

## **The 28<sup>th</sup> Day of November**

### **Commemoration of the Venerable Martyr Stephen the New; and the Holy Martyr Irenarchus and the Seven Women Martyrs.**

**Note:** The service to Martyr Irenarchus and the Seven Women Martyrs is served at Compline.

#### **Vespers**

**At “Lord I call...,” 6 stichera of the Martyr Stephen, in Tone 6: *To the melody, “Having set all aside....”***

**F**rom thy youth thou didst offer thyself to the Master /  
Denying thy flesh and worldly love, /  
Becoming the most-excellent of monastics, /  
And a true receptacle of the Divine Spirit; /  
For, when from the narrow cell where thou didst dwell, /  
Thou didst fix thy mind on heaven and thy soul took flight /  
And thou didst behold the ineffable beauty of Christ our King and God ///  
While venerating His Image in thine infirmity, O venerable father Stephen. *(twice)*

**B**eing locked away in a prison, /  
Like the Master, thou didst keep the fast for forty days /  
Preparing thyself for suffering, O holy father Stephen, /  
Thou confirmation of monks and adornment of martyrs; /  
And when thine oppressors fell upon thee like wolves, /  
They dragged thee out and slaughtered thee as an innocent lamb, /  
And having suffered greatly, they cast thee into an unhallowed pit. ///  
Now, with boldness before the Lord, thou dost ever pray for our souls. *(twice)*

**T**he transgressing people /  
Themselves stained by the sins of the unjust emperor, Copronymus, /  
Cruelly stoned thee, O venerable one, like the first martyr, Stephen, of old, /  
And, having crushed thy skull, O blessed one, /  
They dragged thy body through the streets, /  
Pitilessly scattering thy remains, not being merciful even after thy death! /  
O what courage! What patience! What long suffering thou didst endure, ///  
In earning thine unfading crown, O venerable martyr Stephen! *(twice)*

**Glory..., in the same Tone: *(the composition of the Studite)***

**L**ike the prophet Samuel, of old, /  
Thou wast consecrated to God from thy swaddling clothes; /  
And ascending the mountain, thou didst please Him by thy monastic vows. /

And thou didst account thyself bravely in thy martyrdom: /  
 For venerating His image thou wast exiled and cast in prison; /  
 Where thou wast grievously wounded and then beaten by stones; /  
 Thy head was crushed, and thou wast dragged through the streets. /  
 Thus, thou wast granted a crown from Christ our God. /  
 Beseech Him now as we celebrate thine honored memory, /  
 That we may be delivered from passions, temptations and the tribulations to come, ///  
 And that our souls may be saved.

**Now and ever..., Theotokion, or this Stavrotheotokion, in the same Tone: (and melody)**

**B**eholding her Lamb upon the Cross, /  
 The unblemished ewe-lamb, the immaculate Lady, /  
 Cried out in maternal amazement: /  
 ‘What is this new and all-glorious wonder, /  
 O my Sweetest Child? /  
 How hath this ungrateful assembly betrayed Thee to Pilate, /  
 And condemn Thee to death, the Life of all? ///  
 Yet do I praise Thine ineffable condescension, O Word!’

*Or, on Saturday evening or Friday evening the Dogmatic Theotokion in the Tone of the Week.*

**The Aposticha from the Octoechos, and:**

**Glory..., in Tone 8:**

**H**aving preserved intact the image of God within thee, /  
 Thou didst courageously champion the image of Christ, /  
 O brave and ven’rable father; /  
 Fearing not the threats of the evil Copronymus, /  
 Indeed, thou didst slay him by the sword of the Spirit. /  
 Therefore, having acquired great boldness before Christ our God, ///  
 Save thy flock from all heresies, O much-suffering Stephen!

