Let Is - ra - el hope in the Lord.

From thy youth thou didst of - fer thy - self whol - ly to the

Mas - ter, trans - cend - ing the flesh and world - ly love,

O most sac - red Ste - - - phen, as a most ex - cel - lent monk
and a receptacle of the divine Spirit.

For thou wast imprisoned in a most narrow cell,

O blessed one, but didst give thy mind wings to fly to the heavens, to look upon the ineffable beauty.
of Christ our King and God, worshipping Whose image thou didst suffer most mightily.

(3) Reader: For with the Lord there is mercy, and with Him is plenteous redemption;

And He shall redeem Israel out of all his iniquities.

Repeat 1st Sticheron: "From thy youth..."
(2) Reader: O praise the Lord all ye nations:

Praise Him all ye peoples.

Imprisoned in a dungeon, like the Master, thou didst fast for forty days and didst prepare thyself for suffering.

O sacred Stephen, thou confirmation of monks.
and adornment of martyrs. Wherefore, the merciful ones, falling upon thee like wild beasts, dragged thee along like an innocent lamb and unjustly rent thee asunder; and with malefactors did they cast thee who suffered mightily.
and prayest with boldness in behalf of our souls.

(1) Reader: For He hath made his mercy to prevail over us,

And the truth of the Lord abideth forever.

Most iniquitous men who made themselves subject

to the iniquity of the most lawless emperor, O venerable one.
pit - i - less - ly stoned thee like the honored protomartyr

Stephen, and crushed thy holy head, O father;

and dragging thee most savagely through the streets,

they caused thy bowels to spill forth, O most blessed one,
showing no mercy to thee even after thou wast dead. O thy courage! O thy
de-mean-or! O thy great endur-ance,
whereby thou hast received an imperishable crown, O Ste-phen!

English text by Isaac E. Lambertsen, "The Menaion of the Orthodox Church", Vol III, St. John of Kronstadt Press, ©1998. The entire service may be purchased through: sjkp.org

Carol Surgant ~ music.russianorthodox-stl.org ~ 12/7/05