

Divine Liturgy Variables on December 27
Second Day of After-feast of Nativity of Christ;
Proto-martyr Stephen the archdeacon
Venerable-confessor Theodore the Branded

FIRST ANTIPHON

1. I will confess Thee, O Lord, with my whole heart; I will tell of all Thy wonders. In the council of the upright, and in the congregation, great are the works of the Lord.
2. They are sought out in all the things that He hath willed. Confession and majesty are His work, and His righteousness abideth unto ages of ages.

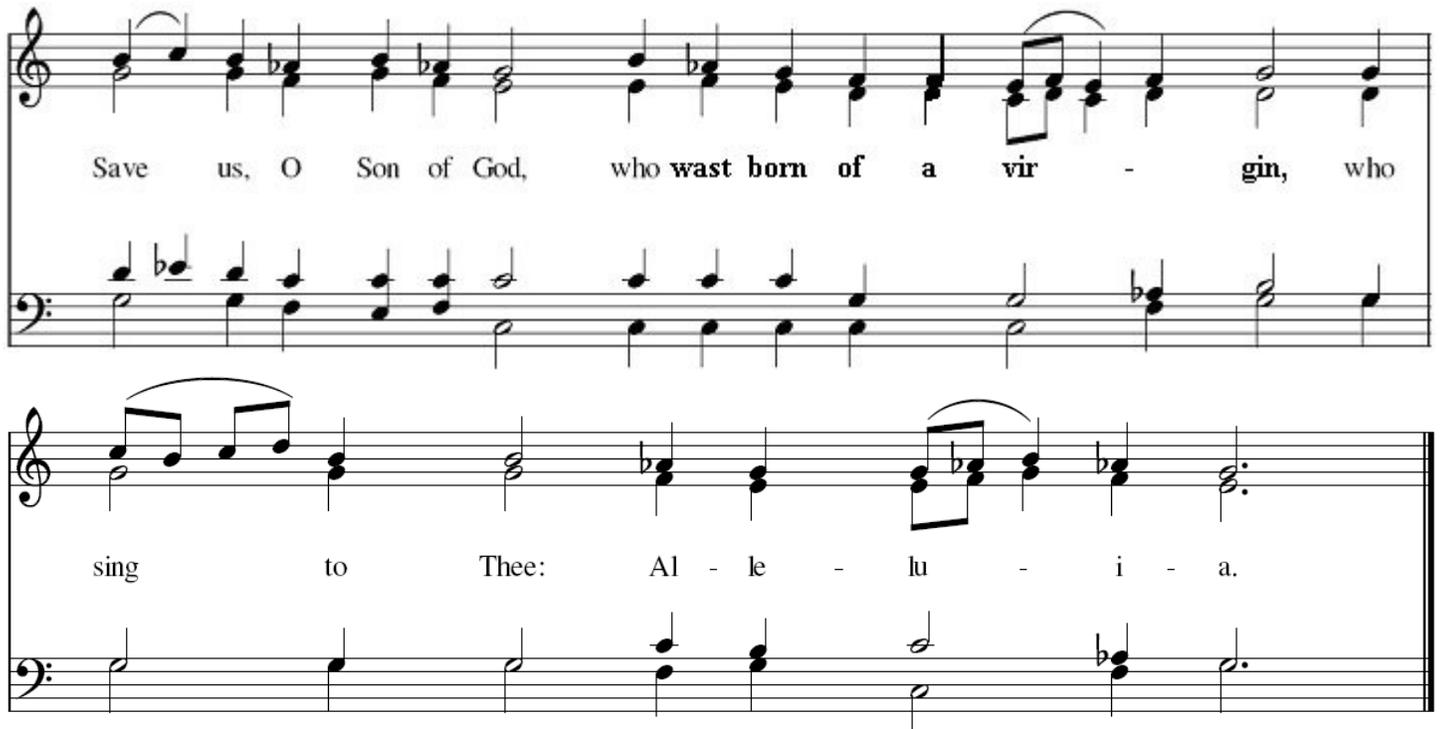
THE SECOND ANTIPHON

Nativity verses:

Reader: Blessed is the man that feareth the Lord; in His commandments shall he greatly delight. His seed shall be mighty upon the earth. The generation of the upright shall be blessed. (*Refrain*)

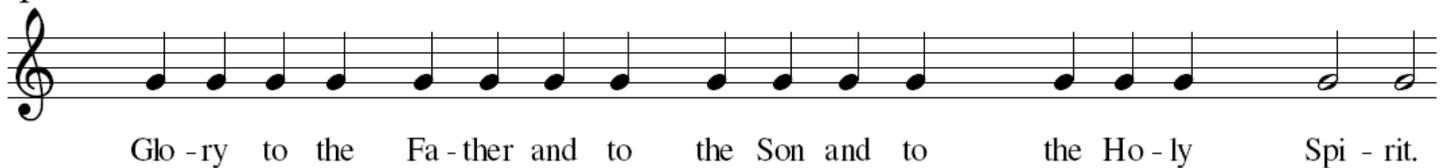
Reader: There hath risen up in darkness a light for the upright; he is merciful and compassionate and righteous. (*Refrain*)

Refrain:



Save us, O Son of God, who wast born of a virgin, who
sing to Thee: Al - le - lu - i - a.

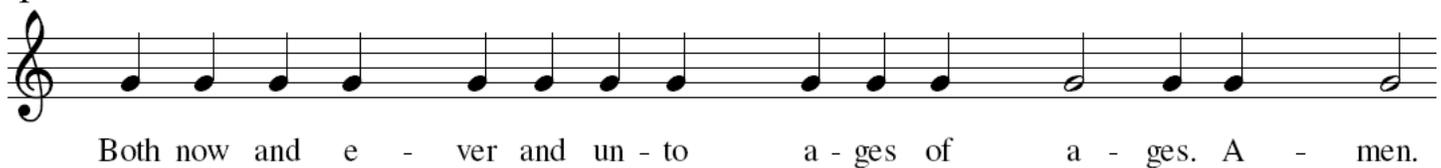
People:



Glo - ry to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Spi - rit.

People: (*Refrain*)

People:



Both now and e - ver and un - to a - ges of a - ges. A - men.

REFRAINS OF THE THIRD ANTIPHON

The Lord said unto my Lord: sit Thou at My right hand, until I make Thine enemies Thy footstool. The Lord shall send Thee a rod of strength out of Zion. With Thee is dominion in the day of Thy power, in the beauties of Thy saints.

Nativity of Christ - Troparion

Tone 4

4

Thy na - ti vi ty O Chr - ist our God, hath shone to the wo -

4

- rld the li ght of wi sdom, for by it, those who wor

7

shipped the stars, were tau ght by a star to a do re thee, the Son

10

of Right eous ness, and to know Thee, the O re int from on high. O Lo

14

rd glo ry to Thee - .

THE LITTLE ENTRANCE

Deacon: Wisdom! Let us attend!

The musical score is presented in three systems, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The key signature is one flat (B-flat major or D minor), and the time signature is 4/4. The first system is a Deacon's reading: the vocal line consists of a series of chords and a final melodic phrase, while the piano accompaniment provides a steady harmonic support. The second system is a choir response: the vocal line features a melodic line with some grace notes and a final cadence, while the piano accompaniment continues with chords and moving lines. The third system concludes the piece: the vocal line has a melodic phrase followed by a final cadence, and the piano accompaniment ends with a final chord.

Come let us wor - ship and fall down be - fore Christ.

Save us, O Son of God, who wast born of a vir - gin, who

sing to Thee: Al - le - lu - i - a.