**Now and ever..., Theotokion, in the same Tone:**

**O** Virgin unwedded, O Mother of God on high /  
 Thou hast ineffably conceived God in the flesh /  
 And being beyond reproach, thou hast granted us all purification of our transgressions. /  
 Accept the supplications of thy servants /

VENERABLE MARTYR STEPHEN THE NEW;  
AND THE HOLY MARTYR IRENARCHUS AND THE SEVEN WOMEN MARTYRS

And do thou, who now receives our entreaties ///  
Pray for us all to be saved.

**Or the Stavrotheotokion, in Tone 8: *To the melody "O most glorious wonder...."***

**“**What is this sight that I see, /  
What do mine eyes behold, O Master? /  
Thou, who sustainest all creation, lifted up on the Tree, /  
Dost die granting life to all,” /  
Cried the Theotokos, weeping, when she beheld upon the Cross ///  
The God-man who had ineffably shone forth from her.

**The Troparion of the Venerable Martyr Stephen, in Tone 4:**

**T**hou didst put thy spiritual enemies to flight /  
By thy fasting upon the mountain and by the power of the Cross. /  
Thou didst also defeat the heresy of the evil Copronymus. /  
By thy courage in battle and by the strength of thy faith, /  
For both thou hast received thy crown from God /  
And given eternal life, ///  
O father Stephen, worthy of all praise, thou martyr among the saints.

**Glory..., now and ever..., Theotokion, or Stavrotheotokion.**

**Compline**

**We sing the service to the Martyr Irenarchus.**

**The Canon of St. Irenarchus and the Seven Women Martyrs, in Tone 6**

*having the acrostic: "Grant me the grace of peace, O martyr."*

**Ode 1**

***Irmos:*** *When Israel passed on foot over the deep as if it were dry land, and beheld their pursuer Pharaoh drowning in the sea, they cried aloud: Let us sing to God a song of victory!*

***Refrain:*** Holy Martyr Irenarchus, pray to God for us!

**S**till thou the tribulations and the passions of life which beset my mind, O martyr Irenarchus, and vouchsafe that I may praise thy memory in peace.

**D**ousing the flames of the tormenters in the streams of thy blood, thou dost water the thoughts of the faithful and their aspirations for everlasting life, O martyr Irenarchus.

**R**eceiving the victorious crown of a martyr, O blessed Irenarchus, thou wast translated from earth to the place of eternal peace, the light of Truth, and everlasting life.

*Theotokion:* **H**aving given birth to the infinite Word who was contained within thy womb, O pure Lady and holy tabernacle of God, deliver thou me, for I am beset by the cruel and stormy waves of evil.

### Ode 3

*Irmos:* *There is none as holy as Thou, O Lord my God, who hast exalted the power of Thy faithful, O Blessèd One, and hast established us upon the rock of thy confession.*

**T**hou didst gird thyself with divine power and went forth courageously into battle, O blessèd one, and endured the lashings and the wounds inflicted upon thee by thy tormentors, O valiant martyr Irenarchus.

**C**hrist the Judge of those martyred in the arena gave thee strength to destroy the deception of the enemy and to put him to shame, for in vain did he rage and boast, O martyr Irenarchus.

*Refrain:* Holy Seven Women Martyrs, pray to God for us!

*For the Seven Women Martyrs:* **T**he serpent, author of all evil, was himself cast down by the courageous suffering you martyred saints had endured, suffering great pain, wounds, and scourgings, by the power of the divine Spirit.

*Refrain:* Most Holy Theotokos, save us!

*Theotokion:* **L**et us joyfully hymn and praise the Virgin Mary, the pure palace of the Master, and the divine ladder reaching from the earth to the heights of heaven, which Jacob beheld of old.

### Ode 4

*Irmos:* *Christ is my strength, my God and my Lord, the sacred Church sings in a manner befitting God, with a pure mind, keeping festival unto the Lord.*

**T**hou didst suffer under the law, and thou wast martyred by the command of the law; and lawfully didst thou receive thy martyr's crown, O most blessèd one, for strengthened by the Law of God, thou didst preserve thyself unharmed.

**U**nable to bear walking in the darkness of deception, O glorious martyr, thou didst make haste, rejoicing, to the embrace of the Son of God, and receiving the noetic light, thou didst shine with its brightness divine.

**T**he deep having received thee, was unable to keep thee, for it recognized thee as a

VENERABLE MARTYR STEPHEN THE NEW;  
AND THE HOLY MARTYR IRENARCHUS AND THE SEVEN WOMEN MARTYRS

most true witness of the sufferings of Christ, O blessed martyr Irenarchus.

*For the Seven Women Martyrs:* **O** right-wondrous martyrs, you did not deny Christ when you were made sacrificial victims, being slaughtered by the sword and thrown into the fire.

*Theotokion:* **T**hou didst remain Virgin after giving birth as thou wast before it, O immaculate Lady, for thou gavest birth to God the Word who hath delivered us through thy holy intercessions.

**Ode 5**

*Irmos:* *With Thy divine light, O Good One, illumine, I ask Thee, the souls of those who in love keep vigil that they may know Thee, O Word of God as the true God who recalls them from the darkness of sin.*

**T**he enemy was wounded by the spear of thy mighty endurance, O most-wise martyr Irenarchus, and he was crushed beneath thy heels, confounded, and put to shame.

**T**hou didst stand up courageously for the truth, prophetically trampling down the evil one with thy steadfast wisdom, O Irenarchus, who braved to walk the path of martyrdom.

*For the Seven Women Martyrs:* **Y**ou were shown to be innocent and simple, and together with Irenarchus, you rejected the evil persecutors, and through the shedding of your blood, you were crowned with the wreaths of incorruption.

*Theotokion:* **T**he splendid choir of the holy prophets, mystically perceiving the ineffable depth of thy birthgiving, O Virgin Bride of God, described thee in sacred words and images from afar.

**Ode 6**

*Irmos:* *Beholding the sea of life surging high with the storm of temptations, I have fled to Thy tranquil haven and cry out unto Thee: Raise up my life from corruption, O greatly Merciful One!*

**G**uided by the hand of the Author of life, thou wast upborne on the waters and saved by thine earnest prayers, thus drowning the malice of thy persecutors.

*For the Seven Women Martyrs:* **P**urchasing that which is very great with that which is small, the seven women martyrs gave themselves over to the greatest torments, and by the Holy Spirit, they slew the serpent, the deceiver of Eve, the author of evil.

*For the Seven Women Martyrs:* **T**he holy maidens were victims led as pure and sacred lambs, a perfect sacrifice to the True Lamb who was slain for our sake, and they

rejoiced as they offered up their sweet fragrance.

*Theotokion:* **B**ehold, the Lord has become incarnate of thy pure blood, and in His ineffable mercy, He unites Himself to our human nature without confusion to accomplish our salvation, O Virgin Theotokos.

**L**ord have mercy! *(thrice)*

**Glory..., now and ever..., the Sessional Hymn, in Tone 1: To the melody, “Thy tomb, O Savior....”**

**G**reat peace came over thee, O holy martyr, /  
When thou didst go forth against the enemy, /  
And thou didst vanquish him and his forces of deception /  
With the help of divine grace. /  
Therefore, we faithfully entreat thee: /  
To deliver us by thy prayers, ///  
As we honor thy holy memory, O martyr Irenarchus.

### Ode 7

*Irmos:* *An angel made the furnace moist with dew for the godly children and the command of God consuming the Chaldeans made the tyrant cry out: Blessèd art Thou, O God of our fathers!*

**H**aving separated thyself from the love of the flesh and set aflame by the love for God, thou didst cry out to Him with the song of the three youths: Blessèd art Thou, O Lord, God of our fathers!

**A**t the very mention of thy name the demons flee away, O Irenarchus, for they have come to know thee as an invincible champion of Christ who triumphantly sings: Blessèd art Thou, O Lord, God of our fathers!

