Vesper Propers, December 27
Postfestive Day of the Nativity of Our Lord

THE HOLY APOSTLE, FIRST MARTYR, AND ARCHDEACON STEPHEN, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit. First of seven deacons, whom the Apostles chose to be fellow-laborers in the ministry, he was also the first of the disciples of the Lord to pour out his blood at Jerusalem. He provided testimony for Christ Jesus, whom he saw standing in glory at the right hand of the Father. He was covered over by stones while praying for his persecutors.

Our venerable father and confessor Theodore of Apamea in Bithynia, a monk of the laura of St. Sabbas in Palestine, priest and martyr. In Constantinople with his brother St. Theophane (the Hymnographer) he endured much in the defense of the Holy Images. He endured scourging, prisons, exile, and even brands on his forehead, for which reason he was called Graptus. He expired in prison. (845)

Supplement for ***The Order of Vespers for Sundays After Pentecost,*** *2006*
"O Lord, I have cried" is sung in Tone 4, page 58.

Bring my soul out of this prison
and then I shall praise ***your*** name.
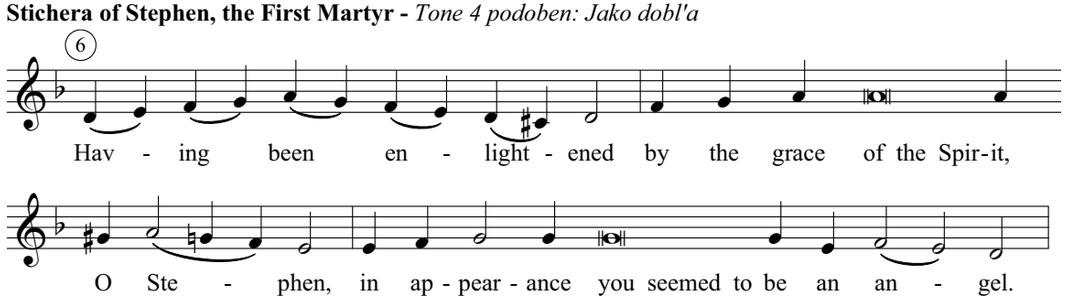
Around me the just will assemble
because of your goodness ***to*** me.

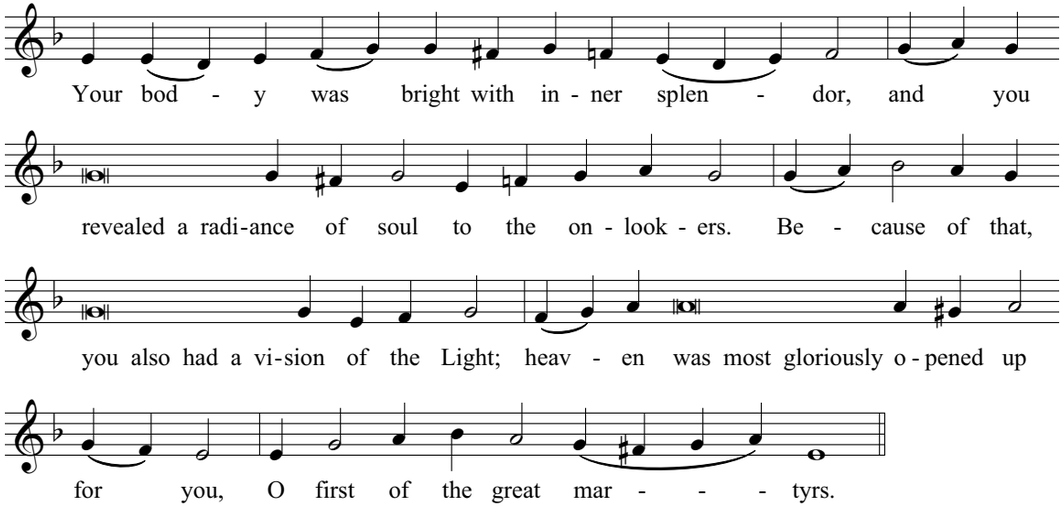
Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord;
Lord, hear ***my*** voice!

