

# August 29: The Beheading of St. John the Baptist

## Great Vespers

After the Introductory Psalm (103), we chant "Blessed is the man..."  
On "Lord I have cried", 8 stichera in **Tone 6**.

(8) Reader: Out of the depths have I cried unto Thee, O Lord;

Musical notation for the sticheron "O Lord, hear my voice." The notation is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of two staves: a soprano staff (II) and a bass staff (I). The melody is written in the soprano staff, and the bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics are: "O Lord, hear my voice."

While the birthday of the shameless Herod /  
was being celebrated, /  
the oath he swore to the vile dancer was fulfilled; /  
for the head of the forerunner, having been cut off,  
was borne like food upon a platter, to those reclining there. /  
O abominable feast, unholy act, full of murder!  
Yet, honoring the Baptist  
as the greatest born of women, //  
we call him blessed, as is meet.

(7) Reader: Let Thine ears be attentive

Musical notation for the sticheron "To the voice of my supplication." The notation is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of two staves: a soprano staff (II) and a bass staff (I). The melody is written in the soprano staff, and the bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics are: "To the voice of my supplication."

(repeat above sticheron)

## Stichera on "Lord I have cried"

(6) *Reader:* If Thou shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, O Lord, who shall stand?

Musical notation for Stichera (6). The score is written on a grand staff with a treble clef on the top line and a bass clef on the bottom line. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The melody is written on the treble clef staff, and the accompaniment is on the bass clef staff. The lyrics are: "For with Thee there is for - give - ness." The word "Thee" is underlined with a long horizontal line. The words "for - give - ness" are hyphenated and also underlined with a long horizontal line.

The disciple of the most evil devil danced, /  
and received thy head as her reward, O forerunner. /  
O feast full of blood! /  
It would have been better not to have sworn thine oath, /  
O iniquitous Herod, grandson of lies! /  
For even though thou didst make thy vow, it was not well sworn. /  
It would have been better to be proved false, /  
than to cut of the head of the forerunner, who spake the truth. /  
Yet honoring the Baptist as the greatest born of women, /  
we call him blessed as is meet.

(5) *Reader:* For Thy name's sake have I patiently waited for Thee, O Lord; my soul hath waited patiently for Thy word,

Musical notation for Stichera (5). The score is written on a grand staff with a treble clef on the top line and a bass clef on the bottom line. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The melody is written on the treble clef staff, and the accompaniment is on the bass clef staff. The lyrics are: "My soul hath hoped in the Lord." The words "My soul" and "hath hoped" are underlined with long horizontal lines. The words "in the Lord" are also underlined with a long horizontal line.

(repeat above sticheron)

# Stichera on "Lord I have cried"

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(4) *Reader:* From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch

Musical notation for the Stichera on "Lord I have cried". The score is written for voice and piano in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is on a treble clef staff, and the piano accompaniment is on a bass clef staff. The lyrics are: "Let Is - - - ra - el hope in the Lord." The word "Israel" is written as "Is - - - ra - el" with long dashes indicating a long note. The word "hope" is written as "hope" with a long dash indicating a long note. The word "in" is written as "in" with a long dash indicating a long note. The word "the" is written as "the" with a long dash indicating a long note. The word "Lord" is written as "Lord." with a long dash indicating a long note. The piano accompaniment consists of chords and single notes, providing a harmonic support for the voice line.

It was not fitting, O Herod, to condemn to death /  
the denouncer of thine adultery, /  
for the sake of satanic love and the burning of cruel fornication. /  
It was not fitting for thee to give his most precious head /  
over to a most iniquitous woman /  
because of a vow haplessly made as a condition for her dancing. /  
O how couldst thou have committed such a murder? /  
How is it that the vile dancer was not utterly consumed /  
when she bore it on a platter in the midst of the feast? /  
Yet, honoring the Baptist as the greatest born of women, //  
we call him blessed as is meet.

(3) *Reader:* For with the Lord there is mercy, and with Him is plenteous redemption;

Musical notation for the Stichera on "Lord I have cried". The score is written for voice and piano in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is on a treble clef staff, and the piano accompaniment is on a bass clef staff. The lyrics are: "And He shall redeem Israel out of all his in - i - - - qui -". The word "Israel" is written as "Israel" with a long dash indicating a long note. The word "out" is written as "out" with a long dash indicating a long note. The word "of" is written as "of" with a long dash indicating a long note. The word "all" is written as "all" with a long dash indicating a long note. The word "his" is written as "his" with a long dash indicating a long note. The word "in" is written as "in" with a long dash indicating a long note. The word "i" is written as "i" with a long dash indicating a long note. The word "qui" is written as "qui" with a long dash indicating a long note. The piano accompaniment consists of chords and single notes, providing a harmonic support for the voice line.

(repeat above sticheron)

## Stichera on "Lord I have cried"

(2) *Reader:* O praise the Lord, all ye nations;

Praise Him all ye peo - - - - - ples.

Again Herodias rageth insanelly, /

again is she vexed. /

O what deceitful dancing, what a feast of deception! /

The Baptist is beheaded, /

and Herod is troubled. //

Through the supplications of Thy forerunner, O Lord, grant peace to our souls.

(1) *Reader:* For He hath made His mercy to prevail over us,

And the truth of the Lord a - bi - - - - deth for - ev - - - - er.

(repeat above sticheron)