

THE 26th DAY OF THE MONTH OF APRIL
COMMEMORATION OF OUR FATHER AMONG THE SAINTS,
STEPHEN BISHOP OF PERM
AT GREAT VESPERS

After the Introductory Psalm, we chant “Blessed is the man ...,” the first antiphon.

On “Lord, I have cried ...,” 6 Stichera of the holy hierarch: 3 in Tone IV:

Spec. Mel.: “Called from on high ...”:

When divine love came upon thee, * O most wise Stephen, * forsaking all carnal wisdom, * thou didst follow Christ without turning back, * and, emulating the apostles, * didst preach God * to the ignorant in faraway lands, * guiding them all out of their darkness * and into the light of divine knowledge; * wherefore, Christ, Whom thou didst serve, * hath crowned thee with heavenly wreaths; * Him do thou beseech, ** that He save and enlighten our souls.

When divine desire descended upon thee, * O holy hierarch, * forsaking all the deceptive wisdom * which is in the world, * thou didst seek that which is higher, * desiring to ascend on high; * hence, receiving wisdom * not from men or through men, * but from the providence or the Most High, * thou didst devise a new alphabet to transmit the knowledge of Christ, * and God became known amongst an ignorant people through thee. * Him do thou beseech, O most wise Stephen, ** that He save and enlighten our souls.

When divine knowledge came upon thee, * O holy hierarch Stephen, * moved by the Holy Spirit, * thou didst come to enlighten a people * who from of old had lain in the darkness of unbelief, * and, enlightening them, didst move them * toward the light of divine knowledge, * teaching them to believe * in the consubstantial Trinity, * the one Godhead, * Whom do thou entreat on our behalf, * O most wise and holy hierarch, ** that He save and enlighten our souls.

And 3 Stichera in Tone I: Spec. Mel.: “Joy of the ranks of heaven ...”:

With thy teaching, O blessed Stephen, * thou didst cultivate the hearts of the unbelieving people * which of old had become stony; * wherefore, all of us, the faithful, * greatly bless thee ** as a teacher and instructor in piety.

Thy tongue became the pen of a swiftly writing scribe, O holy hierarch, * explaining to all the mighty works of God. * leading all to the knowledge of God, * thou didst show forth Pamoï, the deviser of evil, as one mocked with ridicule; * wherefore, assembling in spirit, ** we honor thy repose.

Casting down the temples of the idols, O most wise and holy hierarch, * thou didst utterly destroy them, and didst consecrate churches * in which Christ might be known; * wherefore, we, thy spiritual children, * hymn thee as an instructor in piety, and beseech thee: ** Pray thou that our souls be saved.

Glory ..., in Tone VI:

All the priests of the idols marveled at thy wisdom and intelligent discourse, and reviling their own vain religion as ungodly, they believed with all their soul in Christ, Whom thou didst preach. Him do thou entreat, O most wise Stephen, that all who celebrate thy sacred festival and honor thy most holy memory with faith, be saved.

Both now ..., from the Pentecostarion.

Entrance. Prokeimenon of the day. Three Lessons:

A READING FROM PROVERBS

The memory of the just is praised, and the blessing of the Lord is upon his head. Blessed is the man who hath found wisdom, and the mortal who knoweth prudence. For it is better to traffic for her, than for treasures of gold and silver. And she is more valuable than precious stones: no precious thing is equal to her in value. For length of existence and years of life are in her right hand; and in her left hand are wealth and glory: out of her mouth righteousness proceedeth, and she carrieth law and mercy upon her tongue. Hearken to me, O children, for I will speak solemn truths. Blessed is the man who shall keep my ways; for my outgoings are the outgoings of life, and in them is prepared favor from the Lord. Ye, O men, do I exhort; and utter my voice to the sons of men. I, wisdom, have built up; upon counsel, knowledge and understanding have I called. Counsel and safety are mine; prudence is mine, and strength is mine. I love those that love me; they that seek me shall find grace. O ye simple, understand subtlety, and ye that are untaught, imbibe knowledge. Hearken unto me again; for I will speak solemn truths. For my throat shall meditate truth; and false lips are an abomination before me. All the words of my mouth are in righteousness; there is nothing in them wrong or perverse. They are all evident to those that understand, and right to those that find knowledge. For I will instruct you in truth, that your hope may be in the Lord, and ye may be filled with the Spirit.