*For the Seven Women Martyrs:* **B**lessèd the holy choir of the seven women martyrs who endured the sword, the lash, and the fire, and who were found worthy of the blessings of heaven and who, like the divine assembly of the three young children sang: Blessèd art Thou, O Lord, God of our fathers!

*Theotokion:* **R**aise me up to do good works for I am beset by despondency, O all-pure Lady, and strengthen me in my fight against the enemy who wages a cruel war against me, and deceives me with evil thoughts.

### Ode 8

*Irmos:* *Out of the flames Thou didst drop dew on the godly ones, and with water didst*

VENERABLE MARTYR STEPHEN THE NEW;  
AND THE HOLY MARTYR IRENARCHUS AND THE SEVEN WOMEN MARTYRS

*kindle the sacrifice of the righteous one, for Thou doest all things as Thou wilt, O Christ; we exalt thee throughout all ages!*

**S**hedding streams of blood and adorned with the beauty of thy wounds, O martyr Irenarchus, thou didst appear before the Judge of the contest and received the honors of victory from Him.

**U**pborne by the love of the Almighty, thou didst cast down the lofty pride of thy tormentor and brought low the worship of idolatry, O blessed martyr and champion Irenarchus.

**V**ouchsafe unto me God's loving-kindness, O martyr Irenarchus, and deliver me from all temptations and tribulations as I honor thee with fervent faith and abide under thy stalwart protection.

*Theotokion:* **R**ejoice, O holy mountain, trodden by the footsteps of the Lord! Rejoice, O unseen glory of the Lord! Rejoice, O Virgin, the restoration of the fallen!

**Ode 9**

*Irmos:* *It is not possible for men to see God upon whom the ranks of angels dare not gaze, but through thee, O all-pure one, was the Word incarnate revealed unto men, whom magnifying together with the heavenly hosts, we call thee blessed!*

**T**hou didst attain thine ultimate and uttermost desire, O Irenarchus, wise in God, and became deified through communion with Him, singing with the bodiless hosts: Holy, Holy, Holy art Thou, O All-accomplishing and Omnipotent Trinity!

**H**aving eluded the nets of those pursuing thee, thou didst find rest in the shelter of heaven, O glorious one, and thou wast united to the armies of martyrs who had suffered with thee. Therefore, with great joy, we honor thy holy memory.

*For the Seven Women Martyrs:* **L**aying claim to the might and power of Christ, and sailing across the abyss of cruel torments, you reached the calm haven of the Most High, adorned and bathed in the light of the Holy Spirit, O glorious ones.

*Theotokion:* **U**nable to comprehend the ineffable wonder of thy birthgiving, O Virgin Mother, we glorify it in our silent contemplation, and we magnify thee as the most blessed amongst women, O Lady Theotokos.

**And these stichera, in Tone 6:** *To the melody, "On the third day...."*

*Verse:* O holy martyr Irenarchus, pray to God for us!



**C**ome all ye faithful, /  
And let us praise the struggles and sufferings of the warrior of Christ, /  
And let us sing to the Lord: ///  
Through his supplications have mercy on us.

**H**aving suffered and passed through the cruel storm of torments, /  
O Irenarchus the blessed, /  
Thou didst find great pease in the Lord, ///  
O thou valiant warrior and intercessor for those who praise thee.

**Glory..., in the same Tone:**

**A** choir of seven virgin martyr suffered together with thee, /  
As well as an assembly of children, /  
And the martyr Acacius<sup>1</sup> also finished his course with thee ///  
As thou didst defeat all deception and evil, O Irenarchus the martyr.

**Now and ever..., Theotokion:**

**T**hou art mine aid and my protection, /  
O most pure Virgin, /  
For in thee I have my helper amid the sorrows and afflictions that encompass me, ///  
And I glorify thee, O all-praised Lady Theotokos.

