

SUNDAY, AUGUST 2

TONE 7

8th Sunday after Pentecost

Translation of the Relics of the Protomartyr and Archdeacon Stephen

"Lord I Call..." Tone 7

Lord, I call upon You, hear me!

Hear me, O Lord!

Lord, I call upon You, hear me!

Receive the voice of my prayer,

when I call upon You!//

Hear me, O Lord!

Let my prayer arise

in Your sight as incense,

and let the lifting up of my hands

be an evening sacrifice!//

Hear me, O Lord!

v. (10) Bring my soul out of prison, that I may give thanks to Your name!

Tone 7 *(for the Resurrection)*

Come, let us rejoice in the Lord,

Who destroyed the dominion of death!

Let us sing to Him with the bodiless hosts,

for He enlightened the race of man!//

O our Maker and Savior, glory to You!

v. (9) The righteous will surround me; for You will deal bountifully with me.

You endured the Cross and burial for our sake.

By Your death, You destroyed death as God.

We fall down before Your Resurrection on the third day,//

O Savior, glory to You!

v. (8) Out of the depths I cry to You, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice!

When the Apostles beheld the Resurrection of the Maker,

they were amazed and sang the angelic praise.

This is the glory of the Church.

This is the richness of the Kingdom.//

O Lord, crucified for our sake, glory to You!

v. (7) Let Your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

(Resurrection stichera by Anatolius)

You were held by lawless men, O Christ,
but to me, You are God, and I am not ashamed.
You were smitten on the cheek, but I do not deny You.
You were nailed to the Cross and I do not conceal it,
for I glory in Your Resurrection: Your death is my life.//
O Almighty Lord and Lover of man, glory to You!

v. (6) If You, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with You.

Fulfilling the prophecy of David,
Christ manifested His greatness in Zion to the disciples.
He is praised and always glorified,
together with the Father and the Holy Spirit.
At first as the Word, He was bodiless,
but then He took flesh and was slain for our sake.//
He rose in power as the Lover of man!

v. (5) For Your name's sake I have waited for You, O Lord, my soul has waited for Your word; my soul has hoped on the Lord.

You descended into hell as You willed, O Christ,
overthrowing death as God, and rising on the third day as Master!
With Yourself You raised Adam from the bonds of hell and from corruption!//
Glory to Your Resurrection, only Lover of man!

v. (4) From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch, let Israel hope on the Lord!

Tone 8 *(for Protomartyr Stephen)* *(O most glorious wonder)*

O Stephen, chosen by the Apostles,
the first among the martyrs to suffer
and the foundation of those who serve as deacons:
you enlighten with unfading light
those who celebrate your radiant feast with splendor,
giving grace and mercy to your servants.
By your prayers, O martyr, guide them to everlasting life!

v. (3) For with the Lord there is mercy and with Him is plenteous redemption, and He will deliver Israel from all his iniquities.

O Stephen, martyr of Christ,
you received a crown of grace on your head
in accordance with your name.*
You adorned your neck with a chain of virtues as with gold
and became an all-wise dwelling of the Wisdom you cherished,
keeping it as your beloved.//
Therefore you have been honored with grace and glory.

v. (2) Praise the Lord, all nations! Praise Him, all peoples!

O most honored Stephen,
first of the martyrs to suffer,
you are crowned with grace and glory, O Apostle.
When you were stoned, you offered a crown to our King and God,
spiritual and more valued than gold and precious stones.//
Your deeds and name are beautiful.//
Keep us all in remembrance!

v. (1) For His mercy is abundant towards us; and the truth of the Lord endures forever.

Tone 2 *(for Protomartyr Stephen, by Anatolius)*

O most holy Stephen,
you appeared as first among deacons and first among martyrs,
for your path was to holy things,
and you led many martyrs to the Lord.
Thus, heaven was opened, and God appeared to you.//
Entreat Him that our souls may be saved!

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;

Tone 6 *(for Protomartyr Stephen, by Anatolius)*

O Apostle Stephen,
you were shown to be first among martyrs and deacons;
the adornment of athletes, the strength of the faithful,
and the glory of the righteous.
As you stand before the throne of Christ, the King of all,
ask that those who celebrate your honored memory
may be counted worthy to be cleansed of their sins//
and to inherit the Kingdom of heaven!

* Stephen (stefanos) = crown

now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Tone 7 *(Theotokion – Dogmatikon)*

No tongue can speak of your wonderful childbearing,
for the order of nature was overruled by God.
You were revealed to be a Mother above nature,
for you remained a Virgin beyond reason and understanding.
Your conception was most glorious, O Theotokos!
The manner of your giving birth was ineffable, O Virgin!
Knowing you to be the Mother of God,
devoutly we pray to you://
“Beseech Him to save our souls!”