A READING FROM THE WISDOM OF SOLOMON

Though the righteous be prevented with death, yet shall he be in rest. For honorable age is not that which standeth in length of time, nor that is measured by number of years. But wisdom is the gray hair unto men, and an unspotted life is old age. He pleased God, and was beloved of Him; so that, living among sinners, he was translated. Yea, speedily was he taken away, lest that wickedness should alter his understanding, or deceit beguile his soul. For the bewitching of naughtiness doth obscure things that are honest; and the wandering of lust doth undermine the simple mind. He, being made perfect in a short time, fulfilled a long time; for his soul pleased the Lord: therefore hastened He to take him away from among the wicked. This the people saw, and understood not, neither laid they up this in their minds: that His grace and mercy is with His saints, and that He doth visit His chosen.

A READING FROM PROVERBS

The mouth of the righteous droppeth wisdom: but the tongue of the unjust shall perish. The lips of just men drop grace: but the mouth of the ungodly is perverse. False balances are an abomination before the Lord: but a just weight is acceptable unto Him. Wherever pride entereth, there will also disgrace; but the mouth of the humble doth meditate wisdom. The integrity of the upright shall guide them, but the overthrow of the rebellious shall spoil them. Possessions shall not profit in the day of wrath, but righteousness will deliver from death. When a just man dieth, he leaveth regret: but the destruction of the ungodly is speedy and causeth joy. Righteousness traceth out blameless paths: but ungodliness encountereth unjust dealing. The righteousness of upright men delivereth them: but transgressors are caught in their own destruction. At the death of a just man his hope doth not perish: but the boast of the ungodly perisheth. A righteous man escapeth from a snare, and the ungodly man is delivered up in his place. In the mouth of ungodly men is a snare for citizens: but the understanding of righteous men is prosperous. In the prosperity of righteous men a city prospereth, but at the destruction of the wicked there is exultation. At the blessing of the upright a city shall be exalted, but by the mouths of ungodly men it is overthrown. A man void of understanding sneereth at his fellow citizens: but a sensible man is quiet.

At Litiya, the Sticheron of the temple; and this of the holy hierarch, in Tone II:

Like the apostles thou didst teach all to believe in the Trinity One in essence, the sole Godhead; wherefore, honoring thee as is meet, we all bless thee as a spiritual father, an emulator of the apostles, the kinsman of holy hierarchs, and beseech thee: Pray thou, that all who honor thy sacred memory be saved.

Both now ..., from the Pentecostarion.

On the Aposticha, these Stichera, in Tone II:

Spec. Mel.: "O house of Ephratha ...":

Thou wast the dwelling-place and habitation of the most holy Spirit, * O most wise Stephen; * wherefore, do thou also make us * who honor thy sacred memory ** into a habitation for Him.

*Verse: Thy priests shall be clothed with righteousness, * and Thy righteous shall rejoice.*

Thy life shone forth like the sun * in the hearts of the unbelievers, * emitting the radiance of sacred teaching; * wherefore, do thou also illumine with never-waning light ** us who honor thy sacred memory.

*Verse: The saints shall boast in glory, * and they shall rejoice upon their beds.*

Cease not in thy supplications, O Stephen, * for thy spiritual children * whom thou didst beget through baptism, * that we may all venerate ** thine honorable repose.

Glory ..., in Tone IV:

As a treasury of wisdom, O holy hierarch Stephen, thou didst illumine the hearts of the unbelieving with thy teaching, planting therein the seeds of piety; wherefore, as is meet, we all bless thee as a most wise teacher, and we beseech thee: Entreat Christ, Whom thou didst serve from thy youth, that He deliver us from the assaults of the enemy and save our souls.

Both now ..., from the Pentecostarion.

Troparion of the holy hierarch, in Tone IV:

Afire with divine desire from the years of thy youth, O most wise Stephen, * thou didst take up the burden of Christ, * and, sowing the divine seed in the hearts of the people, * which had from of old been hardened by unbelief, * thou didst spiritual beget them evangelically; * wherefore, honoring thy most glorious memory, we beseech thee: ** Entreat Him Whom thou didst preach, that He save our souls.

