**AUGUST 29**

**The Beheading of the Holy Glorious Prophet, Forerunner, and Baptist, John**

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

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 6** *Idiomela (by John the Monk)*

During the celebration of shameless Herod’s birthday,

the terms of the oath to the wanton dancer were fulfilled,

for the Baptist’s head was cut off and carried like food on a platter

in the presence of those reclining at the loathsome banquet.

Truly they feasted on wickedness and murder.

But let us bless the Forerunner as is his due,//

and honor him as the greatest born of women!

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

(Repeat: “During the celebration…”)

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

The dance of the devil’s disciple

was rewarded with thy head, O Forerunner.

Oh, banquet of blood!

Would that thou hadst never sworn, deceitful Herod!

Better that thou lie than shed righteous blood!

But let us bless the Baptist as is his due,//

and honor him as the greatest born of women!

V. (5) *For Thy Name’s sake I wait for Thee, O Lord. My soul has waited for Thy word; my soul has hoped on the Lord.*

(Repeat: “The dance of the devil’s disciple…”)

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

In demonic love and fiery passion, O Herod,

thou didst condemn him who reproved thine adultery.

For the sake of an oath to a dancing girl,

thou didst deliver his holy head to that Jezebel.

Woe to thee! How hast thou dared such murder?

Why was the wanton dancer not consumed by fire?

But let us bless the Baptist as is his due,//

and honor him as the greatest born of women!

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: “In demonic love…”)

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

Again Herodias raves with raging lust.

Oh, dance of deceit and feast of murder!

The Baptist is beheaded, and Herod is troubled.//

Through the prayers of Thy Forerunner, O Lord, grant peace to our souls!

V. (1) *For His mercy is confirmed on us, and the truth of the Lord endures forever.*

(Repeat: “Again Herodias raves…”)

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

**Tone 6**

During the celebration of shameless Herod’s birthday,

the terms of the oath to the wanton dancer were fulfilled,

for the Baptist’s head was cut off and carried like food on a platter

in the presence of those reclining at the loathsome banquet.

Truly they feasted on wickedness and murder.

But let us bless the Forerunner as is his due,//

and honor him as the greatest born of women!

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

**Tone 6** *(Theotokion – Dogmatikon)*

Who will not bless thee, O most holy Virgin?

Who will not sing of thy most pure childbearing?

The only-begotten Son shone timelessly from the Father,

but from thee He was ineffably incarnate.

God by nature, yet Man for our sake,

not two persons, but one known in two natures.

Entreat Him, O pure and all-blessed Lady,//

to have mercy on our souls!

**Old Testament Readings**

**Composite 8** *(Isaiah 40:1-5; 41:17-18; 45:8; 48:20-21; 54:1)*

**Composite 9** *(Malachi 3:1-3, 5-7, 12, 18; 4:4-6*)

**Composite 3** *(Wisdom of Solomon 4:7, 16, 17, 19-20; 5:1-7)*

**Litya**

**Tone 1** *Idiomela (by Patriarch Germanos)*

What shall we call thee, O Prophet?

Angel, apostle, martyr?

Angel, for thou hast spent thy life like those who have no body.

Apostle, for thou hast taught the nations,

and martyr, for thy head has been cut off for the sake of Christ.//

Pray to Him then that our souls may be granted great mercy!

Let us celebrate the memorial of the beheading of the Forerunner;

at that time thou didst gush forth blood upon the platter,//

and now thou pourest forth healing to the ends of the earth!

Today the mother of murder,

acting with more wickedness than has ever been seen,

has roused to evil her utterly wanton daughter

against the divinely-chosen and greatest of all the Prophets.

For while hateful Herod was celebrating his ungodly birthday,

she contrived according to the oath he had given her for her dancing,

to beg for the precious head of the herald of God

that gushed forth miracles.

And he, in his madness, fulfilled his promise

and gave it to her as reward for her brazen dancing.

But the initiate of the coming of Christ

ceased not after death to rebuke them for their repulsive union,

but reproved them loudly, saying:

“It does not become thee to commit adultery with the wife of thy brother Philip.”

Oh, birthday, killer of prophets!

Oh, banquet full of blood!

Let us, arrayed in white, piously celebrate the Beheading of the Forerunner,

and rejoice on this day as on a great feast!

And let us ask the Forerunner to beseech the Trinity for us,//

that we be delivered from dishonorable passions, and that our souls be saved!

**Tone 4**

Herod’s birthday celebration was a lawless and shameful feast,

for, spellbound by feminine licentiousness

and stricken with madness by a woman’s wantonness,

he cut off the head of the Forerunner;

but he did not cut out the Prophet’s tongue, which had denounced his foolishness.

Spilling innocent blood, he wished to conceal a lawless sin;

but he could not stop the voice of one who called all to repentance.

He joined in taking delight in murder,

but let us join in celebrating with love the blessed slaying of John the Baptist;

for he was in hell in anticipation

to proclaim to those who sat in darkness and in the shadow of death

the Life, the Dayspring from on high,//

Christ our God, Who alone is rich in mercy.

Come, O people,

let us praise the Prophet and Martyr and Baptist of the Savior!

For being an angel in the flesh, he thoroughly reproved Herod

by condemning his act of unlawful adultery;

and through the impious dance, he endured the cutting off of his precious head,

that he might proclaim to those in hell

the good news of the Resurrection from the dead;//

and he earnestly intercedes with the Lord, that our souls may be saved.

Come, O faithful,

Let us praise the Prophet, and Martyr, and Baptist of the Savior!

