**Reading for ST. STEPHEN, THE FIRST MARTYR**

**Reading 1, *Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59***

8 Stephen was filled with [grace](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=5305) and power and began to work miracles and great signs among the people. 9 Then certain people came forward to debate with Stephen, some from [Cyrene](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=3602) and [Alexandria](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=465) who were members of the [synagogue](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=11202) called the [Synagogue](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=11202) of Freedmen, and others from Cilicia and Asia. 10 They found they could not stand up against him because of his wisdom, and the [Spirit](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=11004) that prompted what he said. 54 They were infuriated when they heard this, and ground their teeth at him. 55 But Stephen, filled with the Holy Spirit, gazed into [heaven](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=5593) and saw the [glory](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=5201) of God, and [Jesus](https://www.catholic.org/clife/jesus) standing at God's [right](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=10046) hand. 56 'Look! I can see [heaven](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=5593) thrown open,' he said, 'and the Son of [man](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=7463) standing at the [right](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=10046) hand of God.' 57 All the members of the council shouted out and stopped their ears with their hands; then they made a concerted rush at him, 58 thrust him out of the city and stoned him. The witnesses put down their clothes at the feet of a young [man](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=7463) called Saul. 59 As they were stoning him, Stephen said in invocation, 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.'

**Responsorial Psalm, *Psalms 31:3-4, 6, 7, 8, 17, 21***

3 You are my rock, my rampart; true to your name, lead me and guide me! 4 Draw me out of the net they have spread for me, for you are my refuge;

6 you hate those who serve useless idols; but my trust is in Yahweh: 7 I [will](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=12332) delight and rejoice in your faithful love! You, who have seen my misery, and witnessed the miseries of my soul,

8 have not handed me over to the enemy, but have given me freedom to roam at large.17 I call on you, Yahweh, so let disgrace fall not on me, but on the wicked. Let them go down to Sheol in silence,

21 Blessed be [Yahweh](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=6291) who works for me miracles of his faithful love (in a fortified city)!

**Gospel, *Matthew 10:17-22***

17 'Be prepared for people to hand you over to sanhedrins and scourge you in their synagogues. 18 You [will](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=12332) be brought before governors and [kings](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=6650) for my sake, as evidence to them and to the gentiles.19 But when you are handed over, do not worry about how to speak or what to say; what you are to say [will](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=12332) be given to you when the [time](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=11571) comes,20 because it is not you who [will](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=12332) be speaking; the [Spirit](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=11004) of your Father [will](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=12332) be speaking in you. 21 'Brother [will](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=12332) betray brother to death, and a father his child; [children](https://www.catholic.org/shopping/?category=28) [will](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=12332) come forward against their [parents](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=8984) and have them put to death. 22 You [will](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=12332) be universally hated on account of my name; but anyone who stands firm to the end [will](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=12332) be saved.