

## Lord, I Call (Tone 8)

*Reader:* In the Eighth Tone, Lord, I call upon You, hear me!

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!

*Reader: (Reads text from service book)*

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

We offer to You, O Christ,

our evening song and reasonable service,

for You willed to have mercy on us//

by Your Resurrection.

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

Lord, Lord, do not cast us away from Your face!

For You willed to have mercy on us//

by the Resurrection.

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

Rejoice, holy Zion!

Mother of the churches, the abode of God!

For you were the first to receive remission of sins//

by the Resurrection.

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

The Word of God the Father,

begotten before the ages,

in the latter times willed to be incarnate of the Virgin

and endured crucifixion unto death.

He has saved mortal man//

by His Resurrection.

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

We glorify You, O Lord

for You voluntarily endured the Cross for our sake.

We fall down in worship before You, almighty Savior.

Do not cast us away from Your face

but hear us and save us, Lover of mankind//

by Your Resurrection!

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.*

Glory to You, O Savior Christ,

only begotten Son of God, nailed to the Cross//

and resurrected from the tomb on the third day!

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

O Stephen, chosen by the Apostles,  
you were the first among the martyrs to suffer;  
you are 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 one of gold.  
You 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.//  
Remember all of us!

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

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!

*In the Sixth Tone, Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;*

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!

*In the Eighth Tone, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

The King of heaven,  
because of His love for man,  
appeared on earth and dwelt with men.  
He took flesh from the pure Virgin  
and after assuming it, He came forth from her.  
The Son is one: in two natures, yet one Person.  
Proclaiming Him as perfect God and perfect Man,  
we confess Christ our God!//  
Entreat him, O unwedded Mother, to have mercy on our souls

*Priest: Wisdom! Let us attend!*

*Choir: O Gladsome Light ...*

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### **Aposticha – Tone 8**

Descending from heaven to ascend the Cross,  
the Eternal Life has come for death  
to raise those who are fallen;  
to enlighten those in darkness//  
Jesus, our Savior and illuminator, glory to You!

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

We glorify Christ, who rose from the dead.  
He accepted the human body and soul,  
and freed both from suffering.  
His most pure soul descended to hell, which He spoiled.  
His holy body did not see corruption in the tomb//  
He is the Redeemer of our souls.

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

In psalms and songs we glorify Your Resurrection from the dead, O Christ.  
By it, You have freed us from the tortures of hell//  
and as God have granted eternal life and great mercy.

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

Master of all, incomprehensible Creator of heaven and earth,  
by Your suffering on the Cross You have gained passionlessness for me.  
Accepting burial and arising in glory,  
You resurrected Adam with Yourself by Your almighty hand.  
Glory to Your rising on the third day!  
By it You have granted us eternal life and cleansing of sins//  
as the only compassionate One.

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

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

*Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

Unwedded Virgin,  
you 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!

*St. Symeon's Prayer*

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*Resurrectional Troparion – Tone 8*

You descended from on high, O Merciful One!  
You accepted the three day burial to free us from our sufferings!//  
O Lord, our Life and Resurrection, glory to You!

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

*Troparion for St. Stephen – Tone 4*

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.*

*Resurrectional Dismissal Theotokion – Tone 4*

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.