

DEC 27 Holy First Martyr Archdeacon and Apostle Stephen and
Venerable Father Theodore Graptus (*the Branded*)

TROPARION of the FEAST - Tone 4

Thy nativity, O Christ our God, /
Has risen upon the world as the light of understanding! /
For through it, those who worshipped the stars, /
Were taught by a star to worship Thee, /
The Sun of Righteousness, /
And to know Thee, the Orient from on high. ///
O Lord, glory to Thee!

TROPARION (*St. Stephen*) - Tone 4

O protomartyr of Christ and apostle, /
Thou didst endure a great struggle /
And wast slain by stoning at the hands of the impious /
For revealing their ungodliness.
Thou didst cry out to God, exclaiming: /
'Do not lay this sin to their charge!' ///
And didst receive a crown from on high.

TROPARION (*St. Theodore*) - Tone 8

As an instructor of Orthodoxy, a teacher of piety and purity, /
A lamp of the universe, and divinely-inspired adornment of
 monastics, /
O most-wise Theodore, by thy teachings thou didst enlighten all ///
O spirit-filled voice, beseech Christ God to save our souls.

KONDAKION (*St. Stephen*) - Tone 3

Yesterday the Lord came in the flesh; /
Today His servant has departed in the flesh. /
Yesterday the King was born as a man;
Today the servant is stoned for His sake: ///

For His sake Saint Stephen was killed, the first of the martyrs..

KONDAKION of the Feast - Tone 3

Today the Virgin gives birth to the transcendent One, /
And the earth offers a cave to the unapproachable One! /
Angels with shepherds glorify Him! /
The wise men journey with the star; ///
Since for our sake the eternal God is born as a little child!