

Vesper Propers, August 29

THE BEHEADING OF THE HOLY PROPHET, FORERUNNER, AND BAPTIST JOHN

Because John had denounced Herod Antipas for putting away his own wife and marrying the wife of his brother Philip, Herod imprisoned John. At a feast in honor of Herod's birthday, his stepdaughter Salome danced for him. Herod promised her anything; her mother Herodias told her to ask for the head of John on a platter. This martyrdom is commemorated on this day because a church was dedicated on this day to the Forerunner's beheading by the emperor Constantine and his mother Helena.

Supplement for The Order of Vespers for Sundays after Pentecost, 2005

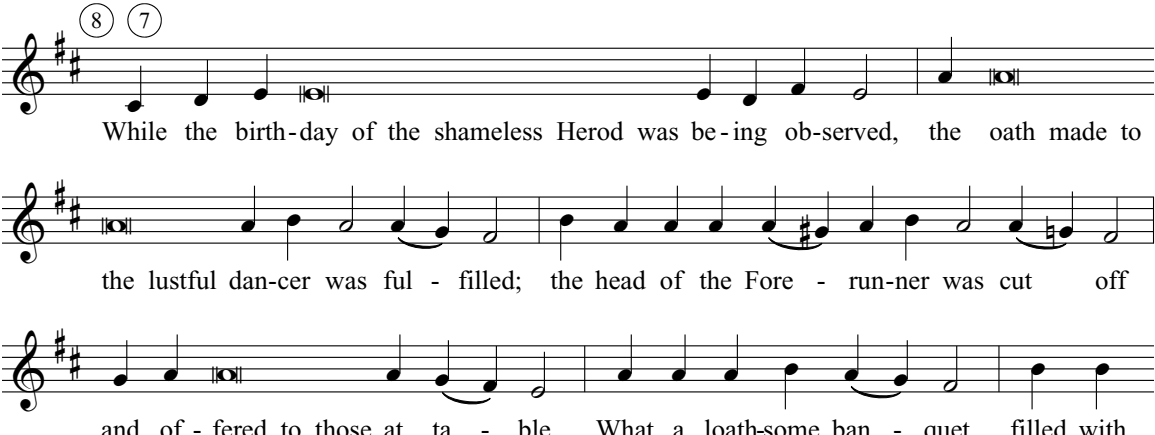
Psalm 140, Tone 6 (begins on page 82)

Bring my soul out of this prison
and then I shall praise *your* name.

Around me the just will assemble
because of your goodness *to* me.

Cantor: (Tone 6) Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord; **Psalm 129**
(on 8) Lord, hear my voice!

Stichera of the Beheading - Tone 6 samohlasen



8 7

While the birth-day of the shameless Herod was be-ing ob-served, the oath made to
the lustful dan-cer was ful - filled; the head of the Fore - run-ner was cut off
and of - fered to those at ta - ble. What a loath-some ban - quet, filled with

wick-edness and hor - ri - ble mur - der. As for us, let us worthily venerate
and bless the Bap-tiz - er, for he is the great - est man born of wo - man.

Cantor: Let your ears be attentive
(on 7) to the voice of my pleading. *All repeat "While the birthday of the shameless Herod..."*

Cantor: If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt, Lord, who would survive?
(on 6) But with you is found forgiveness: for this we revere you.

Aft - er danc - ing, the disciple of the all - e - vil Sa - tan re - quested your head as
her payment, O Fore - run - er. What a blood - y ban - quet!
Would that you had not made that vow, O sinful Herod, off-spring of a lie.
Since you did make it, would that you had not car - ried it out, for it
would have been better to have gone back on your oath and re - ceived life,
than re - main - ing true to your oath to have cut off the head

and with joy proclaimed the good news to those in Ha - des, that God
has ap - peared in the flesh to take a - way the sins of the world and to
grant us great mer - cy.

Cantor: Glory...

The Troparion is repeated.

Cantor: Now and ever...

"Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos," p. 119

The service continues with the Blessing of Bread.

won o - ver Her - od to be - head you. There - fore, your name is praised
 from the place of the rising to the place of the set - ting of the sun. And since you have
 fa - vor with the Lord, be - seech him unceasing - ly for the sal - va - tion of our souls.

Cantor: Now and ever...

Aposticha theotokion of Saturday in the same tone (Tone 8, p. 110)

Prayer of the Holy Prophet Simeon, p. 19.

Troparion

Tone 2 samohlasen

The mem - o - ry of the righteous is cel - e - brat - ed with praise, but for you,
 O Forerunner, the Lord's tes - ti - mo - ny is e - nough. You were shown to be more
 honora - ble than the proph - ets since you were deemed worthy to baptize in
 the waters the Lord you had pro - claimed. There - fore, you fought for the truth

of the Fore - run - ner. As for us, let us worthily venerate and bless the
 Bap - tiz - er, for he is the great - est man born of wo - man.

Cantor: My soul is waiting for the Lord. I count on his word.
(on 5) My soul is longing for the Lord more than watchman for daybreak.
 Repeat "After dancing..."

Cantor: Let the watchman count on daybreak,
(on 4) and Israel on the Lord.