Let your ears be attentive
to the voice of ***my*** pleading.
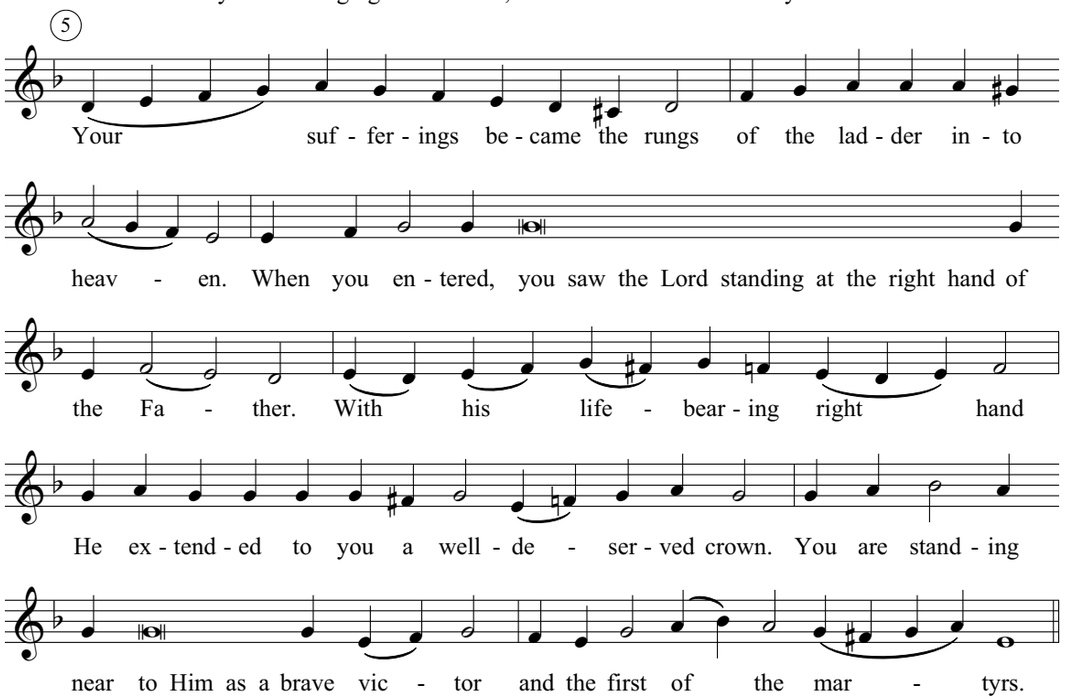
Cantor: If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt, Lord who would survive?
(on 6) But with you is found forgiveness: for this we revere you.

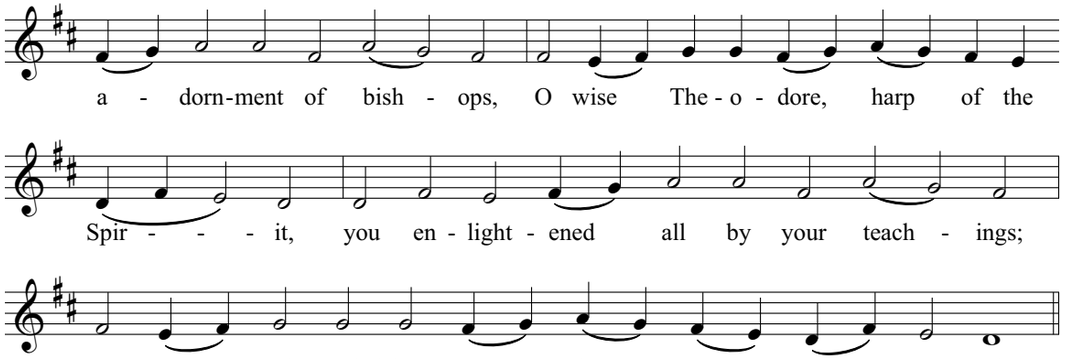
Stichera of Stephen, the First Martyr - *Tone 4 podoben: Jako dobl'a*





