

The 2nd Day of August

☩ **Translation of the Relics of the Holy Protomartyr and Protodeacon Stephen;** and, the Venerable Basil the Blessed, the Fool-for-Christ, whose service is found following this. —*incomplete* 5/2015.

Vespers

At “Lord, I call...,” 6 stichera,

3 stichera, in Tone 8: *To the melody, “O most glorious wonder....”*

O Stephen, first to suffer among the martyrs /
Foundation of the ministry /
And chosen apostle, /
Illumine us who are celebrating thy radiant festival /
With the splendor of the never-waning light, /
Dispelling the darkness of our transgressions, O martyr, /
Granting mercy and grace upon thy servants, ///
And guiding them, by thy prayers, to everlasting life.

Taking up a crown of grace upon thy head, O Stephen, /
Martyr of Christ, /
Thou wast shown to be worthy of thy name, /
For the crown of thy head became adorned with the gold of virtue, /
And wisely didst thou become an abode of Wisdom, /
Whom thou didst cherish transforming thyself with love. ///
Therefore thou hast been honored with glory and grace.

Thou didst offer to our God and King, O apostle, /
A crown more precious than gold and precious stones, /
But one fashioned out of rational wisdom. /
O all-honorable Stephen, first among the martyrs, /
Crowned with glory and grace, /
Sweet are thy deeds and sweet is thy name. ///
Remember us all in thy holy intercessions.

And 3 stichera in Tone 2: *In the usual melody, the composition of Anatolius.*

First among deacons and first among the martyrs /
O most-holy Stephen, /
Thou didst show the way to be followed by the saints, /
Leading a countless number of martyrs to the Lord. /
The heavens opened and God Himself appeared to thee. ///
Intercede with Him for the salvation of our souls.

Clothing thyself in holiness, /
O blessèd companion of the angels,
Protodeacon and protomartyr Stephen, /
Intercede with the only Sinless One, our Savior and Lord, ///
For the salvation of our souls

Let us worthily honor the first martyr and noble favorite of Christ, /
Stephen the protodeacon and protomartyr, /
For standing in the midst of the impious ///
He beheld the Son of God standing at the right hand of the Father.

Glory..., in Tone 6: *also, the composition of Anatolius.*

O holy Apostle Stephen, /
First among deacons and the first among the martyrs, /
The glory of the righteous, the confirmation of the faithful, /
And the adornment of all who suffer for the Lord, /
As thou standest now before the throne of Christ the King of all /
Entreat the remission of sins for all the faithful who celebrate thy holy memory, ///
And that we may be counted worthy of the heavenly kingdom. ///

Now and ever..., Theotokion, in Tone 6, or the Stavrotheotokion, in the same Tone: *To the melody "On the third day...."*

Beholding Thee crucified, O Christ /
She who gave Thee birth cried out to Thee: /
"What is this strange mystery I see, my Son? /
How, being hung in the flesh, the Giver of Life, ///
Dost Thou die on the Tree?"

Or Dogmatic Theotokion in the Tone of the Week if a Resurrection service.

At the Aposticha, the stichera from the Octoechos, and

Glory..., of the Saint, in Tone 8: *the composition of Cyprian.*

Rejoice in the Lord, O crown-bearer Stephen, /
Emulator of the Master, /
For thou wast the first martyr of Christ the King. /
By thy suffering thou didst triumph over the errors of the impious, ///
And art ever praying for us before the Lord.

Now and ever..., Theotokion, in Tone 8, or the Stavrotheotokion, in the same Tone: *To the melody "On the third day...."*

Beholding Thee, O Jesus, nailed to the Cross /
And accepting suffering of Thine own will, /
The Virgin, Thy Mother, O Master, cried aloud: /
“Woe is me, O my sweet Child! /
How is it that Thou dost endure unjust wounding, /
O Physician who healeth the infirmities of mankind ///
And by Thy loving-kindness dost deliver all from corruption?”

The Troparion of the Saint, in Tone 4:

O protomartyr Stephen, /
Thy head was adorned with a royal crown for thy suffering for Christ our God; /
For having denounced the outrage of the impious /
Thou didst behold thy Savior at the right hand of the Father. ///
Entreat Him now for the salvation of our souls.

Note: Following the dismissal of Vespers, the priest, vested in his phelonion, accompanied by the deacon in his sticharion and by the candle-bearers with the censor, carries the precious Cross back into the sanctuary, to the singing of the Troparion and Kontakion of the Cross, where it is placed upon the altar.

