

Menaion - December 27

Memory of the Holy Proto-martyr Stephen.

LITURGY

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Antiphon I. Mode 2. Psalms 9, 110.

Verse 1: *I will give thanks to You, O Lord, with my whole heart; I will tell of all Your wondrous things.* [SAAS]

Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, Savior, save us. [GOA]

Verse 2: *In the council of the upright and in the assembly. Great are the works of the Lord.* [SAAS]

Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, Savior, save us. [GOA]

Verse 3: *Sought out in all things with regard to His will.* [SAAS]

Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, Savior, save us. [GOA]

Verse 4: *Thanksgiving and majesty are His work, and His righteousness continues unto ages of ages.* [SAAS]

Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, Savior, save us. [GOA]

Glory. Both now.

Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, Savior, save us. [GOA]

Antiphon II. Mode 2. Psalm 111.

Verse 1: *Blessed is the man who fears the Lord; he will delight exceedingly in His commandments.* [SAAS]

Save us, O Son of God, who were born of a Virgin. We sing to You, Alleluia. [GOA]

Verse 2: *His seed shall be mighty on earth.* [SAAS]

Save us, O Son of God, who were born of a Virgin. We sing to You, Alleluia. [GOA]

Verse 3: *Glory and riches shall be in his house, and his righteousness continues unto ages of ages.* [SAAS]

Save us, O Son of God, who were born of a Virgin. We sing to You, Alleluia. [GOA]

Verse 4: *For the upright, light springs up in darkness.* [SAAS]

Save us, O Son of God, who were born of a Virgin. We sing to You, Alleluia. [GOA]

Glory to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. [HC]

Both now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen. [HC]

Only begotten Son and Logos of God, being immortal, You condescended for our salvation to take flesh from the holy Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary and, without change, became man. Christ, our God, You were crucified and conquered death by death. Being one of the Holy Trinity, glorified with the Father and the Holy Spirit: Save us. [GOA]

Antiphon III. Mode 4. Psalm 109.

Verse 1: *The Lord said to my Lord: "Sit at My right hand, until I make your enemies the footstool of Your feet."* [SAAS]

Verse 2: *The Lord shall send forth the rod of Your power from Zion.* [SAAS]

Verse 3: *With You is the beginning in the day of Your power, in the brightness of Your saints.* [SAAS]

Apolytikion of the Feast. Mode 4.

Your nativity, O Christ our God, has caused the light of knowledge to rise upon the world. For therein the worshippers of the stars were by a star instructed to worship You, the Sun of Righteousness, and to know You as Orient from on high. Glory to You, O Lord. [SD]

An optional alternative to the Antiphons are the Typika (Psalms 102 and 145), and the Beatitudes with the appointed troparia, which are provided here.

Psalm 102.

Psalm 145.

The Beatitudes.

Mode 1.

In Your kingdom. Remember us, O Lord, when You come in Your kingdom. Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven [RSV]

Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. [RSV]

Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. [RSV]

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

[RSV]

Canon 1 of the Feast.

From Menaion - - -

Ode iii. Mode 1. To the Son.

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy. [RSV]

Made of dust was Adam, * while enjoying superior insufflation. * But through seduction by the woman, * he slipped into corruption. * Gazing at Christ born of woman, he cries: * You who for me have become now like me, * only You are holy, O Lord. [SD]

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. [RSV]

Made of dust was Adam, * while enjoying superior insufflation. * But through seduction by the woman, * he slipped into corruption. * Gazing at Christ born of woman, he cries: *

You who for me have become now like me, * only You are holy, O Lord. [SD]

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. [RSV]

Through participation * in inferior flesh, You, O Christ, did impart * divine nature. And conforming * to ignoble clay formation, * You were born human and remained God, * and have exalted the horn of our strength. * Only You are holy, O Lord. [SD]

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. [RSV]

Bethlehem, be merry, * as the Queen of the rulers of Judah; for lo, * Israel's shepherd who is seated * on the Cherubim's shoulders, * Christ who manifestly hails from you * and who exalted the horn of our strength, * has reigned as King over all. [SD]

Canon for the Proto-martyr.

From Menaion - - -

Ode vi. Mode pl. 1. N/M ()

Blessed are you when men revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely [for my sake]. [RSV]

O believers, Stephen, the illustrious marshal of the Martyrs, by grace exceeded the bounds of nature, and he shines with divine glory. [SD]

Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven. [RSV]

O Christ our Master, St. Stephen became the excellent imitator of Your revered Passion, and he repaid his murderers with a blessing.

[SD]

Glory.

O Christ, preserve us who sing the Proto-Martyr's praises from any blood-guilty deed, but rather make them worthy of his lot, since You are compassionate. [SD]

Both now. **Theotokion.**

O Christ our Master, Your Nativity is the first-fruit of universal salvation, and the subject of the godly confession of the Martyrs.

[SD]

Entrance Hymn. Mode 2.

Come, let us worship and bow down
before Christ. Save us, O Son of God, who
were born of a Virgin. We sing to You,
Alleluia. [GOA]

**Hymns After the Small Entrance.
Apolytikion of the Feast.**

From Menaion ---

Mode 4.

Your nativity, O Christ our God, has
caused the light of knowledge to rise upon
the world. For therein the worshippers of the
stars were by a star instructed to worship You,
the Sun of Righteousness, and to know You as
Orient from on high. Glory to You, O Lord. [SD]

For the Proto-martyr.

