

SUNDAY, AUGUST 29  
10<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

TONE 1

The Beheading of the Holy Glorious 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. (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!*

**Tone 1**      *(for the Resurrection)*

Accept our evening prayers, O holy Lord!  
Grant us remission of sins,//  
for You alone have manifested the Resurrection to the world.

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

Encircle Zion  
and surround her, O people!  
Give glory in her to the One Who rose from the dead!  
For He is our God,//  
Who has delivered us from our transgressions!

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

Come, O people,  
let us hymn and fall down before Christ,  
glorifying His Resurrection from the dead!  
For He is our God, //  
Who has delivered the world from the Enemy's deceit!

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

*(Resurrection stichera by Anatolius)*

Be glad, O heavens!  
Sound trumpets, O foundations of the earth!  
Sing in gladness, O mountains!  
Behold Emmanuel has nailed our sins to the Cross!  
Granting life, He has slain death. //  
He has resurrected Adam as the Lover of man.

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

**Tone 6**      *Idiomela*      *(for the Forerunner, 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 that you 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 confirmed on 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**      *(for the Forerunner)*

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 1**      *(Theotokion – Dogmatikon)*

Let us praise the Virgin Mary!  
The gate of heaven, the glory of the world!  
The song of the angels, the beauty of the faithful!  
She was born of man, yet gave birth to God!  
She was revealed as the heaven, as the temple of the Godhead!  
She destroyed the wall of enmity!  
She commenced the peace; she opened the Kingdom!  
Since she is our foundation of faith,  
our defender is the Lord Whom she bore!  
Courage! Courage! O People of God!  
For Christ will destroy our enemies //  
since He is all powerful.

## 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

(If the rector desires the Litya, these stichera are sung)

**Tone 1**     *Idiomela*     (for the Forerunner, by Patriarch Germanos)

What shall we call you, O Prophet?

Angel, apostle, martyr?

Angel, for you have spent your life like those who have no body.

Apostle, for you have taught the nations,

and martyr, for your 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 you gushed forth blood upon the platter,//

and now you pour 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 you to commit adultery with the wife of you 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**      *(for the Forerunner)*

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**      *(for the Forerunner, by John the Monk)*

Herod, intending to escape reproaches for his sinful doings,  
gave your 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 1**      *(for the Resurrection)*

We have been freed from sufferings  
by Your suffering, O Christ.  
We have been delivered from corruption  
by Your Resurrection.//  
O Lord, glory to You!

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

Let creation rejoice!  
Let the heavens be glad!  
Let the nations clap their hands with gladness,  
for Christ our Savior has nailed our sins to the Cross.  
Slaying death, He has given life.//  
He has resurrected fallen Adam as the Lover of man.

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

As King of heaven and earth,  
You were voluntarily crucified in Your love for man.  
Hell was angered when it met You below.  
Adam rose seeing You, the Creator, under the earth.  
O wonder! How has the Life of all tasted death?  
You enlightened the world which cries://  
O Lord, Who rose from the dead, glory to You!

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

The myrrhbearing women came with haste to Your tomb,  
bearing myrrh and lamenting.  
Not finding Your most pure body,  
they learned from the angel of the new and glorious wonder.  
They told the Apostles://  
“The Lord is risen, granting the world great mercy.”

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

**Tone 8**      *(for the Forerunner)*

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 1**      **Troparion**      *(Resurrection)*

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews,  
while the soldiers were guarding Your most pure body,  
You rose on the third day, O Savior,  
granting life to the world.  
The powers of heaven therefore cried to You, O Giver of Life:  
“Glory to Your Resurrection, O Christ!  
Glory to Your Kingdom!//  
Glory to Your dispensation, O Lover of mankind!”

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

**Tone 2      Troparion    (*Forerunner*)**

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 streams 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.

*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 1      Troparion    *(Resurrection)***

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews,  
while the soldiers were guarding Your most pure body,  
You rose on the third day, O Savior,  
granting life to the world.  
The powers of heaven therefore cried to You, O Giver of Life:  
“Glory to Your Resurrection, O Christ!  
Glory to Your Kingdom!//  
Glory to Your dispensation, O Lover of mankind!”

**Tone 2      Troparion    *(Forerunner)***

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 1      Kontakion    *(Resurrection)***

As God, You rose from the tomb in glory,  
raising the world with Yourself.  
Human nature praises You as God, for death has vanished.  
Adam exults, O Master!  
Eve rejoices, for she is freed from bondage and cries to You://  
“You are the Giver of Resurrection to all, O Christ!”

**Tone 5      Kontakion    *(Forerunner)***

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 1      Prokeimenon      (*Resurrection*)**

Let Your mercy, O Lord, be upon us / as we have set our hope on You! (*Ps. 32:22*)

*V. Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous! Praise befits the just!* (*Ps. 32:1*)

**Tone 7      Prokeimenon      (*Forerunner*)**

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

**Epistle**

(131) 1 Corinthians 4:9-16

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

**Tone 1**

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

*V. God gives vengeance unto me, and subdues people under me.* (*Ps. 17:48*)

*V. He magnifies the salvation of the King and deals mercifully with David, His anointed, and his seed forever.* (*Ps. 17:51*)

**Tone 4**

*V. The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree, and grow like a cedar in Lebanon.* (*Ps. 91:11*)

**Gospel**

(72) Matthew 17:14-23

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

**Communion Hymn**

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! (*Ps. 148:1*)

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

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.