

AUGUST 29

The Beheading of the Holy Glorious 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!*  
*v. (9) The righteous will surround me; for You will deal bountifully with me.*  
*v. (8) Out of the depths I cry to You, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice!*  
*v. (7) Let Your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!*  
*v. (6) If You, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with You.*  
*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.*  
*v. (4) From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch, let Israel hope on the Lord!*

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

The dance of the devil's disciple  
was rewarded with your head, O Forerunner.  
Oh, banquet of blood!  
Would that you had never sworn, deceitful Herod!  
Better for you to 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. (2) Praise the Lord, all nations! Praise Him, all peoples!*

In demonic love and fiery passion, O Herod,  
you condemned him who reproved your adultery.  
For the sake of an oath to a dancing girl,  
you delivered his holy head to that Jezebel.  
Woe to you! How did you dare 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. (1) For His mercy is abundant towards us; and the truth of the Lord endures forever.*

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 Your Forerunner, O Lord, grant peace to our souls!

*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 2**      *(Theotokion – Dogmatikon)*

The shadow of the Law passed when grace came;  
as the Bush burned, yet was not consumed,  
so the Virgin gave birth, yet remained a Virgin.  
The Righteous Sun has risen instead of a pillar of flame.//  
Instead of Moses, Christ, the Salvation of 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*)

**Aposticha**

**Tone 2**

O Baptist John, preacher of repentance,  
when your head was cut off, you sanctified the earth;  
for you made clear God's Law to the faithful  
destroying lawlessness.  
As you stand 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 91/92:12)*

O most holy John,  
you were beheaded for the sake of the Law of the Lord.  
Filled with boldness of speech,  
you rebuked the evil king for his transgression of the Law.  
The host of Angels marvel at your strength;  
the choir of Apostles and Martyrs praise you.  
We also celebrate your yearly commemoration,//  
glorifying the Holy Trinity Who crowned you, O most blessed Forerunner.

*v. The righteous shall rejoice in the Lord and shall hope in Him! (Ps 63/64:10)*

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 you have 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,  
you rebuked kings so that they would not work iniquity;  
but the frolicking of a lawless woman persuaded Herod to cut off your head.  
Therefore we bless your name from the rising to the setting of the sun.  
Since you stand 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 conceived God in the flesh,  
O Mother of God most high,  
accept the cries of your 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 you, O Forerunner.  
You were shown in truth to be the most honorable of the Prophets,  
for you were deemed worthy to baptize in the steams of the Jordan Him  
Whom they foretold.  
Therefore, having suffered for the truth with joy,  
you proclaimed 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 your mysteries, O Theotokos.  
Sealed in purity, preserved in virginity,  
you were revealed to be the true Mother who gave birth to the True God. //  
Entreat Him to save our souls.

*(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 you, O Forerunner.  
You were shown in truth to be the most honorable of the Prophets,  
for you were deemed worthy to baptize in the steams of the Jordan Him  
Whom they foretold.

Therefore, having suffered for the truth with joy,  
you proclaimed 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      (*Forerunner*)**

The righteous shall rejoice in the Lord / and shall hope in Him. (*Ps 63/64:10*)

*v: Hear my voice, O God, when I pray to You! (Ps 63/64:1)*

**Epistle      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 91/92:12)*

*v: They that are planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts  
of our God. (Ps 91/92:13).*

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

**Communion Hymn**

The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance! He shall not fear evil  
tidings! (*Ps 111/112:6*)      Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!