**Or, this Stavrotheotokion, in the same Tone:**

**W**hen the Virgin, Thy pure Mother, /  
Beheld Thee unjustly nailed to the Tree by lawless men /  
Her womb, O Savior was wounded, ///  
As Symeon had foretold.

**Matins**

**The Canon**

Both Canons from the Octoechos, and one of the Venerable Martyr Stephen, with 6  
Troparia.

**Ode 1**

**The Canon of the Venerable Martyr, in Tone 6**

*having the acrostic* "Christ crowned thee with the wreath of martyrdom, O blessed one."  
*the composition of Joseph.*

*Irmos:* When Israel passed on foot over the deep as if it were dry land, and beheld their pursuer  
Pharaoh drowning in the sea, they cried aloud: Let us sing to God a song of victory!

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<sup>1</sup> Pronounced: Akacius — ed.



VENERABLE MARTYR STEPHEN THE NEW;  
AND THE HOLY MARTYR IRENARCHUS AND THE SEVEN WOMEN MARTYRS

*Refrain:* Holy martyr Stephen, pray to God for us!

**H**aving joyfully traversed the narrow path of ascetic fasting, O blessed one, thou didst destroy the assaults of the enemy in the maelstrom of thy martyrdom, and inherited eternal life in the broad expanses of heaven.

**S**he who before was barren, the namesake of Hanna, brought thee forth, and, like Samuel of old, she dedicated thee to God, who had given thee to her, thus marking thy life with grace.

**C**oming to accept the holy monastic tonsure, O venerable Stephen, thou didst shine forth like a brilliant star of virtues, mystically illumining the faithful.

**B**eing enclosed in a narrow cell, thou didst furnish thy mind with wings on which to ascend on-high, O wise one, freeing thyself to soar through the expanses of heaven.

*Refrain:* Most Holy Theotokos, save us!

*Theotokion:* **L**et us glorify the divine Lady with sacred hymns of praise, O people of God, for she is the gate impassable, the temple of purity, and the most beautiful amongst all women.

*Katavasia as prescribed by the Typikon.*

**Ode 3**

*Irmos:* *There is none as holy as Thou, O Lord my God, who hast exalted the power of Thy faithful, O Blessed One, and hast established us upon the rock of thy confession.*

**T**hy mind made beautiful by beholding God, O father, and partaking of His divine splendor, was truly filled with every grace.

**V**enerating the precious icons of Christ and of her who gave Him birth, O blessed one, thou wast filled with the power of the Holy Spirit and thou didst despise the vile commands of the evil emperor.

**F**oolishly, he bound thee in iron fetters and sent thee to prison, O thou possessed of a heart of iron, for preserving the dogmas of Christ, O most blessed martyr, Stephen.

**T**hy beautiful feet that trod the path of martyrdom, crushed the heads of thine enemies, O venerable and much-suffering martyr Stephen.

*Theotokion:* **F**rom thee, O only pure one, was the divine Word incarnate, and He came to save us from corruption who worship His divine condescension and His gracious loving-kindness.

**Kontakion of the Martyr Stephen, in Tone 8: *To the melody, "O victorious leader...."***

**C**ome all ye faithful who love to celebrate the feasts of the Church, /  
And let us faithfully praise the godly martyr Stephen with all our hearts, /  
For he is the lover of the Trinity who venerated the images of the Master and His  
Holy Mother; /  
And together let us all lovingly cry out to Him: ///  
Rejoice, O ever-glorious and venerable martyr, father Stephen!

**The Sessional Hymn of the Martyr Stephen, in Tone 1: *To the melody, "Thy tomb, O Savior...."***

**T**hy blood, O martyr Stephen, wise with the wisdom of God /  
Cries out to God from the earth like the blood of Abel of old; /  
For clearly didst thou preach that Christ was both God and man. /  
Therefore, thou didst shame the lies of those who hated the icons. /  
And, having passed over to the mansions of heaven, ///  
Pray now, that Christ may save our souls.

