Theotokos on p. 34.

Ode 9 Irmos

Tone 5





Refrain: Holy Protomartyr Stephen, pray to God for us.

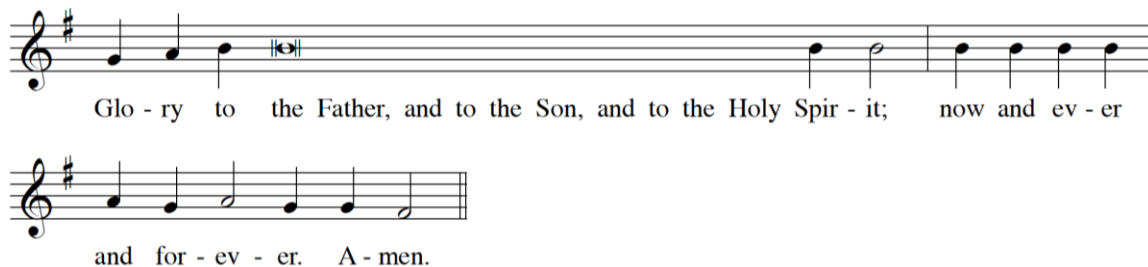
O Stephen, you have surpassed all the degrees of praise, and with every word you carry away trophies of victory. For the human mind is incapable of weaving a crown of praise worthy of you.

Refrain: Holy Protomartyr Stephen, pray to God for us.

Oh, 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 savor most sweet.

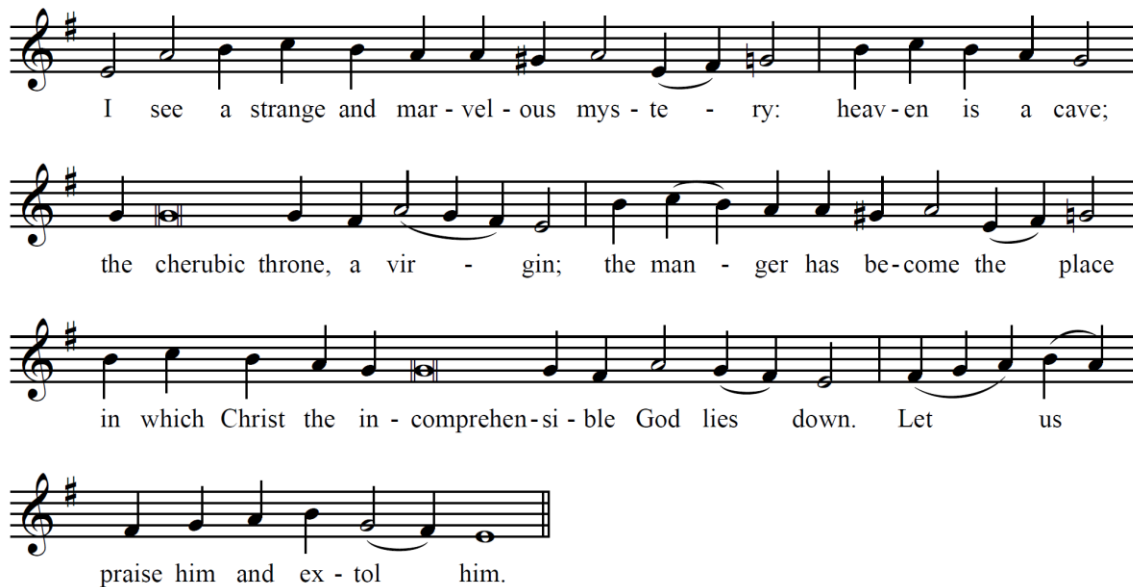
Refrain: Holy Protomartyr Stephen, pray to God for us.

You receive 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 those who sing to you.



Theotokion: The timeless Son, begotten of the Father, received from the Virgin a beginning of existence in time. Slain for His sake, Stephen, the emulator of Christ, has now inherited everlasting life from the Origin thereof.

Katavasia 9 of the Nativity



I see a strange and mar - vel - ous mys - te - ry: heav - en is a cave;
the cherubic throne, a vir - gin; the man - ger has be - come the place
in which Christ the in - com - pre - hen - si - ble God lies down. Let us
praise him and ex - tol him.

Matins continues with the Small Litany on page 36.

Holy is the Lord our God (page 37)

Tone 5



Ho - ly is the Lord our God! Ho - - - ly is the Lord our
God; the Lord our God! Ho - ly is the Lord our God!

Hymns of Light *(page 37)*

of the Protomartyr:

You beheld the all-unoriginate Word standing at the right hand of the Father, and your face was filled with ineffable light, O boast of the apostles and glory of the martyrs. And you were adorned with a crown fashioned of the rocks of your stoning, and you received a divine end.

