Beheading of the Forerunner & Baptist John
August 29

MATINS - WEEKDAY

Great Doxology

Glory to You, Who have shown us the light. Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will among men.

We praise You, we bless You, we worship You, we glorify You, we give thanks to You for Your great glory.

O Lord King, heavenly God, Father Almighty; O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ; and O Holy Spirit.

O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, Who take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us, You Who take away the sins of the world

Receive our prayer, You Who sit at the right hand of the Father, and have mercy on us.

For You only are holy, You only are the Lord, O Jesus Christ, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Every day I will bless You, and I will praise Your name forever; yes, forever and ever.

Grant, O Lord, to keep us this day without sin.

Blessed are You, O Lord the God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is Your name forever. Amen.

Let Your mercy, O Lord, be upon us, as we have set our hope on You.

Blessed are You, O Lord; teach me Your statutes.

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Blessed are You, O Lord; teach me Your statutes.

Lord, You have been our refuge from generation to generation. I said: “Be merciful unto me; heal my soul, for I have sinned against You.”

Lord, I have fled to You; teach me to do Your will, for You are my God.

For with You is the fountain of life; in Your light we shall see light.

Continue Your mercy to those who know You.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal: have mercy on us.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal: have mercy on us.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal: have mercy on us.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.
Holy Immortal: have mercy on us.
Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal: have mercy on us.

**Troparion of the Forerunner: Tone 2 (Special Melody)**

DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. JOHN CHYRSOSTOM

**The Second Antiphon (Psalm 115)**

O Son of God, Who **are** wonderful in Your saints, save us who sing to You: Alleluia.

**The Third Antiphon – The Beatitudes**
Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ. O Son of God, **Who are wonderful in Your saints** save us who sing to You. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

**Troparion of the Forerunner: Tone 2** (Special Melody)

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit:

**Hymn to St. John**

O Apostle John, speaker of Deity, the beloved of Christ our God, hasten to deliver your people, powerless in speech, for He on Whose bosom you lean accepts you as an intercessor. Beseech Him therefore, to disperse the darkness of ignorance and pray for peace and great mercies to be shown upon us.

*Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.*
Nativity of the Theotokos Kontakion: Tone 4 (Znamenny)

Prokeimenon: Tone 7 - Psalm 64:10

The righteous shall be glad in the Lord and shall trust and take refuge in Him.

Verse: Hear my voice in my meditation, O God. Preserve my life from fear of the enemy.

The Epistle Reading - Acts 13:25-33

In those days, as John was finishing his course, he said, ‘Who do you think I am? I am not He. But behold, there comes One after me, the sandals of whose feet I am not worthy to loose.’ “Men and brethren, sons of the family of Abraham, and those among you who fear God, to you the word of this salvation has been sent. For those who dwell in Jerusalem, and their rulers, because they did not know Him, nor even the voices of the Prophets which are read every Sabbath, have fulfilled them in condemning Him. And though they found no cause for death in Him, they asked Pilate that He should be put to death. Now when they had fulfilled all that was written concerning Him, they took Him down from the tree and laid Him in a tomb. But God raised Him from the dead. He was seen for many days by those who came up with Him from Galilee to Jerusalem, who are His witnesses to the people. And we declare to you glad tidings—that promise which was made to the fathers. God has fulfilled this for us their children, in that He has raised up Jesus.

The Alleluia before the Gospel - Psalm 92 (LXX 91)

Verse: The righteous man shall flourish like a palm tree, and like a cedar in Lebanon shall he be multiplied.

Verse: Those who are planted in the house of the Lord, shall blossom forth in the courts of our God.
Now, at that time, King Herod had heard of Jesus, for His name had become well known. And he said, “John the Baptist is risen from the dead, and therefore these powers are at work in him.” Others said, “It is Elijah.” And others said, “It is the Prophet, or like one of the prophets.” But when Herod heard, he said, “This is John, whom I beheaded; he has been raised from the dead!” For Herod himself had sent and laid hold of John, and bound him in prison for the sake of Herodias, his brother Philip’s wife; for he had married her. Because John had said to Herod, “It is not lawful for you to have your brother’s wife.” Therefore Herodias held it against him and wanted to kill him, but she could not; for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a just and holy man, and he protected him. And when he heard him, he did many things, and heard him gladly. Then an opportune day came when Herod on his birthday gave a feast for his nobles, the high officers, and the chief men of Galilee. And when Herodias’ daughter herself came in and danced, and pleased Herod and those who sat with him, the king said to the girl, “Ask me whatever you want, and I will give it to you.” He also swore to her, “Whatever you ask me, I will give you, up to half my kingdom.” So she went out and said to her mother, “What shall I ask?” And she said, “The head of John the Baptist!” Immediately she came in with haste to the king and asked, saying, “I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter.” And the king was exceedingly sorry; yet, because of the oaths and because of those who sat with him, he did not want to refuse her. Immediately the king sent an executioner and commanded his head to be brought. And he went and beheaded him in prison, brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl; and the girl gave it to her mother. When his disciples heard of it, they came and took away his corpse and laid it in a tomb. Then the apostles returned to Jesus and told Him all things, both what they had done and what they had taught.

*Magnification Hymn – “It is truly right...”*

*The Communion Hymn - Psalm 112:6 (LXX 111)*
The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance, everlasting, everlasting remembrance. Alleluia.

*The Dismissal*

Priest: May Christ our true God, through the intercessions of His all-pure and all-blameless, holy Mother, at the supplication of the honorable, glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John—whose beheading we commemorate today... Through the prayers of our holy fathers, Lord Jesus Christ, our God... Amen.
Troparion of the Forerunner: Tone 2  (Special Melody)

The mem’ry of the just is celebrated with hymns of praise, but the Lord’s testimony is enough for you, O Forerunner; for you were shown to be even more ven’rable than the prophets since you were granted to baptize in the running waters Him Whom you proclaimed. Then having endured great sufferings for the truth you rejoiced to bring even those in hell the good tidings that God had appeared in the flesh taking away the sin of the world and granting us His great mercy.
Herod’s birthday appears ungodly to everyone, for in the midst of the reveling, the head of the Faster was proposed as meat on a platter. Joy was united to sorrow, and laughter turned to bitter tears, for the girl entered in front of everyone carrying the head of the Baptist on a platter as she had said. In the face of strong desire, sadness fell on all those lying there with the king, for she did not make them happy, especially Herod, yet their grief was not true sorrow but only that which is false and passing away.