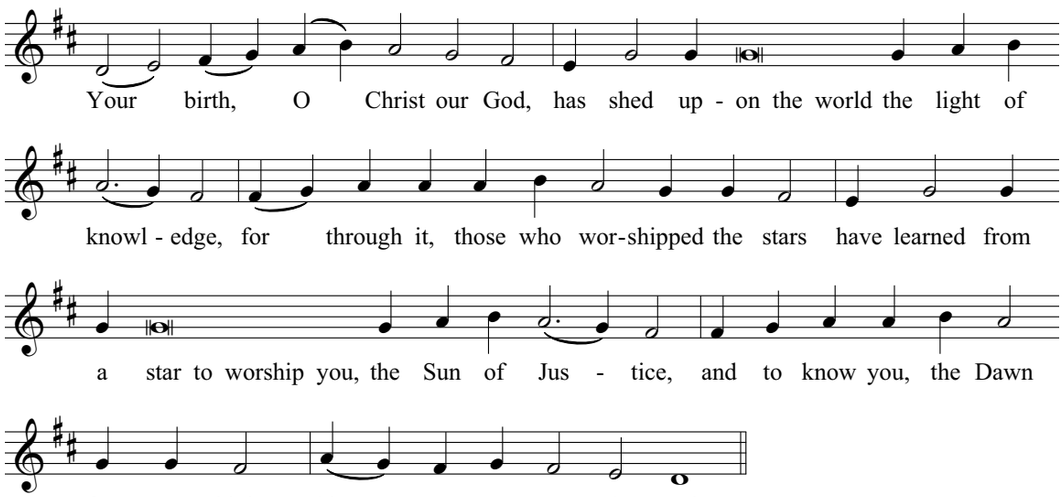
Cantor: My soul is longing for the Lord, I count on his word.
(on 5) My soul is longing for the Lord, more than watchman for daybreak.



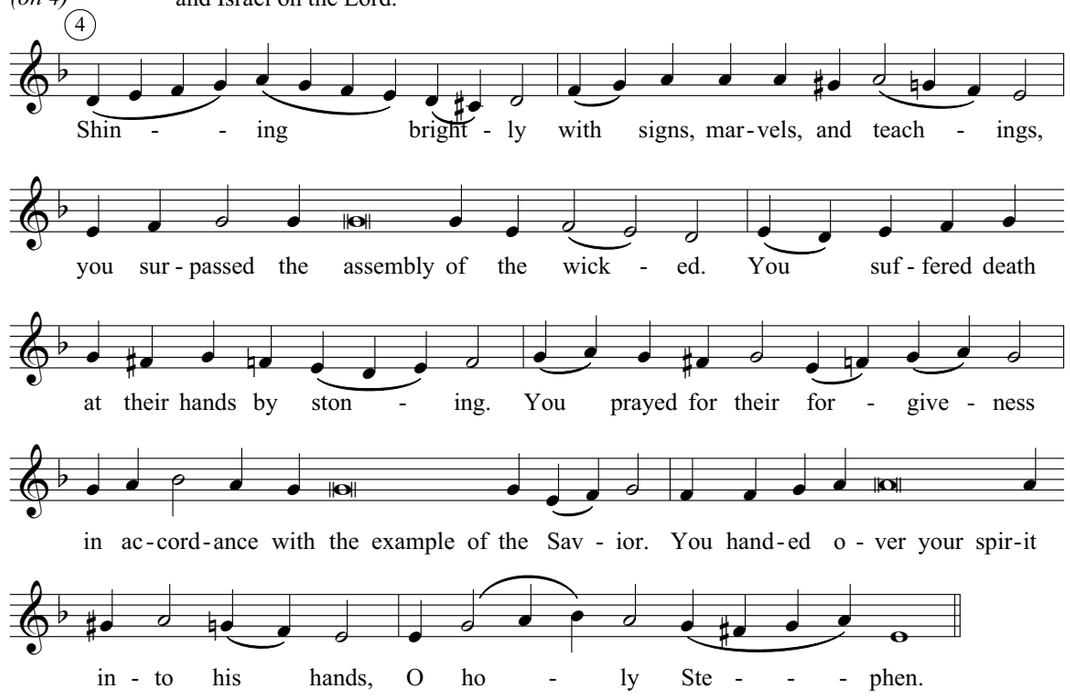


Cantor: *(Tone 4)* Now and ever...

