November 28th

Venerable-martyr Stephen the New

Stichera at "O Lord, I have cried"

Byzantine Tone 6/Plagal Second Mode
Special Melody: Having laid up all their hope

1) Being wholly set apart unto the Lord from thy childhood, thou didst far transcend the flesh and every affinity with the fallen world; the Divine Spirit's pure vessel thou becamest, Father Stephen, and a peerless monk; for having shut thyself in a narrow dwelling, O blessed one, thou gavest wings unto thy mind, which soared up and saw the ineffable
beauty in the Heavens of Christ our King and God; and worshipping His holy likeness, O sacred one, steadfastly didst thou contend.

2) Held in prison, thou didst fast for forty days like the Master; so didst thou prepare thyself for thy contest soon to come and thy martyrdom,

O thou strong staff of monks, sacred Father Stephen, thou adornment of the Martyrs’ hosts.
Wherefore, the merciless fell upon thee wildly like savage beasts,
and dragging thee, unjustly they mangled thee like unto a guileless lamb;
and among the lawless they buried thee when thou hadst steadfastly contested; now, with great boldness thou prayest in our souls' behalf.

3) Lawless people subject to the lawless tyrant's transgressions spared thee not, O righteous one,
when they stoned thee like the First Martyr of the Lord;
and thine all-holy head did they crush, O Father;
and then as they dragged thee through the streets
with brutal savagery, they spilled out thy bowels and inward parts,
thus showing thee no clemency
even after death, O all-blessed one.
O thy manly courage! O staunch resolve, O
patience passing great! where-by, O Stephen, thou hast received
crowns that never fade away.