**MAY 25**

**Leavetaking of the Ascension**

**Third Finding of the Head of the Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John**

**"Lord I Call..." Tone 6**

Lord, I call upon You, hear me!

Hear me, O Lord!

Lord, I call upon You, hear me!

Receive the voice of my prayer,

when I call upon You!

Hear me, O Lord!

Let my prayer arise

in Your sight as incense,

and let the lifting up of my hands

be an evening sacrifice!

Hear me, O Lord!

*v. (10) Bring my soul out of prison, that I may give thanks to Your name!*

**Tone 6**

The Lord has ascended into heaven,

that He might send the Comforter to the world.

The heavens prepared His throne, and clouds -- His means of ascent.

Angels marvel to see a Man high above them.

The Father receives Him Whom He holds, co-eternal, in His bosom.

The Holy Spirit commands all His Angels:

“Lift up your gates, you princes!”!

All you nations, clap your hands://

for Christ has gone up to where He was before!”

*v. (9) The righteous will surround me; for You will deal bountifully with me.*

(Repeat: “The Lord has ascended to heaven …”)

*v. (8) Out of the depths I cry to You, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice!*

The Cherubim were amazed at Your Ascension, O Lord,

beholding You, the God Who sits enthroned upon them,

ascending upon the clouds;

and we glorify You, for Your mercy is good.//

Glory to You!

*v. (7) Let Your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!*

Beholding Your ascension on the holy mountain,

O Christ, the brightness of the Father’s glory,

we hymn the radiant appearance of Your countenance;

we worship Your sufferings,

we honor Your Resurrection,

as we glorify Your glorious Ascension.//

Have mercy on us!

*v. (6) If You, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with You.*

Lord, when Your Apostles saw You carried up upon the clouds,

they were filled with despondency, O Christ, Giver of life:

with wailing and tears they lamented and said:

“Master, do not leave us orphans,

Your servants whom through pity You have loved, as You are

compassionate;

but, as You promised, send us Your all-holy Spirit//

to enlighten our souls!”

*v. (5) For Your name's sake I have waited for You, O Lord, my soul has waited for Your word; my soul has hoped on the Lord.*

Lord, when You had fulfilled the mystery of Your dispensation,

You took Your Disciples with You,

and were taking them up onto the Mount of Olives;

and behold, You passed through the firmament of heaven.

For my sake You became poor like me,

and ascended to the place from where You had not been parted:

send forth Your all-holy Holy Spirit to illumine our souls!

*v. (4) From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch, let Israel hope on the Lord!*

**Tone 8** *(from the Menaion, for John the Baptist) (O most glorious wonder)*

O blessed John the Forerunner,

your head shone from the ground with rays brighter than the sun.

It enlightens the faithful.

We have it as a divine treasure

and draw rich grace from it,

sanctifying our souls, our bodies and thoughts.//

As we celebrate, we call you blessed.

*v. (3) For with the Lord there is mercy and with Him is plenteous*

*redemption, and He will deliver Israel from all his iniquities.*

(Repeat: “O blessed John the Forerunner …)

*v. (2) Praise the Lord, all nations! Praise Him, all peoples!*

Your holy head, O blessed Forerunner,

poured out abundant grace.

It was shown without his foreknowledge to the priest who was wise

in God.

He quickly went with faith and grace

and openly brought about its manifest appearance,

which sanctified the emperor and the divinely wise people,//

who fervently maintain the Orthodox Faith.

*v. (1) For His mercy is abundant towards us; and the truth of the Lord endures for ever.*

We celebrate the third revelation of your precious head,

crowned by the Holy Trinity,

which was severed, O glorious one, because of your godly zeal.

The ranks of Angels, the company of martyrs,

the Apostles of God and all the Prophets

rejoice in its discovery.//

Together with them, ever remember us, O Forerunner of the Lord!

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;*

**Tone 6** *(from the Menaion, for John the Baptist)*

Your head is a treasury of godly gifts, O Forerunner.

Guarded safely by God, it came to light from the hollows of the earth.

With faith we gain possession of it, O glorious Baptist of Christ.

As we venerate it, we are enriched through you

with the wonders of miracles,//

and in the forgiveness of transgressions.

