Thou wast the first to be sown on the earth by the Heavenly Husbandman, O all-praised one. Thou wast the first to shed thy blood on the earth for Christ, O blessed* one. Thou wast the first to receive the crown of victory from Him in heaven, //

* Can also be pronounced as blest.
2 August - Kontakion [Kievan]

Stephen, first of the suffering God-crowned martyrs.