Glory ..., Both now ..., Troparion from the Pentecostarion.

AT MATINS

On “God is the Lord ...,” the Troparion from the Pentecostarion (Twice);
Glory ..., that of the holy hierarch, in Tone IV:

Afire with divine desire from the years of thy youth, O most wise Stephen, * thou didst take up the burden of Christ, * and, sowing the divine seed in the hearts of the people, * which had from of old been hardened by unbelief, * thou didst spiritual beget them evangelically; * wherefore, honoring thy most glorious memory, we beseech thee: ** Entreat Him Whom thou didst preach, that He save our souls.

Both now ..., that from the Pentecostarion.

After the 1st chanting of the Psalter, the Sessional Hymn, in Tone I:

Spec. Mel.: “When the stone had been sealed by the Jews ...”:

Knowing thee to be a most excellent healer of the passions of the soul, O holy hierarch Stephen, we beseech thee: Pray thou that the sufferings of retribution be lifted from us, that, finding thee as the cause of all good things, we may cry aloud: Glory to Him Who hath given thee wisdom! Glory to Him Who hath crowned thee! Glory to Him Who bestoweth enlightenment upon all through thee! (Twice)

Glory ..., Both now ..., Sessional Hymn from the Pentecostarion.

After the 2nd chanting of the Psalter, the Sessional Hymn, in Tone IV:

Spec. Mel.: “Having been lifted up ...”:

Cleaving unto virtue from childhood, O holy hierarch Stephen, thou didst become a vessel of the Holy Spirit; and having learned wisdom from Him, thou didst teach men to cast aside their idols and to believe in Christ. Him do thou entreat, that He save all who honor thee with love. (Twice)

Glory ..., Both now ..., Sessional Hymn from the Pentecostarion.

Polyeleos, and this magnification: We magnify thee, O holy hierarch Stephen, and we honor thy holy memory; for thou dost entreat Christ God on our behalf.

Selected Psalm verse:

A: Hear this, all ye nations; give ear, all ye that inhabit the world.

Glory ..., Both now ..., Alleluia ..., (Thrice)

After the Polyeleos, the Sessional Hymn, in Tone VIII:

Spec. Mel.: “Of the Wisdom ...”:

Having been taught wisdom from on high and united thyself unto God, following the Gospel thou didst forsake the world, and having betaken thyself to faraway places, through baptism thou didst bring all to the knowledge of Christ; wherefore, thou didst cry out unto all: “Come to know God, and ye shall find grace!” O most wise hierarch Stephen, entreat Christ God, that He grant forgiveness of sins unto those who with love honor thy most precious memory. (Twice)

Glory ..., Both now ..., Sessional Hymn from the Pentecostarion.

Song of Ascents, the first antiphon of Tone IV

Prokeimenon, in Tone IV: My mouth shall speak wisdom, * and the meditation of my heart shall be of understanding.

Verse: Hear this, all ye nations; give ear, all ye that inhabit the world.

Let every breath praise the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN, § 35, (MIDPOINT) (JN. 10: 1-8)

The Lord said to the Jews that came to Him: “Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. But he that entereth in by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the porter openeth; and the sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out. And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice. And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him; for they know not the voice of strangers.” This parable spake Jesus unto them; but they understood not what things they were which he spake unto them. Then said Jesus unto them again, “Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep. All that ever came before me are thieves and robbers: but the sheep did not hear them.”

After Psalm 50, this Sticheron, in Tone VI:

All the priests of the idols marveled at thy wisdom and intelligent discourse, and reviling their own vain religion as ungodly, they believed with all their soul in Christ, Whom thou didst preach. Him do thou entreat, O most wise Stephen, that all who with faith celebrate thy sacred festival and honor thy most holy memory may be saved.

Canon from the Pentecostarion, with 6 Troparia, including the Irmos, and two canons of the holy hierarch, with 8 Troparia.

ODE I

Canon I of the holy hierarch, in Tone IV:

Irmos: I shall open my mouth, * and be filled with the Spirit, * and utter discourse to the Queen and Mother; * and be seen radiantly keeping festival, * joyfully praising her wonders.

Having studied the sacred Scriptures from thy childhood, O God-bearing Stephen, thou didst travel to faraway places, and through thee God was made known unto the unbelievers.