O Her - od, it was not appro - pri - ate for you, be - cause of a satanic passion,
 to con - demn to death the one who reproached you for your a - dul - ter - y
 and the fol - ly of your lust for wo - men. It was not prop - er for you to err
 and to de - liv - er his all - honored head to a sin - ful wo - man for the
 sake of a vow made to a dan - cer. Woe to you for daring such mur - der!
 How was it that this a - dul - t'rous dan - cer was not consumed by fire

in the midst of the ban - quet, as she carried the head on a plat - ter?
 As for us, let us worthily venerate and bless the Bap - tiz - er,
 for he is the great - est man born of wo - man.

Cantor: Because with the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption,
(on 3) Israel indeed he will redeem from all its iniquity. *Repeat "O Herod..."*

Cantor: Praise the Lord, all you nations, **Psalm 116**
(on 2) acclaim him all you peoples!

A - gain Herodias has lost her self - con - trol; she is a - gain dis - turbed.
 What a cun - ning and de - ceiv - ing dance, and what mind - less drunk - en - ness!
 The Forerunner's head is cut off and Her - od is troub - led. There - fore, O Lord, by
 the inter - ces - sions of your Fore - run - ner, grant peace
 to our souls.

All ³
 Born of the proph - et Zechariah, he was the great - est of the proph - ets
 and was sanc - ti - fied in his mother's womb for the ser - vice of the Lord.
 To - day he was beheaded by an e - vil king. Both be - fore and aft - er
 his be - head - ing, his head was a reproach for the maiden who danced
 in - de - cent - ly, thus cov - er - ing one sin with an - oth - er. There - fore we call
 out to you in faith: O John the Bap - tizer, having acquired fa - vor
 with the Lord, be - sech him unceasingly for the sal - va - tion of our souls.

Cantor: *(Tone 8)* Glory...

Aposticha Doxastikon of the Beheading - Tone 8

You re - buked kings, O Forerunner of the Sav - ior, that they might not act
 con - tra - ry to the law. But the fro - l - icking of a sin - ful wo - man

Cantor

The just man will flourish like the palm tree and grow like a ce-dar
of Le - ba - non.

All (2)

O most ho - ly John, your head was cut off for preaching the law of the Lord,
for in blame - less priv - elege you reproached the un - be - liev - ing king when he
dis - o - beyed the law. There - fore the hosts of an - gels won - der at you,
and the ranks of a - postles and mar - tyrs praise you. We al - so hon - or
your yearly memori - al, O most no - ble one, giv - ing glo - ry to the
ho - ly Trin - i - ty who has crowned you, O bless - ed Fore - run - ner.

Cantor

Plant-ed in the house of the Lord, he will flou-rish in the courts of our God.

Cantor: Strong is the love of the Lord for us;
(on 1) he is faithful forever. *All repeat "Again Herodias..."*

Cantor: Glory...

Doxastikon - Tone 6 samohlasen

While the birth-day of the shameless Herod was be-ing ob-served, the oath made to
the lustful dan-cer was ful - filled; the head of the Fore - run-ner was cut off
and of - fered to those at ta - ble. What a loath-some ban - quet, filled with
wick - edness and hor - ri - ble mur - der. As for us, let us worthily venerate
and bless the Bap - tiz - er, for he is the great - est man born of wo - man.

Cantor: Now and ever...

Dogmatikon in the same tone (Tone 6, p. 87)

Hymn of the Evening, p. 12

Prokeimenon for the day of the week, pp. 114-115

Readings: Composite IX
Composite X
Composite III
(see *Festal Menaion, Appendix A*)

The service continues with the Litany of Fervent Supplication, p. 13

Litija

① *Tone 1 Bolhar*

What shall we call you, O Proph - et? An an-gel, an a-pos - tle,
or mar - tyr? An an-gel, be-cause you lived as a bod - i - less be - ing;
an a - pos - tle, be-cause you taught the na - tions; a mar-tyr, be-cause
you were be-head - ed for Christ. En-treat him to have mer - cy
on our souls.

Cantor: *(Tone 5)* Glory...now and ever...

Doxastikon - *Tone 5 Bolhar*

When Her - od wished to free him - self from the re - buke of his sin - ful deeds,
he de - liv - ered your head un - just - ly, O Fore - run - ner, to a
trans - gress - ing wo - man. Nor did this wretch - ed one re - al - ize that

of - fer - ing it on a plat - ter was a con - dem - na - tion for him.
There - fore, since you are a prac - tic - al teach - er of pur - i - ty
and a sav - ing guide to re - pent - - - ance, O Bap - tiz - er,
im - plore Christ to de - liv - er us from the shame of our pas - sions.

The service continues with the Litany of the Litija, p. 116.

Aposticha

① *Tone 2 samohlasen*

O John the Baptizer and preach - er of re - pent - ance, you sanc - ti - fied
the earth when you were be - head - ed. You made plain to believers the law of God,
a - bol - ishing dis - o - be - di - ence to the law. There - fore, since you stand by
the throne of Christ the heav - en - ly King, be - seech him to have mer - cy on our souls.