**Glory..., in the same Tone: *(and melody)***

**A**s thou wast luminous in thy fasting, O wise one, /  
So thou didst shine like gold in the crucible when thou didst suffer under the law; /  
And thou didst receive a crown truly befitting thy calling. ///  
Therefore, we rejoice as we celebrate thy holy memory, O holy martyr Stephen.

**Now and ever..., Theotokion:**

**O** pure and unwedded Lady Theotokos, /  
Who alone art the intercessor and protection of the faithful, /  
Deliver from every tribulation, trial and sorrow, /  
All those who have placed their hope in thee, ///  
And by thy divine supplications, save our souls.

**Or this Stavrotheotokion, in the same Tone:**

**A**s she stood by the Cross beholding Thee, /  
Stretched out, dead, upon the Cross, O Christ, /  
She cried out: O my Son, who art equally unoriginate with the Father and the Spirit, /  
What is this ineffable dispensation /  
By which Thou hast saved the creation of Thine own hands, ///  
O only compassionate One?

VENERABLE MARTYR STEPHEN THE NEW;  
AND THE HOLY MARTYR IRENARCHUS AND THE SEVEN WOMEN MARTYRS

**Ode 4**

*Irmos:* Christ is my strength, my God and my Lord, the sacred Church sings in a manner befitting God, with a pure mind, keeping festival unto the Lord.

**S**hining with the brightness of the Spirit thou didst emulate thy Master and God by imparting sight to the blind through thine entreaties, O divinely inspired father Stephen.

**T**hou hast been like a captain of a ship sailing far off at sea, piloting, by divine grace, to a calm harbor those who by faith invoke thy name, O blessed father Stephen.

**B**eing a minister of the sacred mysteries, thou didst offer thyself as a sacred sacrifice to Him who was slain for our sake, O Stephen, and rejoicing, thou hast found rest in the mansions of heaven together with the first-born angels.

**T**hy words were like new seeds sown on a dry and fallow field bringing it back to health by the grace pouring from the precious lips granted thee from on-high for the correction of mankind, O holy martyr Stephen.

*Theotokion:* **I** have set all my hope for my salvation on thee, O all-pure Lady, as I have fled to thee for protection. Be thou my helper, O divine Maiden, and deliver me from every evil.

**Ode 5**

*Irmos:* With Thy divine light, O Good One, illumine, I ask Thee, the souls of those who in love keep vigil that they may know Thee, O Word of God as the true God who recalls them from the darkness of sin.

**O**ur God alone is the Judge of the contest, and He has strengthened thee against thy murderers, O venerable father Stephen, and He truly crowned thine ascetic labors with the honors of martyrdom.

**O** martyr Stephen, thou dost share the glorious fellowship of the multitude of martyrs who, in thy narrow prison, surrounded thee like stars about a brilliant sun, and illumined everything around them.

**We** bless these three hundred and forty-two holy confessors of the faith, who, with thee in the prison, contended against the ungodly haters of the icons.

**T**his glorious multitude of venerable monks endured the cruel dishonor of having their hair shorn, their ears cut off, and their limbs being severed, all because of their veneration of the icon of Christ.

*Theotokion:* **O** all-pure Lady, who alone truly gave birth to the All-holy One on earth; sanctify those who profess thee to be the Theotokos, and save us by thy holy intercessions.

## Ode 6

*Irmos:* Beholding the sea of life surging high with the storm of temptations, I have fled to Thy tranquil haven and cry out unto Thee: Raise up my life from corruption, O greatly Merciful One!

The author of evil was unable to endure the power of thy words, O Stephen, then savagely gave thee over to suffer a violent death.

With thee, suffered the martyr Paul, who was baked like bread in the oven, then suspended pitilessly by his feet, and thus he offered himself as a sacrifice to God, and was accounted worthy to dwell with the holy martyrs.