Where falsehood was worshiped, God hath now been made known to the unbelievers through thee, O holy hierarch Stephen; wherefore, we bless thy sacred memory as is meet.

With thy divinely inspired doctrine thou didst teach the people to believe in Christ and to turn away from the delusion of idolatry; wherefore, with hymns we all honor thee as an emulator of the apostles.

Theotokion: In thine arms, O Bride of God, thou didst bear Him Who alone doth sit in the highest and Who assumed flesh from thee; for thou wast chosen from all ages to be a worthy receptacle of the Almighty.

Canon II of the holy hierarch, in Tone VIII:

Irmos: Having passed through the water as upon dry land, * and having escaped the malice of the Egyptians, * the Israelites cried aloud: * Unto our God and Redeemer let us sing.

When thou didst arrive in Perm, O most wise hierarch Stephen, thou didst cast down the falsehood which had exalted itself, and by thy most wise teachings didst put evil sorcery to shame.

Thou didst mightily shatter the weapons of the demons, O holy hierarch Stephen, and, conquering them by the power of God, thou didst confess Christ to all as the true God; wherefore, thou hast received a crown from Him.

Afire with divine love, O father, thou wast not daunted by the length of thy journey, nor by the opposition of the ungodly of those parts, but enduring all thou didst lead them to Christ.

Theotokion: From a royal root thou didst cause Christ the King, the Word of God, to bud forth, and didst give birth to Him through thy pure blood in a manner transcending human thought and understanding, in two natures but a single Hypostasis.

ODE III

Canon I

Irmos: O Theotokos, thou living and plentiful fount, * establish in spiritual fellowship those who sing hymns to thee, * and in thy divine glory * grant them crowns of glory.

Thou wast not afraid of the people who were then unbelievers, O holy hierarch, but boldly committed their temple and its idols to the fire; teaching them all to cry: There is none more holy than Thee, O Lord! (Twice)

With thy courage and humility thou didst transform murderers into meek lambs; wherefore thou hast been crowned, O holy hierarch Stephen.

Theotokion: Having acquired thee as sure aid, O Mother of God, setting our hope on thee we are saved, and fleeing to thee, we are all preserved.

Canon II

Irmos: O Lord, Creator of the vault of Heaven * and Builder of the Church, * do Thou strengthen me in Thy love, O Summit of desire, * O Support of the faithful, * O only Lover of mankind.

As a wise and intelligent worker, thou didst prefer nobility of soul over the pleasures of the flesh, for revealing most wise teachings unto all, O father, thou didst lead a new people to the knowledge of God.

Having rid thy mind of the turmoil of the passions, and emulating Christ, thou didst go forth to seek the lost; and having found them, thou chantest with them to Him: There is none more holier than Thee, O Lord!

Having acquired a divinely eloquent tongue, O holy hierarch, thou didst teach the people the mysteries of theology, to believe in the Trinity, the one God, Whom do thou entreat on our behalf, O Stephen.

Theotokion: **O** pure one, we all know thee as the staff which put forth Christ, the incorrupt Flower, and the golden censer, who bore in thine arms the Ember of the divine Essence, O thou who art divinely blessed.

Sessional Hymn, in Tone IV: Spec. Mel.: “Go thou quickly before ...”:

O ye faithful, let us laud the all-praised Stephen, the all-wondrous mind and vigilant teacher, who adorned the Church with sacred service, and who by his own discourse preserved his spiritual children unharmed, driving away from the sheep of Christ the sorcerer who like a wolf had bedeviled them with his vexing teachings; and let us say: Entreat Christ God, that our souls be saved. **(Twice)**

Glory ..., Both now ..., Sessional Hymn from the Pentecostarion.

ODE IV

Canon I

Irmos: **He** who sitteth in glory upon the throne of the Godhead, * **Jesus the true God,** * **is come in a swift cloud** * **and with His sinless hands he hath saved those who cry:** * **Glory to Thy power, O Christ.**

Thy pure life shone forth like the sun, O holy hierarch, driving away from the people the gloom of the madness of idolatry; and thou didst teach all to cry: Glory to Thy power, O Lord!

As one who is most wise, thou didst put to shame the foolish words of the sorcerers, and by thy discourses, as with a sling, thou didst drive them away from the flock of Christ, teaching them all to say: Glory to Thy power, O Lord!