Troparion of the Nativity - *Tone 4*

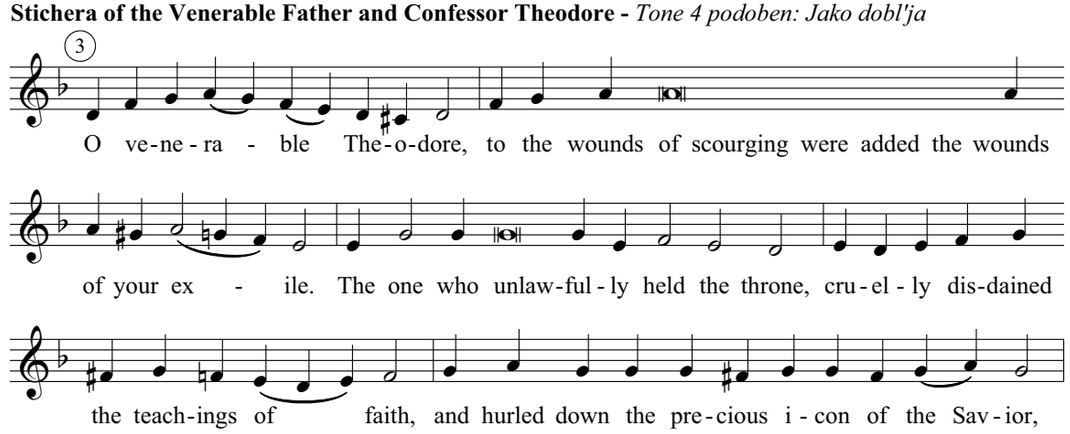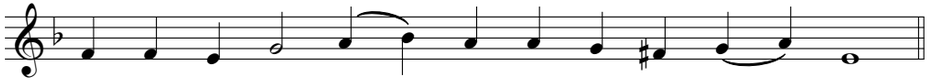


Cantor: Let the watchman count on daybreak
(on 4) and Israel on the Lord.



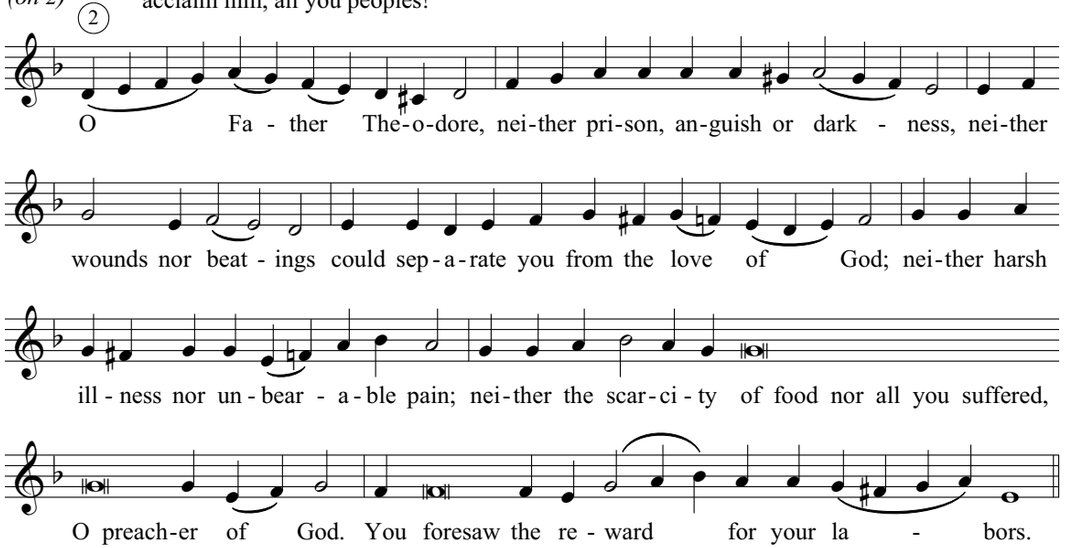
Cantor: Because with the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.
(on 3) Israel indeed he will redeem from all its iniquity.

Stichera of the Venerable Father and Confessor Theodore - *Tone 4 podoben: Jako dobl'ja*