Matins

The Canon

Both Canons from the Octoechos, with 8 Troparia (excluding those for martyrs),
and that of the Saint, with 6 Troparia, in Tone 8,

*having the acrostic: “I crown the protomartyr with hymns of praise,” the composition of Theophanes.
—incomplete as of 5/21/15*

The Kontakion of the Saint in Tone 8:

O blessèd protomartyr Stephen, worthy of all praise, /
Thou wast the first to be planted in the earth by the divine Gardener. /
And being the very first to have shed his blood for Him ///
Thou didst become the first to receive the crown of victory from Christ in heaven.

At the Praises, 4 stichera, in Tone 4: *To the melody, “As one valiant among the martyrs....”*

Having mystically assembled today, /
O ye lovers of the feasts of the Church /
Let us celebrate the solemn and honorable memory /
Of the protomartyr [Stephen], /

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And through his precious gifts, let us receive healing, /
And let us cry aloud: /
O all-praised martyr [of the Lord], /
Beseech Him that those who celebrate thy holy memory may [be saved]. *(Twice)*

Like the steps on the stairway leading to heaven /
Were the stones that were cast at thee /
And having ascended upon them thou didst behold the Lord /
Standing at the right hand of the Father, /
Stretching forth His Life-creating hand to thee /
Awarding thee the crown worthy of thy name. /
Now thou standest before Him as a victorious champion, ///
The very first among all them that have suffered.

Thy mind was enlightened by spiritual grace /
And thou didst appear as an angel: /
Thy body shone with inner radiance, O Stephen, /
And thy face was aglow with a spiritual splendor that all could see,
For thou didst receive the Light when the heavens were gloriously opened to thee ///
O first and great boast among all the martyrs.

Glory..., of the Saint, in the same Tone: In the usual melody

Stephen, the splendid first-fruit of all the martyrs, /
Filled with grace and power [of God] /
Working wondrous miracles and signs among the people
Was slain at the hands of the impious;
And his face shone like that of an angel, /
And he beheld Thy glory, [O Christ God], /
Who was crucified for our sake, standing at the right hand of Power, /
And he was taken up into heaven by the Spirit of Grace. ///
Therefore, together with the choir of angels, he prays that our souls may be saved.

Now and ever..., in Tone 4, or the Stavrotheotokion, in the same Tone: To the melody, "As one valiant among the martyrs...."

Seeing Thee the Lamb and Shepherd on the tree, /
The ewe-lamb who gave birth to Thee lamented, /
And as a mother cried out to Thee: /
"O desired Son, how art Thou hung on the Tree of the Cross, /
O Longsuffering One? /
How art Thy hands and feet nailed by the transgressors, O Word? /

How dost Thou shed Thy Blood, O Master?

At the Aposticha, the stichera from the Octoechos, and

Glory..., of the Saint, in Tone 5: *the composition of Cyprian.*

O protomartyr, protodeacon and apostle, /
Standing before thy tormentors thou didst see the heavens open, /
And the Son of God standing at the right hand of the Father. /
Thy face shone like that of an angel, /
And thou didst joyfully pray for those who stoned thee, saying: /
'Do not lay this sin to their charge,' ///
Now ask forgiveness of sins and great mercy for those who lovingly praise thee.

**Now and ever..., Theotokion in Tone 5, or the Stavrotheotokion, in the same
Tone: *To the melody, "Rejoice..."***

Desiring that all receive salvation, /
Thou wast pleased to pay a great price for our deliverance, /
Thy precious blood, O my sinless Christ. /
And Thy Mother, beholding Thee nailed [to the tree],
Tore her hair, and cried aloud lamenting:
'O my Child and most-innocent Lamb,
How, in Thy desire to deliver the world by Thy precious blood,
Hast Thou set where I can see Thee no more, O never-setting Sun, ///
Who grants enlightenment, peace and great mercy to all?"

Liturgy

**At the Beatitudes, 8 Troparia from the Octoechos, and 4 from the Third Ode
of the Canon of Saint.**

The Prokeimenon in Tone 8: Their proclamation is gone out into all the earth /
and their words to the ends of the universe! *Verse:* The heavens are telling the
glory of God, and the firmament proclaims His handiwork!

The Epistle: (17) Acts 6:8-7:5,47-60

The Alleluia is in Tone 1: The heavens shall confess Thy wonders, O Lord, and
Thy truth in the congregation of the saints! *Verse:* God is glorified in the council of
the saints!

The Gospel: (87) Matthew 21:33-42

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The Communion Hymn: Their proclamation is gone out into all the earth / and their words to the ends of the universe!

RLE 5/30/2015 SDA
Updated 8/9/2015 SDA
5/29/2013 SDA