*now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

**Tone 6** *(from the Pentecostarion)*

Not parted from the Father's bosom, O sweetest Jesus,

and having lived among those on earth as man,

today You have been taken up in glory from the Mount of Olives,

and exalting in Your compassion our fallen nature,

You have seated it with the Father.

Therefore the heavenly ranks of the Bodiless Powers were amazed at

the wonder,

and beside themselves with fear;

and seized with trembling, they magnified Your love for mankind.

With them, we on earth also give glory

for Your condescension to us and Your Ascension from us;

and we supplicate You, saying:

“At Your Ascension You filled with boundless joy

the Disciples and the Theotokos who bore You;

by their prayers make us also worthy of the joy of Your elect

through Your great mercy!”

**Readings**

1. **Composite 8** *(Forerunner)*
2. **Composite 9** *(Forerunner)*
3. **Composite 3** *(Forerunner)*

**Leavetaking of the Ascension**

**Third Finding of the Head of the Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John**

**Litya**

**Tone 1** *(for the Ascension)*

Having ascended to heaven from where You had descended,

do not leave us orphans, O Lord!

May Your Holy Spirit come, bringing peace to the world;

show the sons of men the works of Your power,//

O Lord Who love mankind!

You ascended, O Christ, to Your Father,

Who is without beginning,

though You were never parted from His uncircumscribed bosom,

and the heavenly Powers accepted no addition to the thrice-holy hymn of

praise,

but recognized You, O Lord, as one Son, only-begotten of the Father

even after becoming man.//

In the abundance of Your compassion, have mercy on us!

Your Angels, O Lord, said to the Apostles:

”Men of Galilee, why do You stand looking into heaven?

This is Christ God Who has been taken from you into heaven.

He it is Who will come again

in the same way as you have seen Him going to heaven://

worship Him in holiness and righteousness!”

**Tone 1** *(for John the Baptist) (Joy of the Heavenly Hosts)*

Come, let us radiantly celebrate the divine feast,

for the lampstand of the Light and the voice of the Word,

the friend of the Bridegroom, the Baptizer of the Lord, has appeared.

He is a great beacon of the Truth,//

showing us his holy head.

Because of Herod’s deed of adulterous and incestuous impurity,

you denounced the iniquitous one,

for you were a herald of purity, O Forerunner,

and your head was cut off;

now you have revealed it//

through the grace of your miraculous deeds.

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;*

**Tone 1** *(for John the Baptist) (Joy of the Heavenly Hosts)*

The head of the Forerunner is like a divinely-flowing fountain of grace,

revealed by God from the bosom of the earth.

Receiving it, O lovers of the feasts,

let us joyfully offer our praise,//

for it is a treasury of gifts pouring forth miracles!

*now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen*

**Tone 4** *(for the Ascension)*

Fulfilling, O Lord, in Your goodness,

the mystery hidden from ages and generations,

You came with Your Disciples to the Mount of Olives,

together with the Mother who bore You, the Maker and Creator of all;

for it was fitting that she who as a mother had been grieved beyond all at

Your Passion,

should also be filled with exceeding joy at the glory of Your flesh.

In this joy we also partake at Your ascent into heaven, O Master,//

and we glorify Your great mercy that has come upon us.

**Leavetaking of the Ascension**

**Third Finding of the Head of the Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John**

**Aposticha**

**Tone 2** *Idiomela*

You were born, as You Yourself did will;

You appeared, as You Yourself desired;

You suffered in the flesh, O our God;

You rose from the dead, having trampled on death.

You were taken up in glory, You Who fill the universe,

and You sent us the Divine Spirit,//

that we may praise and glorify Your Godhead.

*v: All you nations, clap your hands; shout to God with a voice of gladness! (Ps 46/47:1)*

As You were taken up, O Christ, from the Mount of Olives,

the Powers saw it and cried to one another: “Who is this?”

And they were told: “This is the Strong and Powerful One,

this is He Who is mighty in war,

this is truly the King of Glory.”

“And why are His garments crimson?”

“He has come from Bosor, that is, from the flesh.”

But, as God, You sat down at the right hand of Majesty

and have sent us the Holy Spirit,//

to guide and save our souls.