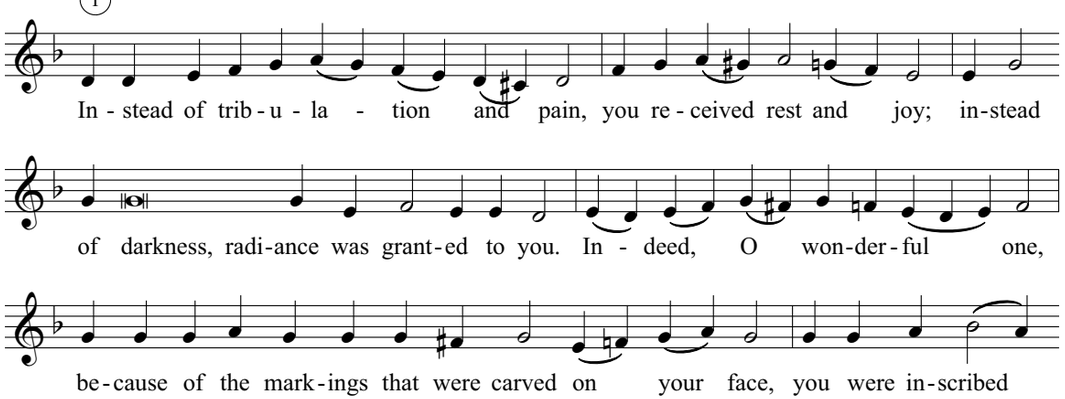


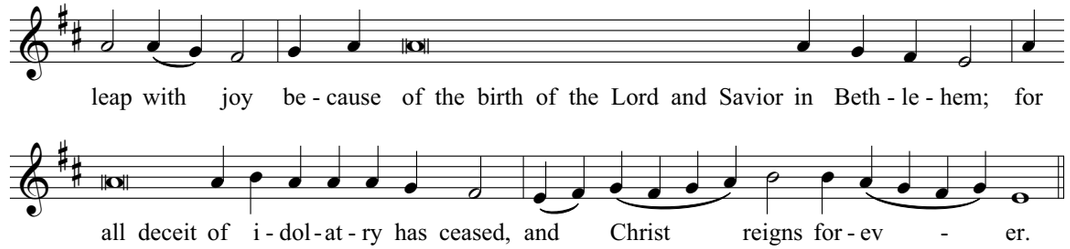


Cantor: Praise the Lord, all you nations; **Psalm 116**
(on 2) acclaim him, all you peoples!



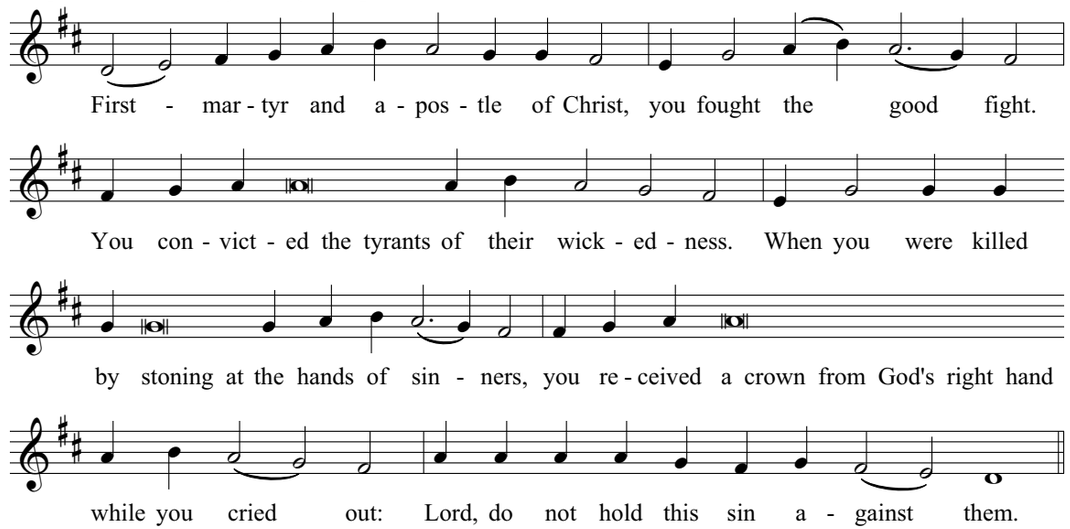
Cantor: Strong is the love of the Lord for us;
(on 1) he is faithful forever.





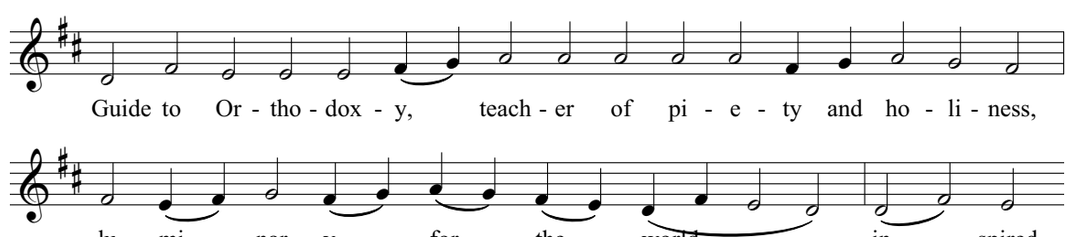
Troparia

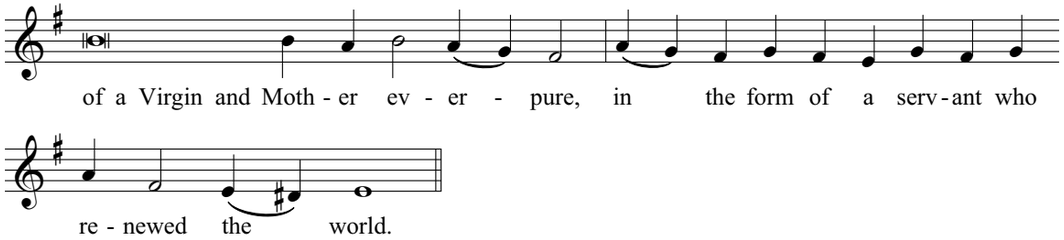
Troparion of the Holy Martyr Stephen - *Tone 4*



Cantor: *(Tone 8)* Glory...