APOLYTIKION OF THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST IN TONE FOUR

Nativity of Christ - Troparion

Tone 4

Thy na - ti vi ty O Chr - ist our God, hath shone to the wo -

- rld the li ght of wi sdom, for by it, those who wor

shipped the stars, were tau ght by a star to a do re thee, the Son

of Right eous ness, and to know Thee, the O re int from on high. O Lo

rd glo ry to Thee - .

APOLYTIKION OF ST. STEPHEN IN TONE FOUR

(**Be quick to anticipate**)

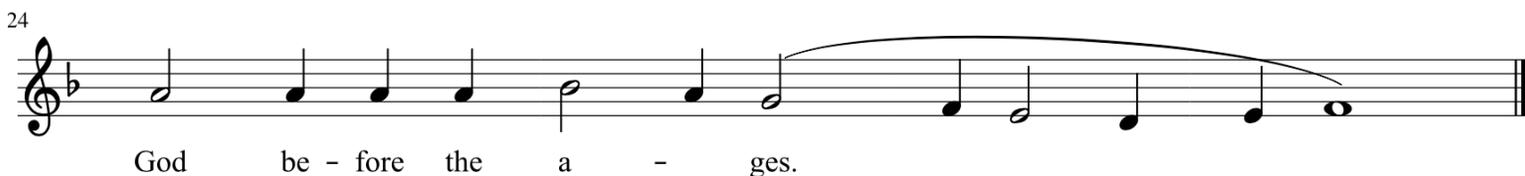
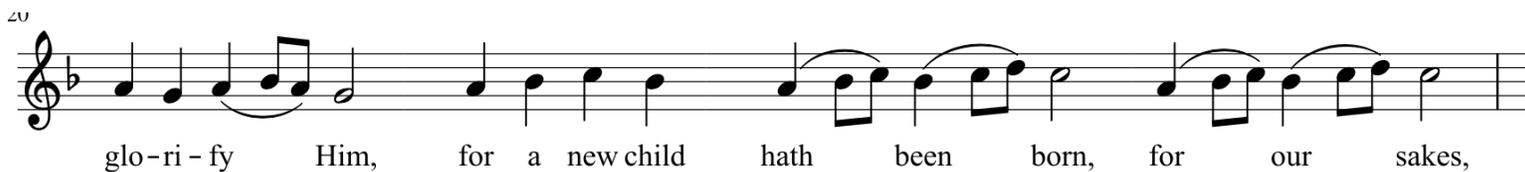
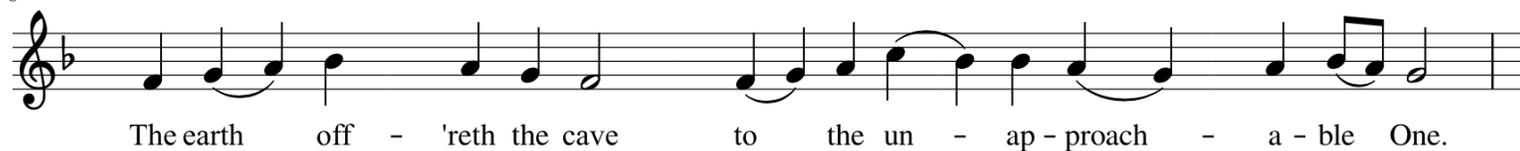
The crown of the Kingdom hath adorned the brow of thy head * because of the contests that thou hast endured for Christ God, thou first of the martyred Saints; * for when thou hadst censured the Jews' madness, thou sawest * Christ thy Savior standing at the right hand of the Father. * O Stephen, ever pray Him for us, that He would save our souls.

APOLYTIKION OF ST. THEODORE IN TONE EIGHT

Guide of Orthodoxy, teacher of piety and holiness, luminary of the world, God-inspired adornment of monastics, O wise Theodore, by thy teachings thou hast enlightened all, O harp of the Spirit. Intercede with Christ God that our souls be saved.

WHEN THOU O LORD...