Mightily didst thou oppose the tyrant, O martyr Peter of great renown, and with thy body torn by the lash, thy one desire was to die for Christ, the immortal King and Lord.

And we forget you not, O ye thirty-eight venerable monks who suffered by the decree of the law in Ephesus, imprisoned and deprived of live by suffocation.

*Theotokion:* We bless thee with our steadfast hearts, O Theotokos, who alone art blessed and praised amongst all women, the invincible defense of all Christians, and our all-pure Lady.

**Another Kontakion of Martyr Stephen, Tone 3:** *To the melody "Today the Virgin...."*

Thou didst grow like a branch from a barren root /  
O venerable father Stephen, /  
Thou glorious namesake of the Protomartyr of Christ /  
And a great instructor of monastics, /  
Thou didst not fear the wrath of the evil emperor who did not honor the image of Christ. /  
Therefore, thou didst suffer death as a martyr for Him ///  
And didst receive thy martyr's crown from Him.

*Ikos:* The author of evil, the father of all hatred, and stranger to God raised many temptations against thee, yet he could not bear to look upon thy godly life and the straight and unwavering way of thy path. The evil one devised many snares against thee, even feigning to be thy disciple, like Judas of old; and he made haste to place thee into the hands of the unjust, O father, thou great confessor of Christ who venerated His image with love. For this cause, thou hast received thy crown of martyrdom, O venerable father Stephen.

## Ode 7

*Irmos:* An angel made the furnace moist with dew for the godly children and the command of God consuming the Chaldeans made the tyrant cry out: Blessed art Thou, O God

VENERABLE MARTYR STEPHEN THE NEW;  
AND THE HOLY MARTYR IRENARCHUS AND THE SEVEN WOMEN MARTYRS

*of our fathers!*

**W**hen the day of thy earthly death was announced to thee by the all-accomplishing will of God, O blessed one, thou didst embark upon a greater rule of fasting, and, having been slain for the sake of Christ the God over all, thou didst ascend from glory to glory!

**T**hou wast glorified in the same manner as thy namesake, the protomartyr of Christ, and after being stoned, thou wast mercilessly dragged and beaten as thou surrendered thy soul, rejoicing, to the Lord.

**D**ragged through the streets of the city, O martyr Stephen, thou didst make smooth the way of martyrdom for the faithful, and walking that path thyself, thou didst reach the city on high.

*Theotokion:* **T**he holy prophets announced the coming mystery of thine honored birthgiving, O pure one; and we, contemplating its splendid fulfillment, piously call thee blessed.

**Ode 8**

*Irmos:* *Out of the flames Thou didst drop dew on the godly ones, and with water didst kindle the sacrifice of the righteous one, for Thou doest all things as Thou wilt, O Christ; we exalt thee throughout all ages!*

**L**ike wild beasts, the murderous gang seized the lamb of Christ, and having killed him, the malefactors cast his body into an unhallowed pit.

**P**itilessly, they crushed thy head which God hath crowned with a wreath of victory, O noble sufferer, thou glory of both all the martyrs and the venerable monastic saints.

**T**he divinely-wise and righteous Andrew, also opposed the tyrant together with thee, and like thee, he cried aloud to Christ God as he was being broken and mercilessly slain.

**H**aving had God dwell within thy heart on earth, O much-suffering Stephen, thou dwellest now with Him, who resteth in His saints, forever.

*Theotokion:* **C**leanse me from the defilement of my wicked sins, I pray thee, O Virgin Theotokos, with the sprinkling of the divine Blood which flowed from the side of thy Son and God.

**Ode 9**

*Irmos:* *It is not possible for men to see God upon whom the ranks of angels dare not gaze, but through thee, O All-pure One, was the Word incarnate revealed unto men, whom magnifying together with the heavenly hosts, we call thee blessed!*

**R**ejoicing with all the ranks of angels, apostles, patriarchs, venerable saints, prophets,

martyrs, and all the righteous departed, be mindful of us here on earth, and help us as we faithfully call thee blessed.