Aposticha

Tone 7 *(for the Resurrection)*

As the Savior of the world You arose from the tomb.
As God You resurrected the race of man with Your flesh.//
O Lord, glory to You!

v. The Lord is King; He is robed in majesty!

Come, let us worship the One Who rose from the dead,
and enlightened all creation!
By His death, He saved us from the torments of hell.//
By His Resurrection He has granted us eternal life and great mercy.

v. For He has established the world, so that it shall never be moved.

You descended into hell, capturing death, O Christ.
In three days You arose again,
resurrecting us who glorify Your Resurrection,//
O Lord and Lover of man.

v. Holiness befits Your house, O Lord, forevermore!

When You were placed in the tomb as one asleep,
the sight was great and awesome.
But when You rose on the third day as almighty God,
You resurrected Adam with Yourself.//
Glory to Your Resurrection, only Lover of man!

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;

Tone 8 *(for Protomartyr Stephen, by Cyprian)*

Rejoice in the Lord, O crown-bearing Stephen,
for you followed your Master,
and were the first martyr of Christ our King!
You have abolished the deception of the Enemy,//
and you pray to the Lord on our behalf.

now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Tone 8 *(Theotokion)*

O unwedded Virgin,
who ineffably conceived God in the flesh,
O Mother of God most high,
accept the cries of your servants, O blameless One!
Grant cleansing of transgressions to all!//
Receive our prayers and pray to save our souls!

(at Great Vespers)

Tone 7 **Troparion** *(Resurrection)*

By Your Cross You destroyed death.
To the thief You opened Paradise.
For the Myrrhbearers You changed weeping into joy.
And You commanded Your disciples, O Christ God,
to proclaim that You are risen,//
granting the world great mercy.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,

Tone 4 **Troparion** *(Protomartyr Stephen)*

Your relics have risen from the depths of the earth,
like a treasury for the immortal life of all creation.
The Church, rejoicing in the grace that she receives from them,
duteously honors you, Protomartyr Stephen.//
Preserve us from error and heresy by your intercession!

now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Tone 4 Resurrectional Dismissal Theotokion

The mystery of all eternity,
unknown even by Angels,
through you, Theotokos, is revealed to those on earth:
God incarnate by union without confusion.
He voluntarily accepted the Cross for us,
by which He resurrected the first-created man, //
saving our souls from death.

(at the Divine Liturgy)

Tone 7 Troparion *(Resurrection)*

By Thy Cross Thou didst destroy death.
To the thief Thou didst open Paradise.
For the Myrrhbearers Thou didst change weeping into joy,
and Thou didst command Thy disciples, O Christ God,
to proclaim that Thou art risen, //
granting the world great mercy.

Tone 4 Troparion *(Protomartyr Stephen)*

Thy relics have risen from the depths of the earth,
like a treasury for the immortal life of all creation.
The Church, rejoicing in the grace that she receives from them,
duteously honors thee, O Protomartyr Stephen. //
Preserve us from error and heresy by thy intercession!

Tone 7 Kontakion *(Resurrection)*

The dominion of death can no longer hold men captive,
for Christ descended, shattering and destroying its powers.
Hell is bound, while the Prophets rejoice and cry:
"The Savior has come to those in faith; //
enter, you faithful, into the Resurrection!"

Tone 6 Kontakion *(Protomartyr Stephen)*

Thou wast the first to be sown on the earth by the Heavenly Husbandman,
O all-praised one,
and wast the first to shed thy blood on the earth for Christ, O blessed one.
Thou wast the first to receive the crown of victory from Him in heaven, //
O Stephen, first of the suffering God-crowned martyrs.

Tone 7 Prokeimenon *(Resurrection)*

The Lord shall give strength to His people. / The Lord shall bless His people with peace. *(Ps 28/29:11)*

v: Offer to the Lord, O you sons of God! Offer young rams to the Lord! (Ps 28/29:1)

Epistle
1 Corinthians 1:10-18

Tone 7
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

v: It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to Your Name, O Most High. (Ps 91/92:1)

v: To declare Your mercy in the morning, and Your truth by night. (Ps 91/92:2)

Gospel
Matthew 14:14-22

In addition to translations from the Department of Liturgical Music and Translations, liturgical texts for this service represent modified versions of translations provided by Holy Myrrhbearers Monastery, Otego, New York and St. Tikhon's Monastery, South Canaan, Pa. The Department of Liturgical Music and Translations of the Orthodox Church in America expresses its gratitude to Holy Myrrhbearers Monastery and St. Tikhon's Monastery and to those translators whose work has been consulted at times in the course of reviewing and modifying these texts to their present form: Metropolitan Kallistos (Ware), Archimandrite Ephrem (Lash), Father Benedict Churchill, Isaac Lambertson, St. Vladimir's Seminary, and Holy Transfiguration Monastery, among others.