KONTAKION OF THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST IN TONE THREE



THE EPISTLE

His voice has gone out into all the earth. The heavens declare the glory of God.

The Reading from the Acts of the Apostles. (6:8-7:5, 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. 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 grinded their teeth against him. But Stephen, 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.

- NOTE: If this feast falls on a weekday, read the Gospel lection for St. Stephen. If it falls on a Saturday, read the Gospel lection for the Saturday after the Nativity of Christ.

THE GOSPEL

(For St. Stephen)

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (21:33-42)

The Lord spoke 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 is marvelous in our eyes?’”

THE GOSPEL

(For the Saturday after the Nativity of Christ)

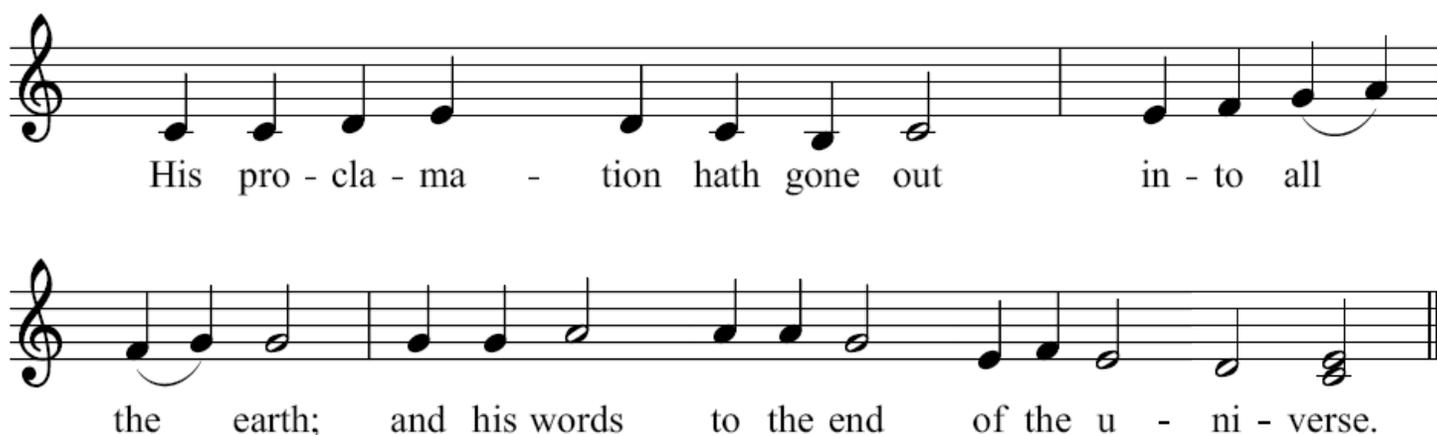
The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (12:15-21)

At that time, many followed Jesus, and He healed them all, and ordered them not to make Him known. This was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah: “Behold, My servant Whom I have chosen, My beloved with Whom My soul is well pleased. I will put My Spirit upon Him, and He shall proclaim justice to the Gentiles. He will not wrangle or cry aloud, nor will anyone hear His voice in the streets; He will not break a bruised reed or quench a smoldering wick, until He brings justice to victory; and in His Name will the Gentiles hope.”

KOINONIKON

His sound hath gone forth into all the earth, and his words unto the ends of the world.
Alleluia.

KOINONIKON (CLERGY COMMUNION) IN TONE EIGHT FOR A HOLY APOSTLE



His pro - cla - ma - tion hath gone out in - to all
the earth; and his words to the end of the u - ni - verse.

(Psalm 18:4)

Reader:

1. In the sun hath He set His tabernacle. *(Psalm 18:5)*
2. He, like a bridegroom coming forth from his chamber, will rejoice like a giant to run his course. *(Psalm 18:5)*
3. From the outermost border of Heaven is His going forth. *(Psalm 18:6)*