**T**hou art truly a great light, the bright dawning of a great sun, like a sky studded with the stars of thy splendid miracles and holy wounds, O Stephen, which truly illumine the thoughts of all who praise thee, O much-suffering martyr.

**H**aving first defeated the prince of darkness and all his minions with the great feats of thine ascetic labors, O father, thou didst go on to utterly destroy them by thy great and holy suffering, O Stephen, thou glory of the martyrs and boast of all venerable monastics.

**T**hy glorious deeds truly illumine all mankind today with the radiant grace of the Holy Spirit, O divinely bless't and venerable martyr father Stephen. Sanctify us all who joyfully celebrate thy holy memory!

*Theotokion:* **O** divine and joyous Lady, abode of the True Light, and the confirmation of all holy martyrs and venerable saints, deliver from every danger, necessity, misfortune, and assault of the enemy those who praise and honor thee.

### **Exapostilarion:**

**T**hou didst slay the serpent, the author of all evil, by the power of thine ascetic labors, and thou didst win the crown of martyrdom by thy blessed end, worshipping the precious image of the Lord in true worship of God Himself, O most blessed martyr Stephen.

### **Glory..., now and ever.... Theotokion:**

**T**hou art the immaculate Bride of God and the ineffable Mother of His Son, and His most pure habitation, O Theotokos; for thou gavest birth to God the Word, the pre-eternal Light who dwelt within thee. Therefore, praising thy birthgiving, we rightly magnify thee, O pure and blessed Lady.

### **At the Liturgy**

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

**1-4.** *(From the Octoechos)*

**5.** Thy mind made beautiful by beholding God, O father, and partaking of His divine splendor, was truly filled with every grace.

**6.** Venerating the precious icons of Christ and of her who gave Him birth, O blessed one, thou wast filled with the power of the Holy Spirit and thou didst despise the vile

VENERABLE MARTYR STEPHEN THE NEW;  
AND THE HOLY MARTYR IRENARCHUS AND THE SEVEN WOMEN MARTYRS

commands of the evil emperor.

**7. Foolishly**, he bound thee in iron fetters and sent thee to prison, O thou possessed of a heart of iron, for preserving the dogmas of Christ, O most-blessèd martyr, Stephen,.

**8. Thy** beautiful feet that trod the path of martyrdom, crushed the heads of thine enemies, O venerable and much-suffering martyr Stephen.

**The Troparion of St. Stephen, in Tone 4:**

Thou didst put thy spiritual enemies to flight /  
By thy fasting upon the mountain and by the power of the Cross. /  
Thou didst also defeat the heresy of the evil Copronymus. /  
By thy courage in battle and by the strength of thy faith, /  
For both thou hast received thy crown from God /  
And given eternal life, ///  
O father Stephen, worthy of all praise, thou martyr among the saints.

**Kontakion of St. Stephen, in Tone 3: *To the melody "Today the Virgin...."***

Thou didst grow like a branch from a barren root /  
O venerable father Stephen, /  
Thou glorious namesake of the Protomartyr of Christ /  
And a great instructor of monastics, /  
Thou didst not fear the wrath of the evil emperor who did not honor the image of Christ. /  
Therefore, thou didst suffer death as a martyr for Him ///  
And didst receive thy martyr's crown from Him.

**Prokeimenon, Tone 7:** Let the saints be exalted in glory; / let them sing for joy on their couches. *Verse:* Sing to the Lord a new song; His praise in the assembly of the saints.

**The Epistle:** (291) 2 Timothy 1:8-18

**The Alleluia, in Tone 6:** Blessèd is the man who fears the Lord, who greatly delights in His commandments. *Verse:* His seed shall be mighty in the land.

**The Gospel:** (37) Matthew 10:23-31

**Communion Hymn:** The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance. He shall not be afraid of evil tidings. Alleluia....