As a true hierarch, peaceable and meek, O father, thou wast shown to be a pillar of devotion to the Church, teaching thy people piety, that they might cry unto Christ: Glory to Thy power, O Lord!

Theotokion: **T**hee do we set forth as a weapon against the enemy, O Mother of God, whereby we repel all the sorrows of evil circumstances and escape the turmoil of heresy.

Canon II

Irmos: **O** Lord, I have heard the mystery of Thy dispensation; * **I have considered Thy works,** * **and I have glorified Thy Divinity.**

Pray that the people be saved whom thou didst enlighten by thy teaching and didst teach to cry: Glory to Thy power, O Lover of mankind. **(Twice)**

Having received from God the election of the priesthood, invested with power from on high, like the apostles thou didst enlighten a people shrouded in the darkness of idolatry, teaching them to cry: Glory to Thy power, O Lover of mankind!

Theotokion: **O**f old the ark which received the divinely inscribed law prefigured thee, O all-immaculate one, who ineffably conceived in thy womb the Word of God Who richly nourisheth the souls of those who cry: Glory to Thy power, O Lord!

ODE V

Canon I

Irmos: **All creation stands in awe of thy divine glory; * for thou, O Virgin who hast not known wedlock, * didst contain within thy womb the God of all, * and gave birth to the timeless Son, * bestowing peace, upon all who hymn thee.**

Of old thou didst raise up a people who lay in darkness of unbelief by thy teaching, showing them to be children of God and heirs of the light; wherefore, O holy hierarch, with the love of wisdom we all honor thee.

The wisdom of the Holy Spirit having poured itself forth through thy lips by grace, led the people to the knowledge of Christ, O holy hierarch.

Since thou dost stand before the great Light as one crowned, O holy hierarch, be mindful of thine excellent inheritance which thou didst acquire by manifold labors, O father, that we may all call thee blessed.

Theotokion: **T**he noetic Sun shone forth from thee and spread the radiant beams of His divinity upon all, O Sovereign Lady Theotokos; wherefore, we all glorify thee.

Canon II

Irmos: **Illumine us O Lord with Thy commandments, * and with Thine arm raised on high * grant us Thy peace, * O Lover of mankind!**

Enkindled by divine zeal, O holy hierarch, thou didst commit the vain idols to the fire utterly consuming them; and having led the unbelievers to the Faith, thou teachest all to believe in the one Godhead in three Hypostases.

The accursed sorcerer who desired to turn the people of Christ away from the Faith was put to shame when God glorified thee, O most sacred and most wise Stephen.

Theotokion: **T**hou wast adorned with the beauties of virginity, covering the shame of the nakedness of Eve, O thou who hast given birth to Christ, Who bestoweth the vesture of immortality upon those who honor thee.

ODE VI

Canon I

Irmos: **Celebrating the divine and solemn feast * of the Mother of God * O ye divinely wise, * let us come, clapping our hands, * and glorify God who was born of her.**

With the plough of thy words thou didst cultivate the stony hearts of the people, O holy hierarch, and, having planted in them the divine seed, thou didst produce for Christ beautiful fruit.

Extinguishing the conflagration of idolatry with the rushing streams of thy teachings, O most wise Stephen, with thy divine discourses thou didst make steadfast the hearts of the faithful.

Teaching the people to believe in the consubstantial Trinity, O most wise Stephen, thou didst lead them away from the pollution of idolatry to the living God.

Theotokion: **R**end thou asunder the record of my sins, O Sovereign Lady, granting me release from the grief and sorrows which beset me, and preserve me unharmed.

Canon II

Irmos: **I** will pour out my prayer unto the Lord, * and to Him will I proclaim my grief; * for my soul is filled with evils, * and my life unto Hades hath drawn nigh, * and like Jonah I pray unto Thee: * Raise me up from corruption, O God.

Receiving the pastoral staff, O most glorious hierarch Stephen, thou didst become a teacher for a new people, becoming all things to all men, like the apostle, that thou mightest lead all to Christ. **(Twice)**

Thy tongue was a two-edged word wielded against the wicked sorcerer, O holy hierarch, cutting down his vile teaching; wherefore, we glorify thee with sacred hymns.