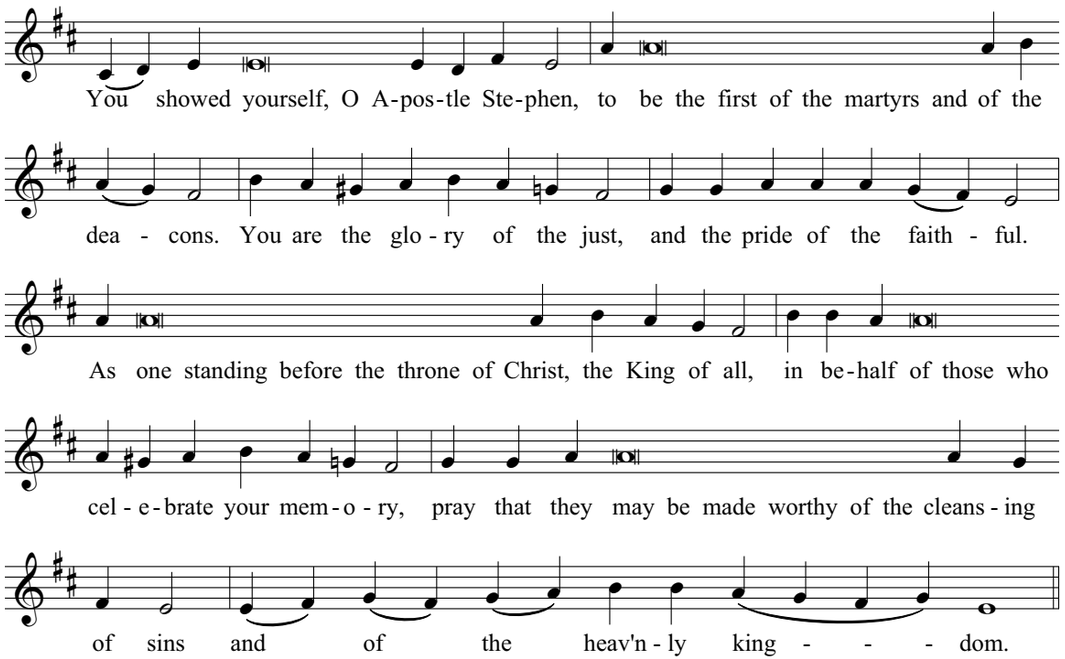
Troparion of the Venerable Father and Confessor Theodore - *Tone 8*
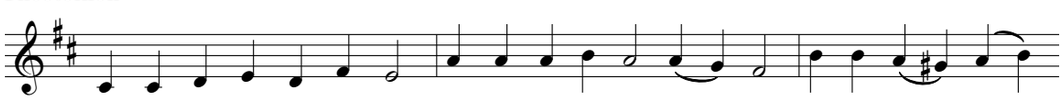




Cantor: *(Tone 6)* Glory...

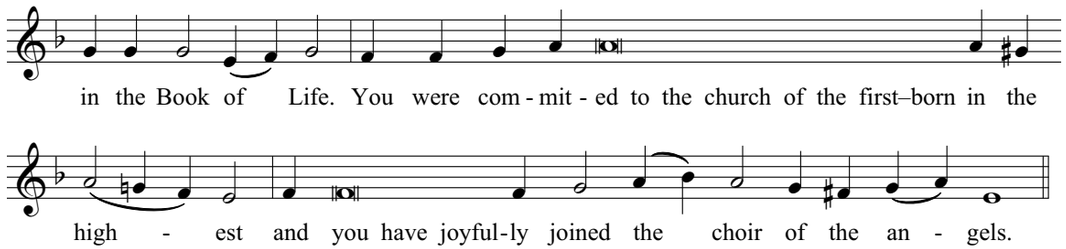
Aposticha Doxastikon of the Holy Martyr Stephen - *Tone 6*



Cantor: Now and ever...