Glory...

of the Saints:

Let us hymn David, the forefather of God, and divine Joseph, the betrothed of the Theotokos, with James, the glorious brother of God, for, with the angels, the Magi and the shepherds, they ministered in godly manner at the divine nativity of Christ in the city of Bethlehem, chanting a hymn unto Him as God and Master.

Now and ever...

of the Nativity (Tone 3 samopodoben):

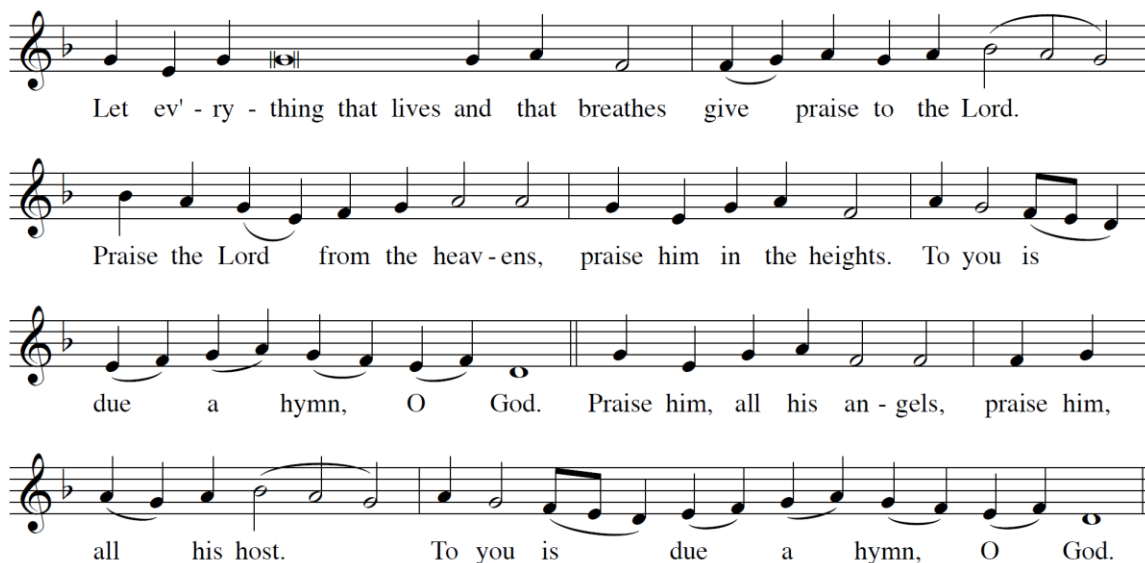
Our Sav - ior, the Day - - - spring from
the East, has vis - i - ted us from on high, and we who were in
dark - ness and in sha - dow have found the truth;
for the Lord, the Lord is born of a Vir - gin.

Matins continues with the Psalms of Praise.

Psalms of Praise (page 38)

Tone 5

Psalm 148



Let ev - ry - thing that lives and that breathes give praise to the Lord.

Praise the Lord from the heav - ens, praise him in the heights. To you is

due a hymn, O God. Praise him, all his an - gels, praise him,

all his host. To you is due a hymn, O God.

The Psalms of Praise continue with "Praise him, sun and moon..." on page 38.

Stichera (page 40)

The versicles of the Protomartyr replace the last two versicles of the Resurrection.

2 stichera of the Protomartyr (all the rest are omitted):

Cantor (Tone 1) in place of "Arise, O Lord...":

Through all the earth their voice resounds,
their message reaches to the end of the world

O faithful, * let us weave for the protomartyr an athlete's wreath, * fashioned of words as of flowers. * For he prepared the martyrs' way, * and cried out in joy, * I see the heavens opened ** and the Son of God standing at the right hand of the invisible Father!

Cantor (Tone 2) in place of "I will praise you, Lord...":

The heavens declare the glory of God,
and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.

First among the deacons and first among the martyrs * have you shown to be, O most holy Stephen; * for you were a path for the saints * and have brought many martyrs to the Lord. * Wherefore, heaven was opened to you, * and God appeared to you. ** Beseech him that our souls be saved.

Cantor (*Tone 8*):



of the Saints:

Blood and fire and pillars of smoke * are the wonders which Joel foresaw on earth. * The blood is the Incarnation; * the fire is the Godhead; * the pillars of smoke are the Holy Spirit, * Who descended upon the Virgin and made the world fragrant. * Great is the mystery of your incarnation! * O Lord, glory to you!

Matins continues with "Now and ever..." & the Theotokion for normal Sundays on p. 41.