

Vesper Divine Liturgy, August 29

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

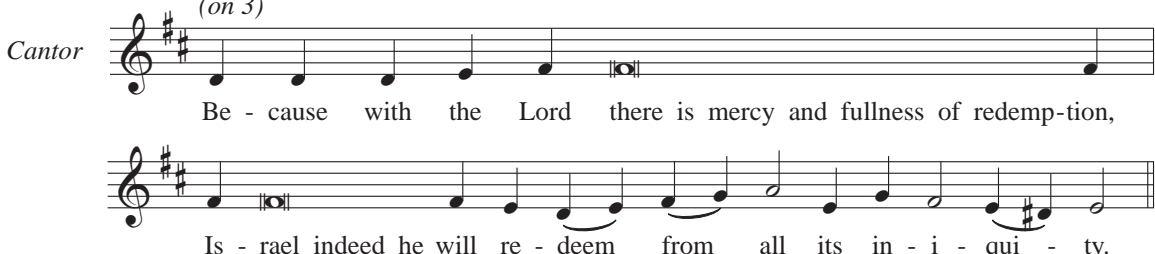
Because John had denounced Herod Antipas for putting away his own wife and marrying the wife of his brother Philip, Herod imprisoned John. At a feast in honor of Herod's birthday, his stepdaughter Salome danced for him. Herod promised her anything; her mother Herodias told her to ask for the head of 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 Divine Liturgies of our holy fathers John Chrysostom and Basil the Great, 2006

*The Vigil Divine Liturgy begins on page 104 in the **Divine Liturgies** book. The beginning verses of the Lamp-lighting Psalms ("O Lord, I have cried") are sung in Tone 6 (page 149). At the Psalm verse "on 3" toward the bottom of page 116, continue as follows:*

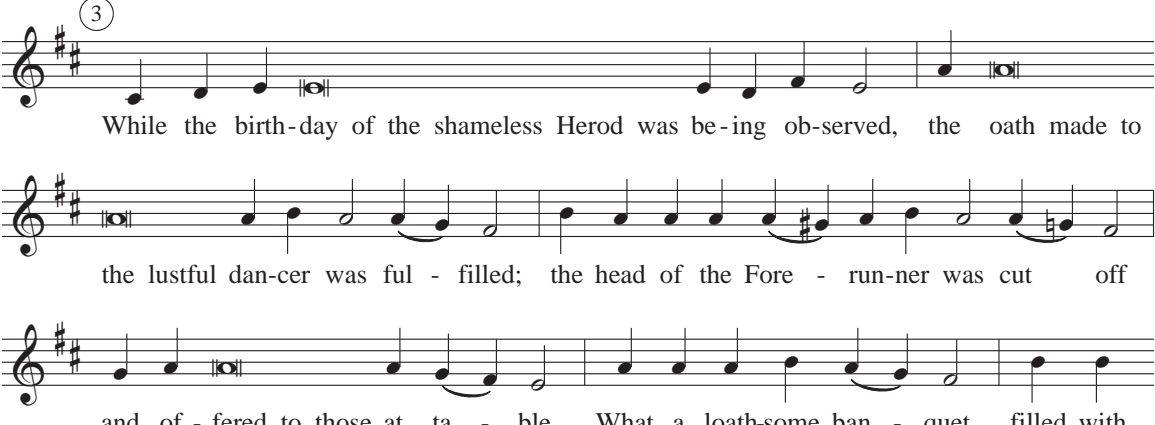
(on 3)

Cantor



Be - cause with the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemp-tion,
Is - rael indeed he will re - deem from all its in - i - qui - ty.

Stichera of the Beheading - 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

* to be sung on the evening of August 28.

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 *(on 2)*

Praise the Lord, all you na-tions, ac-claim him all you peo - ples!

②

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

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

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.

Alleluia of the Forerunner - Tone 4 (Psalm 91:13,14):



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - - - ia!

Verse: The just man will flourish like the palm tree and grow like a cedar of Lebanon.


Verse: Planted in the house of the Lord, he will flourish in the courts of our God.

Communion Hymn (Psalm 111:6,7):

A



The just man will be re-mem-bered for-ev - er; e - vil news he



will not fear, e - vil news he will not fear. *Refrain* Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!




Al - le - lu - ia!

The following hymn may be sung at the end of the Divine Liturgy if desired, either after the Ambon Prayer (if bread is blessed) or after the dismissal.

Troparion of the Forerunner - Tone 2




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



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 *(on 1)*



Strong is the love of the Lord for us; he is faith-ful for-ev - er.

①



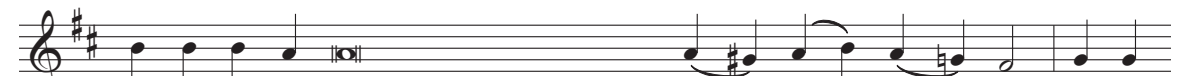
O Her - od, it was not appro-pri - ate for you, be - cause of a satanic passion,



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

Glo - ry to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spir-it,

now and ev - er and for - ev - er. A - men.

Doxastikon of the Beheading - 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.

As the doxastikon is sung, the clergy enter the Holy Place with the gospel book and censer.

The service continues on page 117 with the singing of the Hymn of the Evening, "O Joyful Light".

The prokeimenon of the day of the week is sung (pages 120-121).

Then the following Old Testament readings are chanted. One reading may be chosen if desired.

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

*After the Small Litany (page 122), the Divine Liturgy continues with the Thrice-Holy Hymn ("Holy God") on page 27 of the **Divine Liturgies** book.*

Prokeimenon of the Forerunner - Tone 7 (Psalm 63:11,2)

The just man will re-joyce in the Lord, re - joice in the Lord

and will put his trust in him.

Verse: Hear my voice, O God, when I pray to you.