

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: II (treble clef) and I (bass clef). The melody is primarily in the soprano voice (Staff II). The lyrics are: "O Lord, hear my voice." The music features a mix of eighth and quarter notes, with some phrases spanning across bar lines.

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: II (treble clef) and I (bass clef). The melody is primarily in the soprano voice (Staff II). The lyrics are: "To the voice of my supplication." The music features a mix of eighth and quarter notes, with some phrases spanning across bar lines.

(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 and bass clef. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The lyrics are: "For with Thee there is for - give - ness." The melody is primarily eighth and quarter notes, with some longer notes in the bass 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 and bass clef. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The lyrics are: "My soul hath hoped in the Lord." The melody is primarily eighth and quarter notes, with some longer notes in the bass 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 a single voice part on a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) in the key of D major. The melody is primarily in the treble clef, with some accompaniment in the bass clef. 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 or a specific melisma. 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.

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 a single voice part on a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) in the key of D major. The melody is primarily in the treble clef, with some accompaniment in the bass clef. 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 of" is written as "out 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.

(repeat above sticheron)

Stichera on "Lord I have cried"

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

Musical notation for the Stichera on "Lord I have cried". The score is written for two staves, Treble and Bass clef, in G major (one sharp). The lyrics are: "Praise Him all ye peo - - - - - ples." The melody is a simple, homophonic setting with a steady rhythm.

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,

Musical notation for the Stichera on "Lord I have cried". The score is written for two staves, Treble and Bass clef, in G major (one sharp). The lyrics are: "And the truth of the Lord a - bi - - - - deth for - ev - - - - er." The melody is a simple, homophonic setting with a steady rhythm.

(repeat above sticheron)