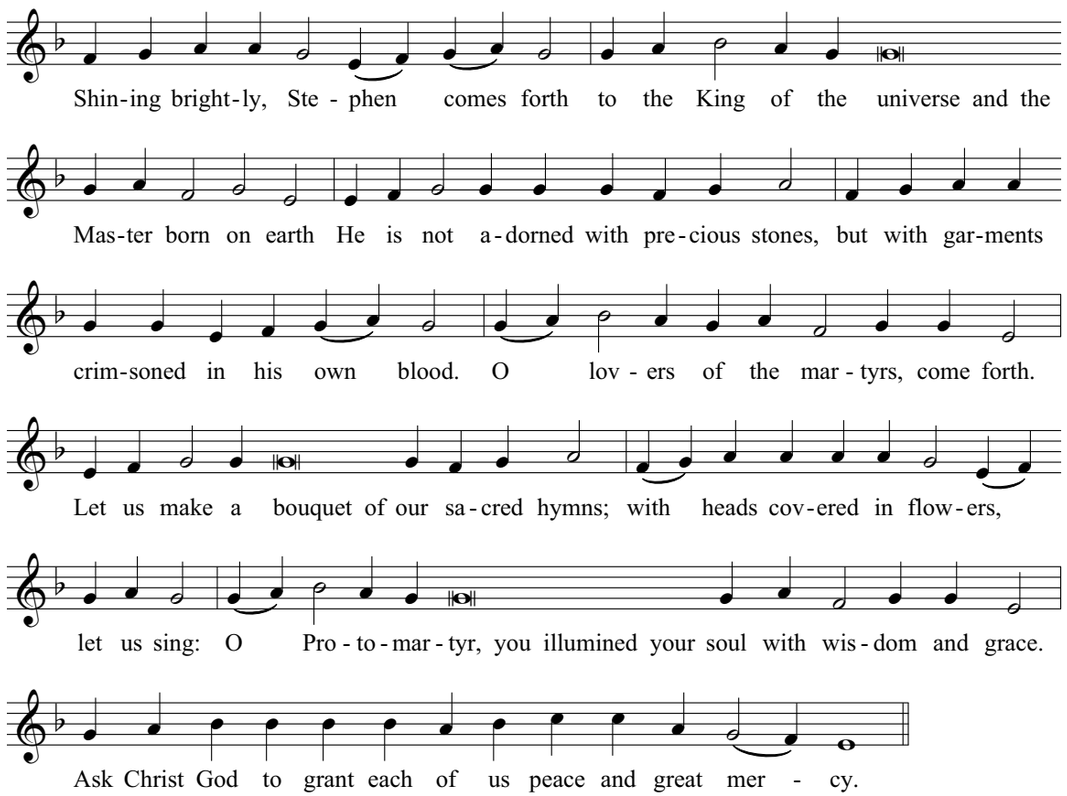
Theotokion





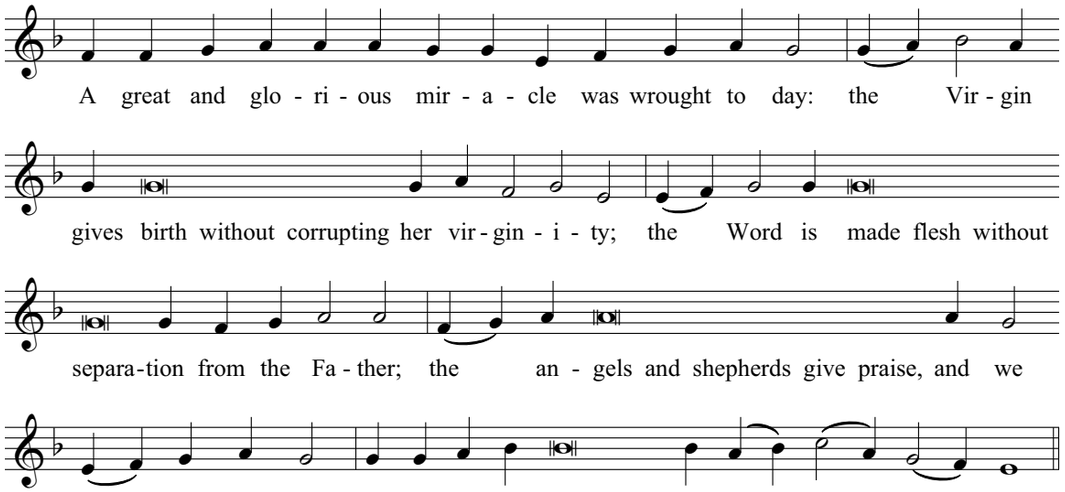
Cantor: *(Tone 2)* Glory…

Doxastikon of the Holy Martyr Stephen - *Tone 2*



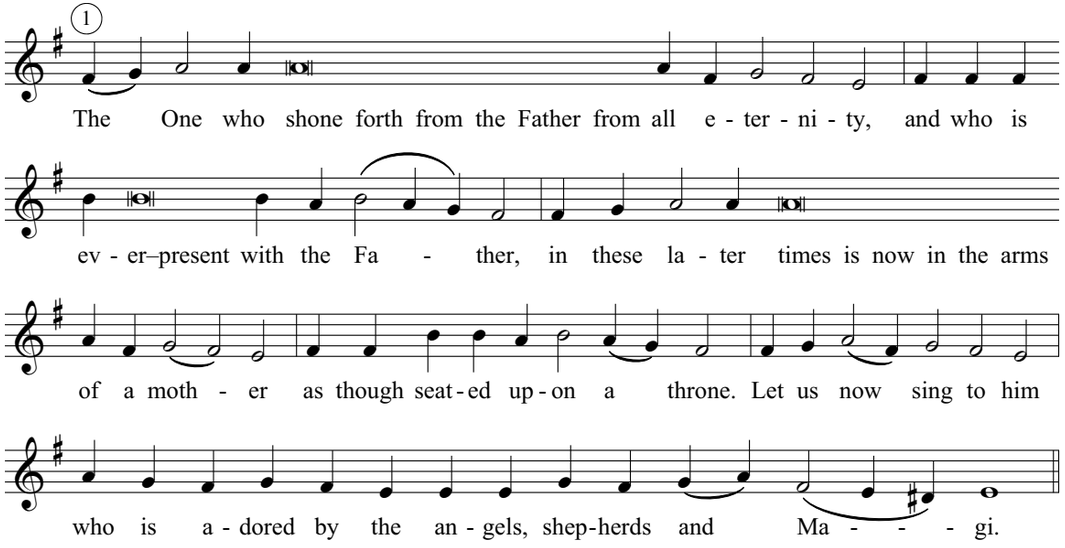