Theotokion: **T**he all-accomplishing Spirit descended upon thee, O all-immaculate one, and the Word of God made His abode within thee, ineffably assuming flesh, yet remaining immutable.

Kontakion of the holy hierarch, in Tone VIII:

Spec. Mel.: “To thee, the champion leader ...”:

Thou wast found to be called not for only those who sought thee, O holy hierarch, * but, freeing all from the delusion of idolatry, * thou didst lead them to the Christian Faith putting to shame the sorcerer Pamoï, * wherefore, thou didst become the first bishop and teacher of Perm. * For this cause, we, thy spiritual children, as ones delivered by thee from idols, ** cry out to thee in hymns of thanksgiving: Rejoice, O Stephen, most wise teacher!

Ikos: **U**ntouched by any passionate attachment to the world, O father, from thy youth thou didst cleave unto wisdom and attain well unto the art of theology; and going forth into faraway lands, thou didst find the peoples lacking knowledge of God, who in their delusion worshiped demons. There, as an apostle, thou didst teach them to believe in Christ, and destroying their idols and putting their sorcerer to shame, thou didst become their holy hierarch. Wherefore, we, thy spiritual children, as ones delivered by thee from idols, cry out to thee in hymns of thanksgiving: Rejoice, O Stephen, most wise teacher!

ODE VII

Canon I

Irmos: Refusing to worship created things * in place of the Creator, * the divinely wise youths bravely trampled down the threatening fire * and rejoicing they sang aloud: * O supremely hymned Lord and God of our Fathers, Blessed art Thou.

The ungodly shaman who uttered blasphemy against piety, didst thou drive far away from the new people of the flock of Christ, O most wise one; wherefore we cry out to Christ: Blessed is the God of our fathers! (Twice)

As thou hast most gloriously passed from the world to that which transcendeth the world, O holy hierarch, and having drawn nigh unto God by thy manner of life and by participation in Him, thou dost chant: Blessed is the God of our fathers!

Theotokion: Delivered by thee from the primal curse, O most glorious Sovereign Lady, passing on to everlasting life we cry to thee: Rejoice, O thou who hast given birth to God for us!

Canon II

Irmos: The Children of Judaea, * who of old came to dwell in Babylon, * trampled underfoot the flame of the furnace * through their faith in the Trinity, * as they sang: 'O God of our fathers, blessed art Thou.'

Vanquished by thee, O most blessed Stephen, the ungodly sorcerer fled, and we who have been delivered from his evil spells, cry out unto Christ: O God of our fathers Blessed art Thou!

We who of old were enlightened cry out to thee as to one living; O all-wondrous hierarch Stephen, forsake not us who are thy children, as thou didst promise, that with thee we may all cry out to Christ: O God of our fathers Blessed art Thou!

Having been anointed as a hierarch with the oil of divine joy, thou didst lead a new people to the knowledge of Christ, teaching them all to cry unto Christ: O God of our fathers Blessed art Thou!

Theotokion: Now have all things been filled with light by thee, O most pure one; for thou hast been shown to be the gate through which God hath communicated with the world, enlightening those who cry with faith: Blessed is the fruit of thy womb, O most pure one!

ODE VIII

Canon I

Irmos: The Offspring of the Theotokos * saved the holy children in the furnace. * He who was then prefigured hath now been born on earth, * and He gathereth all creation to hymn thee: * all ye works praise ye the Lord * and supremely exalt Him throughout all ages.

Instructed by thy words, O holy hierarch, and having come out of the darkness of idolatry to the light of divine understanding, we thy children cry out to Christ with one voice: Bless the Lord, all ye works of the Lord, and supremely exalt Him throughout all ages! (Twice)

The light of the three-Sunned Trinity, made its abode within thy godly heart, by which thou didst enlighten all the people with holy baptism, teaching them to cry out to the Creator and Redeemer: Bless the Lord, all ye works of the Lord, and supremely exalt Him throughout all ages!

Theotokion: Considering thee the Theotokos, O most immaculate one, with our lips and minds we hymn thee; for thou, O most pure one, hast given birth to God the Lord Who hath clothed Himself in flesh. Wherefore, we hymn and supremely exalt Him throughout all ages.