*v: God has gone up with a shout; the Lord with the sound of a*

*trumpet! (Ps 46/47:5)*

You ascended in glory from the Mount of Olives, O Christ our God,

in the presence of Your Disciples,

and sat down at the right hand of the Father,

You Who in Your Godhead fill the universe;

and You sent them the Holy Spirit,//

Who enlightens and strengthens and sanctifies our souls.

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;*

**Tone 2** *(from the Menaion, for John the Baptist)*

O all-praiseworthy John,

your head, the all-revered vessel of divine thoughts,

which clearly gazed on the mystery of the Essence beyond words,

today has come to light from the recesses of the earth, as from

a mother’s womb.

It makes the whole world fragrant,

pouring forth a myrrh of sanctification,

preaching the way of repentance,//

and interceding with the Savior of all in behalf of our souls.

*now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

**Tone 6** *(for the Ascension)*

God has gone up with a shout;

the Lord with the sound of a trumpet,

to raise up Adam’s fallen image,

and send the Comforter Spirit,//

to sanctify our souls.

**Leavetaking of the Ascension**

**Third Finding of the Head of the Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John**

***(at Vespers)***

**Tone 4** **Troparion**  *(St John the Baptist)*

Your head was revealed to us by Christ

as a divine treasure in the earth, O Prophet and Forerunner.

We gather in honor of this discovery

with inspired hymns of praise to the Savior,//

Who saves us from corruption through your prayers.

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,*

*now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

**Tone 4** **Troparion** *(Ascension)*

You ascended in glory, O Christ our God,

granting joy to Your Disciples by the promise of the Holy Spirit.

Through the blessing, they were assured

that You are the Son of God,//

the Redeemer of the world!

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***(at the Divine Liturgy)***

**Tone 4** **Troparion** *(Ascension)*

You ascended in glory, O Christ our God,

granting joy to Your Disciples by the promise of the Holy Spirit.

Through the blessing, they were assured

that You are the Son of God,//

the Redeemer of the world!

**Tone 4** **Troparion**  *(St John the Baptist)*

Your head was revealed to us by Christ

as a divine treasure in the earth, O Prophet and Forerunner.

We gather in honor of this discovery

with inspired hymns of praise to the Savior,//

Who saves us from corruption through your prayers.

**Tone 6** **Kontakion**  *(St John the Baptist)*

The shining pillar on earth, the Forerunner,

lamp of the Spiritual Sun, has revealed his radiant, holy head

to the ends of the earth.

He sanctifies those who venerate it and who faithfully cry://

“Wise Baptist of Christ, save us all!”

**Tone 6 Kontakion** *(Ascension)*

When You had fulfilled the dispensation for our sake,

and united earth to heaven:

You ascended in glory, O Christ our God,

not being parted from those who love You,

but remaining with them and crying://

“I am with you, and there is no one against you!”

**Tone 7 Prokeimenon**

Be exalted, O God, above the heavens; and Your glory be over all the earth!

(Ps 56/57:11)

*v: My heart is steadfast, O God, my heart is steadfast. I will sing and make melody over all the earth. (Ps 56/57:7)*

**Tone 7** **Prokeimenon**

The righteous shall rejoice in the Lord, and shall hope in Him. (Ps 63/64:11)

**Epistle**

Acts 27:1-44

2 Corinthians 4:6-15 *(Forerunner)*

**Tone 2**

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

*v: God has gone up with a shout; the Lord with the sound of a trumpet!* *(Ps 46/47:5)*

*v: Clap your hands, all peoples! Shout to God with loud songs of joy!*

*(Ps.46/47:1:)*

**Tone 5**

*v: Light dawns for the righteous, and joy for the upright in heart.(Ps 96/97:11)*

**Gospel**

John 17:18-26

Matthew 11:2-15 *(Forerunner)*

***(Instead of “It is truly meet …,” we sing:)***

Magnify, O my soul, Christ the Giver of Life, Who has ascended from earth to heaven!

We magnify you, the Mother of God, who beyond reason and understanding gave birth in time to the Timeless One.

**Communion Hymns**

God has gone up with a shout; the Lord with the sound of a trumpet!

*(Ps 46/47:5)*

The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance. He shall not fear evil

tidings. *(Ps 111/112:6b-7a)*

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

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