From Menaion ---

Mode 4. Come quickly.

O Stephen, a crown of royalty was laid
on your head * for contests you courageously
endured for Christ our God, * as first among
Martyr saints. * You stood in accusation of the
raging Judeans; * and you saw your Savior at
the right hand of the Father. * We pray that
you will ever entreat Him to save our souls. [SD]

Apolytikion of the Parish Church

(The text of the Apolytikion of the local
church goes here.)

From Menaion ---

Kontakion.

Mode 3. Automelon.

On this day the Virgin gives * birth to the
Super-essential. * To the Unapproachable, *
earth is providing the grotto. * Angels sing
and with the shepherds offer up glory. *
Following a star the Magi are still proceeding.

* He was born for our salvation, a newborn
Child, the pre-eternal God. [SD]

THE TRISAGION HYMN

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal,
have mercy on us. (3) [GOA]

Glory to the Father and the Son and the
Holy Spirit. Both now and ever and to the ages
of ages. Amen.

Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.

The Epistle

For the Proto-martyr.

Prokeimenon. Mode 4. Psalm 18.

His proclamation went forth into all the
earth,. [SAAS]

Verse: *The heavens declare the glory of God.*

[SAAS]

Acts 6:8-15; 7:1-5, 47-60

In those days, Stephen, full of grace and
power, did great wonders and signs among
the people. Then some of those who belonged
to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was
called), and of the Cyrenians, and of the
Alexandrians, and of those from Cilicia and
Asia, arose and disputed with Stephen. But
they could not withstand the wisdom and the
Spirit with which he spoke. Then they secretly
instigated men, who said, "We have heard him
speak blasphemous words against Moses and
God." And they stirred up the people and the
elders and the scribes, and they came upon
him and seized him and brought him before
the council, and set up false witnesses who
said, "This man never ceases to speak words
against this holy place and the law; for we
have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth

will destroy this place, and will change the customs which Moses delivered to us." And gazing at him, all who sat in the council saw that his face was like the face of an angel. And the high priest said, "Is this so?" And Stephen said: "Brethren and fathers, hear me. The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham, when he was in Mesopotamia, before he lived in Haran, and said to him, 'Depart from your land and from your kindred and go into the land which I will show you.' Then he departed from the land of the Chaldeans, and lived in Haran. And after his father died, God removed him from there into this land in which you are now living; yet he gave him no inheritance in it, not even a foot's length, but promised to give it to him in possession and to his posterity after him, though he had no child. But it was Solomon who built a house for him. Yet the Most High does not dwell in houses made with hands; as the prophet says, 'Heaven is my throne, and earth my footstool. What house will you build for me, says the Lord, or what is the place of my rest? Did not my hand make all these things?' You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you. Which of the prophets did not your fathers persecute? And they killed those who announced beforehand the coming of the Righteous One, whom you have now betrayed and murdered, you who received the law as delivered by angels and did not keep it." Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth against him. But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of

God; and he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing at the right hand of God." But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together upon him. Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him; and the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. And as they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." And he knelt down and cried with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." And when he had said this, he fell asleep. [RSV]

Alleluia. Mode 2. Psalm 88.

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Verse 1: *The heavens shall confess Your wonders, O Lord.* [SAAS]

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Verse 2: *God is glorified in the counsel of saints.* [SAAS]

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

The Gospel

For the Proto-martyr.

Mt. 21:33-42

The Lord said this parable, "There was a householder who planted a vineyard, and set a hedge around it, and dug a wine press in it, and built a tower, and let it out to tenants, and went into another country. When the season of fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants, to get his fruit; and the tenants took his servants and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other servants, more than the first; and they did the same to them. Afterward he sent his son to them, saying 'They will respect my son.'

But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and have his inheritance.' And they took him and cast him out of the vineyard and killed him. When therefore the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and let out the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the fruits in their seasons." Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the scriptures: 'The very stone which the builders rejected has become the head of the corner; this was the Lord's doing, and it was marvelous in our eyes?'" [RSV]

Hymn to the Theotokos.

It is truly right to bless you, Theotokos, ever blessed, most pure, and Mother of our God. More honorable than the Cherubim, and beyond compare more glorious than the Seraphim, without corruption you gave birth to God the Logos. We magnify you, the true Theotokos. [GOA]

Communion Hymn. Psalm 18.

His proclamation went forth into all the earth, and his words to the ends of the world. Alleluia. [SAAS]

Hymn after Holy Communion. Mode 2.

We have seen the true light; we have received the heavenly Spirit; we have found the true faith, worshiping the undivided Trinity, for the Trinity has saved us. [GOA]

THE DISMISSAL

May He who was born in a cave and lay in a manger for our salvation, Christ our true God, through the intercessions of His all-pure and all-immaculate holy Mother, the power of the precious and life-giving Cross, the protection of the honorable, bodiless powers of heaven, the supplications of the honorable, glorious prophet and forerunner John the Baptist, of the holy, glorious, and praiseworthy apostles, of the holy, glorious, and triumphant martyrs, of our righteous and God-bearing fathers, **(local patron saint)**; of the holy and righteous ancestors of God Joachim and Anna, and the holy Proto-martyr and Archdeacon Stephen, whose memory we celebrate, and of all the saints, have mercy on us and save us, for He is good and loves mankind.

Fasting Rule

Fast Free: All foods allowed.

It is the Twelve Days of Christmas