Canon II

Irmos: The King of heaven, * Who is glorified by the hosts of angels, * let us praise and supremely exalt throughout all ages.

Thou wast shown to be a brave warrior, O most blessed one, demolishing the temples of the idols; and having delivered the people from them, thou didst teach them to cry unto Christ with all their soul: Bless the Lord, all ye works of the Lord, and supremely exalt Him throughout all ages!

Having penetrated to the depths of the Holy Spirit, thou didst draw forth divine understanding therefrom; wherefore, having embellish the Church with Orthodoxy, it crieth unto the Creator and Redeemer: Bless the Lord, all ye works of the Lord, and supremely exalt Him throughout all ages!

Having put on the armor of Christ, thou didst drive the wicked demons away from all people; wherefore, with the holy hierarchs thou hast received a heavenly inheritance, O father, and with them thou criest out to Christ: Bless the Lord, all ye works of the Lord, and supremely exalt Him throughout all ages!

Theotokion: Eve was driven away from the tree of life, of which she was forbidden to partake; but thou, O Virgin Theotokos, hast poured forth upon the world Life everlasting, Who giveth life-bearing vivification to the faithful.

ODE IX

Canon I

Irmos: Let every mortal born on earth, * radiant with light, in spirit leap for joy; * and let the host of the angelic powers * celebrate and honor the holy feast of the Mother of God, * and let them cry: Rejoice! * Pure and blessed Ever-Virgin, * who gavest birth to God.

By thy labors on the earth, O holy hierarch, thou hast received rest in heaven, where the choirs of the saints and the most radiant celebration of the righteous are; wherefore, be mindful of us who ever glorify thy memory.

Desiring to receive eternal and incorruptible things, O holy hierarch, and forsaking the pleasures of this world, thou didst follow after Christ; wherefore, thou hast joined the choir of hierarchs, O most glorious one.

Having learned the dogmas of piety, O most wise and holy hierarch, thou didst become an emulator of the apostles, casting down the delusion of idolatry; wherefore as is meet, we bless thy sacred memory.

Theotokion: **D**esiring to assume flesh, God made His abode within thee, finding thee alone to be the Theotokos who is holier than all; and He truly revealed thee to be both Mother and Virgin.

Canon II

Irmos: **S**aved by thee, O pure Virgin, * we confess thee to be truly the Theotokos, * and together with the choirs of the bodiless hosts * thee do we magnify.

Ever moved by divine desire, and having mastered wisdom and understanding, O all-famed and holy hierarch, thou didst turn the people away from falsehood, teaching them to believe in the living God.

Thou wast a shining example, leading all good men to the life on high by thy humility and meekness; wherefore, Christ made thee a shepherd of His people. Him do thou beseech, that He save all who hymn thee.

By thy desire for God thou didst quell the uprisings of the passions, and by standing whole nights in prayer thou didst receive the gift of beholding the ineffable beauties of heaven, O Stephen.

Theotokion: **O** Virgin Mother of God, thou wast shown to be the one who supernaturally gave birth to the Word of God, Whom begotten of the Father before all ages, in that He is good. Him Whom we now know transcendeth flesh, even though He is clothed in a body.

Exapostilarion of the holy hierarch:

Receiving hierarchal election not for people or from them, but from God, O most wise Stephen, by thy teaching thou hast now made those who before were children of darkness into children and heirs of the Light. (Twice)

Glory ..., Both now ..., Exapostilarion from the Pentecostarion.

On the Praises, 4 Stichera of the holy hierarch, in Tone I:

Spec. Mel.: "Joy of the ranks of heaven ...":

As one most wise, thou didst repulse the vain and foolish words * of the cruel and evil Pamoï, * and didst drive him away from the flock of Christ, as though he were a wolf, * and as an apostle thou didst teach the people; * wherefore, assembling today with love of wisdom, ** we most gloriously honor thy precious memory, O holy hierarch. (Twice)

O thou who with the understanding given thee from on high * didst ponder well the things that are here, conceiving a desire for the things which lead to God, * like a deer thou didst hasten to streams of water; * and the people who from of old had been mired in the darkness of unbelief * thou didst make children and heirs of the light through baptism. ** Pray now unceasingly for them, O Stephen.