Living in exile, he dwelt in the wilderness,

eating wild honey and locusts;

and he reproved the king who transgressed the Law.

But he comforted our faintheartedness by saying://

“Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand!”

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

**Tone 5** *(by John the Monk)*

Herod, intending to escape reproaches for his sinful doings,

gave thy head, O Forerunner, to a lawless woman.

For the wretch did not understand that by offering it on a platter he was condemning himself.

But as teacher of purity and guide to redeeming repentance, O Baptist,//

intercede with Christ to deliver us from the disgrace of passions!

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

**Tone 5** *(Theotokion, from the Dormition)*

Sing, O people! Sing the praises of the Mother of our God;

for today she delivers her soul, full of light,

into the hands of Him Who became incarnate of her without seed.

And she entreats Him without ceasing//

to grant the earth peace and great mercy.

**Aposticha**

**Tone 2** *Idiomela*

O Baptist John, preacher of repentance,

when thy head was cut off, thou didst sanctify the earth;

for thou didst make clear God’s Law to the faithful,

destroying lawlessness.

As thou standest before the throne of the heavenly King,//

entreat Him to have mercy on our souls!

V. *The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree, and grow like a cedar in*

*Lebanon.* *(Ps. 91:11)*

O most holy John,

thou wast beheaded for the sake of the Law of the Lord.

Filled with boldness of speech,

thou didst rebuke the evil king for his transgression of the Law.

The host of angels marvel at thy strength;

the choir of Apostles and Martyrs praise thee.

We also celebrate thy yearly commemoration,//

glorifying the Holy Trinity Who crowned thee, O most blessed Forerunner.

V. *The righteous shall rejoice in the Lord and shall hope in Him.* *(Ps. 63:11a)*

The Prophet from among the Prophets,

and greater than all the Prophets,

sanctified from his mother’s womb to the Lord’s service,

today has been beheaded by a lawless king;

and openly rebuking the woman who danced immodestly,

both before and after his beheading,

he put shame upon that sinful gathering.

Thus, we cry out: “O Baptist John,//

as thou hast boldness to speak, intercede on behalf of our souls!”

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

**Tone 8**

O Forerunner of the Savior,

thou didst rebuke kings so that they would not work iniquity;

but the frolicking of a lawless woman persuaded Herod to cut off thy head.

Therefore we bless thy name from the rising to the setting of the sun.

Since thou standest with boldness before the Lord,//

earnestly entreat Him to save our souls!

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

**Tone 8** *(Theotokion)*

O unwedded Virgin,

who ineffably didst conceive God in the flesh,

O Mother of God most high,

accept the cries of thy servants, O blameless one!

Grant cleansing of transgressions to all!//

Receive our prayers and pray to save our souls!

***(at Great Vespers)***

**Tone 2** **Troparion**

The memory of the righteous is celebrated with hymns of praise,

but the Lord’s testimony is sufficient for thee, O Forerunner.

Thou wast shown in truth to be the most honorable of the Prophets,

for thou wast deemed worthy to baptize in the streams of the Jordan Him Whom they foretold.

Therefore, having suffered for the truth with joy,

thou didst proclaim to those in hell God Who appeared in the flesh,

Who takes away the sin of the world//

and grants us great mercy.

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

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

**Tone 2** **Resurrectional Dismissal Theotokion**

All beyond thought, all most glorious,

are thy mysteries, O Theotokos.

Sealed in purity, preserved in virginity,

thou wast revealed to be the true Mother who gavest birth to the True God.//

Entreat Him to save our souls.

***(at Vigil)***

**Tone 2** **Troparion**

The memory of the righteous is celebrated with hymns of praise,

but the Lord’s testimony is sufficient for thee, O Forerunner.

Thou wast shown in truth to be the most honorable of the Prophets,

for thou wast deemed worthy to baptize in the streams of the Jordan Him Whom they foretold.

Therefore, having suffered for the truth with joy,

thou didst proclaim to those in hell God Who appeared in the flesh,

Who takes away the sin of the world//

and grants us great mercy. *(twice)*

**Tone 4 Troparion to the Theotokos**

Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos,

Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee!

Blessed art thou among women,

and blessed is the Fruit of thy womb,//

for thou hast borne the Savior of our souls. *(once)*

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

**Tone 2** **Troparion**

The memory of the righteous is celebrated with hymns of praise,

but the Lord’s testimony is sufficient for thee, O Forerunner.

Thou wast shown in truth to be the most honorable of the Prophets,

for thou wast deemed worthy to baptize in the streams of the Jordan Him Whom they foretold.

Therefore, having suffered for the truth with joy,

thou didst proclaim to those in hell God Who appeared in the flesh,

Who takes away the sin of the world//

and grants us great mercy.

**Tone 5** **Kontakion**

The glorious beheading of the Forerunner

became an act of divine dispensation,

for he preached to those in hell the coming of the Savior.

Let Herodias lament, for she entreated lawless murder,

loving not the Law of God, nor eternal life,//

but that which is false and temporal.

**Tone 7** **Prokeimenon**

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

V. *Hear my voice, O God, when I pray to Thee! (Ps. 63:1a)*

**Epistle**

(33) Acts 13:25-33 *(Forerunner)*

**Tone 4**

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

V. *The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree, and grow like a cedar in*

*Lebanon.* *(Ps. 91:11)*

V. *They that are planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts*

*of our God. (Ps. 91:12)*

**Gospel**

(24) Mark 6:14-30 *(Forerunner)*

**Communion Hymn**

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

tidings! *(Ps. 111:6)*

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

*Prepared by the Department of Liturgical Music and Translations, Orthodox Church in America.*