Cantor: Now and ever…

Theotokion

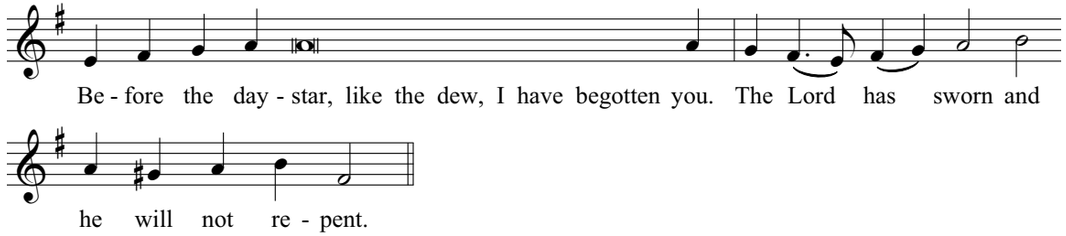


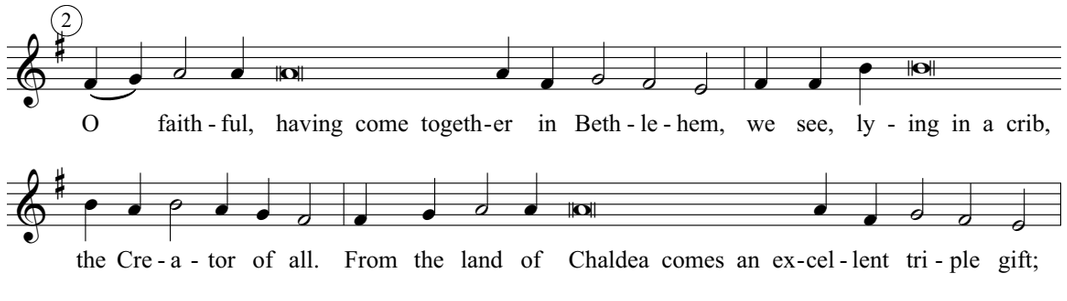
Aposticha

Of the post-feast - *Tone 1*



Cantor





Cantor