Desiring neither glory nor riches, O holy hierarch, * thou didst seek the spiritual ability * to guide many by thy desire and lead them to Christ; * and this thou didst receive. * Wherefore, unceasingly entreat Christ God, ** that He save all who honor thy precious memory.

Glory ..., in Tone II:

Come ye, and, assembling now with piety, O ye newly enlightened assemblies of the sanctified, render a fitting honor with psalms and praises to our father and benefactor, who hath spiritually begotten us through baptism unto regeneration, and hath led us from the darkness into the light, and let us cry out, exclaiming: O Lord, through the supplications of Stephen Thy favored one, save and have pity on all who piously and fervently hymn Thee!

Both now ..., from the Pentecostarion.

Great Doxology. Troparion. Litanies. Dismissal. First Hour.

AT LITURGY

On the Beatitudes, 8 Troparia: 4 from ODE III of the first canon of the saint, and 4 from ODE VI of the second canon.

Thou wast not afraid of the people who were then unbelievers, O holy hierarch, but boldly committed their temple and its idols to the fire; teaching them all to cry: There is none more holy than Thee, O Lord! (Twice)

With thy courage and humility thou didst transform murderers into meek lambs; wherefore thou hast been crowned, O holy hierarch Stephen. (Twice)

Receiving the pastoral staff, O most glorious hierarch Stephen, thou didst become a teacher for a new people, becoming all things to all men, like the apostle, that thou mightest lead all to Christ. (Twice)

Thy tongue was a two-edged word wielded against the wicked sorcerer, O holy hierarch, cutting down his vile teaching; wherefore, we glorify thee with sacred hymns.

Theotokion: **T**he all-accomplishing Spirit descended upon thee, O all-immaculate one, and the Word of God made His abode within thee, ineffably assuming flesh, yet remaining immutable.

Troparion of the holy hierarch, in Tone IV:

Afire with divine desire from the years of thy youth, O most wise Stephen, * thou didst take up the burden of Christ, * and, sowing the divine seed in the hearts of the people, * which had from of old been hardened by unbelief, * thou didst spiritual beget them evangelically; * wherefore, honoring thy most glorious memory, we beseech thee: ** Entreat Him Whom thou didst preach, that He save our souls.

Kontakion of the holy hierarch, in Tone VIII:

Thou wast found to be called not for only those who sought thee, O holy hierarch, * but, freeing all from the delusion of idolatry, * thou didst lead them to the Christian Faith putting to shame the sorcerer Pamoï, * wherefore, thou didst become the first bishop and teacher of Perm. * For this cause, we, thy spiritual children, as ones delivered by thee from idols, ** cry out to thee in hymns of thanksgiving: Rejoice, O Stephen, most wise teacher!

Prokeimenon, in Tone I: My mouth shall speak wisdom, * and the meditation of my heart shall be of understanding.

Verse: Hear this, all ye nations; give ear, all ye that inhabit the world.

EPISTLE TO THE HEBREWS, § 318 (HEB. 7: 26-8: 2)

Brethren: Such a high priest became us, Who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens; Who needeth not daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people: for

this He did once, when He offered up Himself. For the law maketh men high priests which have infirmity; but the word of the oath, which was since the law, maketh the Son, Who is consecrated for evermore. Now of the things which we have spoken this is the sum: We have such a High Priest, Who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens; a Minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man.

Alleluia, in Tone II: The mouth of the righteous shall meditate wisdom and his tongue shall speak of judgment.

Verse: The law of his God is in his heart, and his steps shall not be tripped.

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ST. MATTHEW , § 24 (MT. 7: 24-8: 4)

The Lord said: “Whosoever heareth these sayings of Mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. And every one that heareth these sayings of Mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.” And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended His sayings, the people were astonished at His doctrine: For He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. When He was come down from the mountain, great multitudes followed Him. And, behold, there came a leper and worshipped him, saying: “Lord, if Thou wilt, Thou canst make me clean.” And Jesus put forth His hand, and touched him, saying: “I will; be thou clean.” And immediately his leprosy was cleansed. And Jesus saith unto him: “See thou tell no man; but go thy way, shew thyself to the priest, and offer the gift that Moses commanded, for a testimony unto them.”

Communion Verse: In everlasting remembrance shall the righteous be; he shall not be afraid of evil tidings.