

## Sunday after the Nativity; St. Stephen, First Martyr

### **First Antiphon:**

I will confess You with all my heart, O Lord,\* I will tell all your marvels.

*Through the prayers of the Mother of God, O Savior, save us.*

In the counsels of rightful men and in the assemblies,\* great are the works of the Lord.

*Through the prayers of the Mother of God, O Savior, save us.*

They are sought\* in order to accomplish his will.

*Through the prayers of the Mother of God, O Savior, save us.*

Glory be . . . now and forever . . . : Only Begotten Son . . .

### **Third Antiphon:**

Come, let us sing joyfully to the Lord, let us acclaim God, our Saviour.

*Son of God, born of the Virgin, save us who sing to You: Alleluia!*

Let us come before His face with praise, and acclaim Him in psalms.

*Son of God, born of the Virgin, save us who sing to You: Alleluia!*

For God is the great Lord, and the great king over all the earth.

*Son of God, born of the Virgin, save us who sing to You: Alleluia!*

### **Christmas Tropar, Tone 4:**

Your birth, O Christ our God,\* has shed upon the world the light of knowledge;\* for through it, those who worshipped the stars\* have learned from a star to worship You, the Sun of Justice,\* and to recognize You as the Orient from on high.\* Glory be to You, O Lord!

### **Tropar of St. Joseph, Tone 2:**

O Joseph, announce to David, ancestor of Christ,\* the good news of these wonders you have seen:\* a Virgin giving birth to a Child;\* with the shepherds you have glorified Him;\* with the wise men you have worshipped Him;\* and an angel appeared to you.\* Ask Christ to save our souls.

### **Glory Be ..., Tone 3:**

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

### **Kondak of Christmas, Tone 3:**

Today the Virgin gives birth to Perfect Essence,\* and the earth offers a cave to the Inaccessible.\* The angels sing his glory with the shepherds,\* the wise men journey with the star,\* for there is born for us an infant child, God Eternal.

now and forever and ever. Amen.

***Kondak of St. Stephen, Tone 3:***

Yesterday the Lord came to us in the flesh,\* today his servant departs from this life.\* Yesterday the King was born as a man,\* and today his servant is stoned to death.\* It is for His sake, that the first martyr\* and holy Stephen gives up his life.

***Prokimen, Tone 4:***

God is wonderful in His saints;\* the God of Israel.

***verse:*** *Bless God in your choirs,\* bless the Lord, you who spring from Israel.*

God is wonderful in His saints;\* the God of Israel.

***Epistle:*** *Galatians (1:11-19)*

***Alleluia Verses:***

*Remember, O Lord,\* for David all his anxious care.*

*How he swore to the Lord,\* vowed to the Mighty One of Jacob.*

***Gospel:*** *Matthew 2:13-23*

***Instead of 'Indeed, it is fitting . . .':***

My soul, praise Christ the King\* born in a cave.\* Behold a strange and wonderful mystery:\* the cave has become heaven,\* the Virgin a throne of the Cherubim,\* and the manger a noble place where Christ our God reposes.\* Wherefore let us praise and exalt Him!.

***Communion Verses:***

Praise the Lord from the heavens;\* praise Him in the highest.

Exult, you just, in the Lord;\* praise from the upright is fitting. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia.