**MAY 25**

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

**"Lord I Call..." Tone 1**

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

**Tone 1** *(from the Pentecostarion) (Joy of the Heavenly Hosts)*

The Creator of all and Giver of life,

the Word co-eternal with the divine Father,

Who willed to take flesh from the Virgin, becoming a Man,//

has manifested the ineffable teachings of wisdom to all!

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

(Repeat: “The Creator of all …”)

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

In the midst of the Jewish feast, O Christ,

You stood in the Temple as Master of the Law,

teaching with authority and refuting the scribes,

since it was of You that Moses wrote, //

amazing all with the wisdom of Your words and wondrous signs!

*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.*

The Giver of wisdom and Bestower of blessings

pouring out divine streams from the inexhaustible fountain, cried:

“Come to Me, all who thirst, and draw the water of life!//

And rivers of divine grace shall flow from you!”

*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 3**  *(Theotokion – Dogmatikon)*

How can we not wonder

at your mystical childbearing, O exalted Mother?

For without receiving the touch of man,

you gave birth to a Son in the flesh, immaculate Virgin.

The Son born of the Father before eternity

was born of you at the fullness of time, O honored Lady.

He underwent no mingling, no change, no division,

but preserved the fullness of each nature.

Entreat Him, O Lady and Virgin, and Mother,

to save the souls of those who, in the Orthodox manner, confess you//

to be the Theotokos

**Readings**

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

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

**Aposticha**

By Your Cross, O Christ our Savior,

death's dominion has been shattered;

the devil's delusion destroyed.

The human race, being saved by faith,//

always offers You a song.

*v. The Lord is King; He is robed in majesty!*

All has been enlightened by Your Resurrection, O Lord.

Paradise has been opened again.

All creation, praising You,//

always offers You a song.

 *v. For He has established the world, so that it shall never be moved.*

I glorify the power of the Father and the Son.

I praise the authority of the Holy Spirit:

the undivided, uncreated Godhead,//

the consubstantial Trinity which reigns forever.

*v. Holiness befits Your house, O Lord, forevermore!*

The sun was darkened by your Passion, O Christ,

but all creation was enlightened by the light of Your Resurrection.//

Accept our evening song, O Lover of mankind!

*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 1** *(from the Pentecostarion)*

You came to the Temple, O Wisdom of God,

in the middle of the feast,

to teach and edify the Jews, the Scribes and the Pharisees.

“Let him who thirsts come to Me and drink the water of life!

He will never thirst again!

Whoever believes in Me, streams of living water shall flow from him.”

How great is Your goodness and Your compassion!//

Glory to You, O Christ our God!

**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 8** **Troparion**  *(Midfeast)*

In the middle of the feast, O Savior,

fill my thirsting soul with the waters of piety as You cried to all:

“If anyone thirst, let him come to Me and drink!”//

O Christ God, Fountain of our life, glory to You!

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

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In the middle of the feast, O Savior,

fill my thirsting soul with the waters of piety as You cried to all:

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**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 4 Kontakion** *(Midfeast)*

Christ God, the Creator and Master of all,

cried to all in the midst of the feast of the Law:

“Come and draw the water of immortality!”

We fall before You and faithfully cry://

“Grant us Your mercies, for You are the Fountain of our life!”

**Tone 3 Prokeimenon**

Great is our Lord and abundant in power! His understanding is beyond

measure! *(Ps 146/147:5)*

*v: Praise the Lord! For it is good to sing praises to our God!*

*(Ps 146/147:1)*

**Tone 7** **Prokeimenon**

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

**Epistle**

 Acts 12:1-11

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

**Tone 1**

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

*v: Remember Your congregation, which You have gotten of old! (Ps 73/74:2)*

*v: God is our King before the ages; He has worked salvation in the midst of*

 *the earth. (Ps 73/74:12)*

 **Tone 5**

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

**Gospel**

 John 8:31-42

 Matthew 11:2-15 *(Forerunner)*

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

The Angel cried to the Lady, full of grace:

“Rejoice, O pure Virgin! Again, I say: ‘Rejoice,

your Son is risen from His three days in the tomb!

With Himself He has raised all the dead.’”

Rejoice, O ye people!

Shine, shine, O New Jerusalem!

The glory of the Lord has shone on you.

Exult now, and be glad, O Zion!

Be radiant, O pure Theotokos,

in the Resurrection of your Son!

**Communion Hymns**

The Lord said: “He who eats My Body and drinks My Blood abides in Me,

and I in him.” *(John 6:56)*

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

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

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Liturgical texts for this service represent modified versions of translations provided by Holy Myrrhbearers Monastery, Otego, New York and St. Tikhon’s Monastery, South Canaan, Pa. The Department of Liturgical Music and Translations of the Orthodox Church in America expresses its gratitude to Holy Myrrhbearers Monastery and St. Tikhon’s Monastery and to those translators whose work has been consulted at times in the course of reviewing and modifying these texts to their present form: Metropolitan Kallistos (Ware), Archimandrite Ephrem (Lash), Archimandrite Juvenaly, Fr. Benedict Churchill, Isaac Lambertson, St. Vladimir’s Seminary, and Holy Transfiguration Monastery, among others.