**MAY 25**

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

**"Lord I Call..." Tone 5**

Lord, I call upon Thee, hear me!

Hear me, O Lord!

Lord, I call upon Thee, hear me!

Receive the voice of my prayer,

when I call upon Thee!//

Hear me, O Lord!

Let my prayer arise

in Thy 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 Thee, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice!*

**Tone 5** *(from the Pentecostarion) (Rejoice)*

The lamp of the body is the eye,

and Thou art Thyself the soundness of human sight, O Word of God.

From a mixture of spittle and dust

Thou didst restore the blind man's sight.

Thy fingers anointed his eyes:

Mud brings vision – O ineffable wonder!

From his birth, he never saw the sun,

now his first sight is Thee, the sweet Sun of righteousness,

the Image of the Father,//

Who created us in His boundless compassion.

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

The man who was blind from birth --

without sight, even from his mother's womb,

stumbled every day upon the stones,

his feet were bruised, for they were ungoverned by the body's highest sense,

but when he saw Thee, the Light of the world,

the Architect of the human body,

he received Thy rich gift, and his loss was made gain,

and he confessed to every created thing//

that Thou art God and Master, and Lord of lights.

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

When he who was blind had been given his sight,

he perceived that the scribes had become blind.

“Ye see no truth, but only falsehood,” he said.

“Ye accuse the Savior and blind yourselves.

Christ, the sweetest Sun

has risen for those held in the darkness of the Law.

He Who made the Sabbath also refashioned mine eyes.

He has lifted the veil that darkened me,

He has opened the eyes of the blind://

they proclaim Him to the world as the Fountain of light.”

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

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

O blessed John the Forerunner,

thy head didst shine 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 thee blessed.

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

(Repeat: “O blessed John the Forerunner…”)

*v. (3) For with the Lord there is mercy and with Him is plenteous redemption, and He will deliver Israel from all his iniquities.*

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

(Repeat: “Thy holy head, O blessed Forerunner…”)

*v. (1) For His mercy is abundant towards us; and the truth of the Lord endureth forever.*

We celebrate the third revelation of thy precious head,

crowned by the Holy Trinity,

which was severed, O glorious one, because of thy 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 the Forerunner)*

Thy 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 thee

with the wonders of miracles,//

and in the forgiveness of transgressions.

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

**Tone 2**  *(from the Pentecostarion)*

The man blind from birth asked himself:

“Was I born blind because of my parents’ sins?

Or am I a living sign of the people’s faithlessness?

I am not content to continue asking whether it is night or day.

My feet can no longer endure tripping on the stones.

I have seen nothing: neither the sun shining, nor the image of my Maker.//

But I entreat Thee, O Christ God, look upon me and have mercy on me!”

**Old Testament Readings**

**Composite 8** *(Forerunner)*

**Composite 9** *(Forerunner)*

**Composite 3** *(Forerunner)*

**Aposticha**

**Tone 1** *(from the Menaion, for the Forerunner) (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.

*v. There I shall cause to spring up a horn for David; there I prepared a lamp for My anointed. (Ps 131:17)*

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

thou didst denounce the iniquitous one,

for thou wast a herald of purity, O Forerunner,

and thy head was cut off;

now thou hast revealed it//

through the grace of thy miraculous deeds.

*v: Remember, O Lord, David and all his meekness! (Ps 131:1)*

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!

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

**Tone 2** *(from the Menaion, for the Forerunner)*

O all-praiseworthy John,

thy 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 2**  *(from the Pentecostarion)*

Jesus, passing by the Temple, met a man blind from birth.

He had compassion on him and put spittle on his eyes,

saying: “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam!”

He washed himself and then gave glory to God.

His neighbors asked him:

“Who opened thine eyes, which no one could heal before?”

He cried out: “A man called Jesus said to me:

‘Wash in Siloam!’ and now I see;

He is truly the Christ, the Messiah Whom Moses foretold in the Law.//

He is the Savior of our souls!”

***(at Vespers)***

**Tone 5** **Troparion**  *(Pentecostarion)*

Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word,

co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit,

born for our salvation from the Virgin;

for He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh,

to endure death,

and to raise the dead//

by His glorious Resurrection.

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

**Tone 4** **Troparion**  *(Forerunner)*

Thy 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 thy prayers.

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

**Tone 4** **Resurrectional Dismissal Theotokion**

The mystery of all eternity,

unknown even by Angels,

through thee, O Theotokos, is revealed to those on earth:

God incarnate by union without confusion.

He voluntarily accepted the Cross for us,

by which He resurrected the first-created man,//

saving our souls from death.

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

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with inspired hymns of praise to the Savior,//

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**Tone 6** **Kontakion**  *(Forerunner)*

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**  *(Pentecostarion)*

I come to Thee, O Christ, blind from birth in my spiritual eyes,

and call to Thee in repentance://

“Thou art the most radiant Light of those in darkness.”

**Tone 8** **Prokeimenon**

Pray and make your vows / before the Lord, our God! *(Ps 75/76:11)*

*v: In Judah God is known; His name is great in Israel. (Ps 75/76:1)*

**Tone 7** **Prokeimenon**

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

**Epistle**

Acts 17:1-15

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

**Tone 8**

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

*v. Look upon me and have mercy on me! (Ps 118/119:132)*

*v. Guide my steps according to Thy word! (Ps 118/119:133)*

**Tone 5**

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

**Gospel**

John 11:47-57

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,

thy 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 thee.

Exult now, and be glad, O Zion!

Be radiant, O pure Theotokos,

in the Resurrection of thy Son!

**Communion Hymn**

Receive the Body of Christ; taste the fountain of immortality!

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

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

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

In addition to translations from the Department of Liturgical Music and Translations, 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), Father Benedict Churchill, Isaac Lambertson, St. Vladimir’s Seminary, and Holy Transfiguration Monastery, among others.