December 27th
Proto-martyr Stephen the Archdeacon
Stichera at "O Lord, I have cried"
(Also sung on August 2nd for the recovery of his sacred relics.)

Byzantine Mode 4
Special Melody: As one valiant

1) Since thy mind had been made to shine with the grace of the Comforter, thou wast seen to be as an Angel outwardly; for through thy body, O

Adapted by Dn. John El Massih

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which made plain for all to see that most fair brightness of thy soul, through which thou didst find the divine light of vision when the Heavens opened wondrously before thee, thou boast and first fruits of martyrdom Saints.

2) The thick showers of stones became lofty ladders and
steps to thee, for ascent to Heaven; and
mounting thereupon, thou sawest standing at
God the Father's right hand the Lord of all
with His quickening right hand holding out unto
thee the crown for which thou art named. Now, O Stephen, thou
standest in His presence as a victor in the
contest and as the athletes' most lofty peak.
3) Flashing brightly with wondrous signs, and with doctrines and miracles, thou didst quell the council of the iniquitous; and as they stoned thee to death, thou madest prayer for thy murderers, that the Lord forgive their sin; and in this, thou didst imitate Christ the Savior's words; then, O Stephen, didst thou commit thine honorable and truly sacred spirit into His hands and didst fall asleep.