

**Sunday, November 28, 2021**  
**23rd Sunday after Pentecost - Tone 6**  
Monastic Martyr and Confessor Stephen the New

Troparion:

The angelic powers were at Thy tomb; the guards became as dead men. Mary stood by Thy grave, seeking Thy most pure Body. Thou didst capture hell, not being tempted by it. Thou didst come to the Virgin, granting life. O Lord who didst rise from the dead: glory to Thee!

O Prophet and Forerunner of the coming of Christ, in spite of our honor and devotion we are unable to give you worthy praise, through your glorious and noble birth your mother's childlessness was ended, your father's tongue was freed, and the incarnation of the Son of God was proclaimed to the world.

Trained in asceticism on the mountain, with the weapon of the Cross you destroyed the spiritual assaults of the hostile powers, all-blessed one; Again you bravely prepared for combat and slew Copronymus with the sword of faith; for both struggles you have been crowned by God, monk-martyr Stephen of eternal memory.

Kontakion:

When Christ God, the Giver of Life, raised all of the dead from the valleys of misery with His mighty hand, He bestowed resurrection on the human race. He is the Savior of all, the Resurrection, the Life, and the God of all.

Lovers of the feasts, from the heart with hymns let us praise in faith godlike Stephen the lover of the Trinity, for he honored the fair icon of the Master and of His Mother. Now let us rejoice together and cry out to him with love: "Rejoice, ever glorious Father."

Steadfast Protectress of Christians, constant advocate before the Creator, despise not the entreating cry of us sinners, but in your goodness come speedily to help us who call on you in faith. Hasten to hear our petition and to intercede for us, O Theotokos, For you always ever protect those who honor you!

Prokeimenon in the 6th Tone

O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance.  
(Vs.) To Thee, O Lord, will I call. O my God, be not silent to me.

Epistle:

The reading from the Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Ephesians. (Eph. 2:4-10)

Brethren, but God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

Alleluia Verses:

He that dwelleth in the aid of the Most High shall abide under the protection of the God of heaven.  
(vs.) He shall say to the Lord: Thou art my protector and my refuge, my God. In Him will I trust!

Gospel:

The Holy Gospel According to St. Luke. (Chapter 13:10-17)

At that time Jesus was teaching in one of their synagogues on the Sabbath. And behold, there was a woman who for eighteen years had had a sickness caused by a spirit; and she was bent over and utterly unable to look up. When Jesus saw her, He called her to Him and said to her, "Woman, you are delivered from your infirmity." And He laid His hands upon her, and instantly she was made straight, and glorified God. But the ruler of the synagogue, indignant that Jesus was curing on the Sabbath, addressed the crowd, saying, "There are six days in which one ought to work; on these therefore come and be cured, and not on the Sabbath." But the Lord answered him and said, "Hypocrites! Does not each one of you on the Sabbath let go his ox or colt from the manger, and lead it out to water? And this woman, daughter of Abraham as she is, whom Satan has bound, lo, for eighteen years, ought not she too be released from this bond on the Sabbath?" And as He said these things, all His adversaries were put to shame; and the entire crowd rejoiced at all the glorious things that were done by Him.