

August 29 - The Beheading of the Forerunner, John the Baptist
Stichera at the Praises: Tone 8, Special Melody, "O Glorious Wonder"
Optina Hermitage Melody

I-descant
II-chant melody

1. O all-glo-ri-ous won - der! the im-pure wan - ton girl

hath borne to her adulter-ous mo - - - ther the sa - cred head,

which e - ven the an - gels rev - er - ence, and which de - nounced her

in - i - qui - tous acts. O Thine ineffable patience, O Thou Who

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lov - est man-kind, where-by do Thou save our souls, O Christ,

The first system of musical notation consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It features a series of chords and single notes, with a melodic line that includes a slur over the final three notes. The lower staff is in bass clef and provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and single notes.

in that Thou a - lone art com - pas - - - sion - ate.

The second system of musical notation also consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one flat. It continues the melodic line from the first system, ending with a double bar line and a repeat sign. The lower staff is in bass clef and provides a harmonic accompaniment. A sharp sign (#) is visible above the staff, indicating a key change or a specific note.

2. O the hard-ness of Her - od's heart! He who dis-hon - ored God

by vi - o - la - ting His laws dis-play-eth his hy-poc - ri - sy

by de - ceit-ful - ly keep-ing his oath and join-eth murder to adultery, while

feign-ing re - gret. O Thine unspeakable loving kindness, O Mas - ter,

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where - by save thou our souls, O Christ,

The first system of music consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It features a series of chords, with a melodic line indicated by a slur over the notes for 'souls, O Christ'. The lower staff is in bass clef with the same key signature, providing a harmonic accompaniment with chords and a melodic line.

in that Thou a - lone art com - pas - - - sion - ate!

The second system of music also consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one flat. It continues the melodic and harmonic material from the first system, ending with a double bar line. A sharp sign (#) is visible above the staff for the word 'pas'. The lower staff is in bass clef with the same key signature, continuing the accompaniment.

3. O mar-vel past un-der-stand - ing! The seal of the pro - phets,

the earth-ly an - - - gel, is shown to be the price of wan-ton

danc - - - ing; the tongue of the - o - lo - gy is sent - - - forth

as her - ald of Christ to those in ha - des, O Thine ineffable providence,

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O Mas - - ter, where - by save thou our souls, O Christ,

The first system of musical notation consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It features a series of chords, with some notes beamed together and others held as whole notes. The lower staff is in bass clef with the same key signature, providing a harmonic accompaniment with similar chordal structures.

in that Thou a - lone art com - pas - - - sion - ate!

The second system of musical notation also consists of two staves in the same key signature and clefs as the first system. The melody in the upper staff continues with chords, including a prominent chord with a sharp sign (F#) in the upper voice. The lower staff continues with a steady accompaniment of chords.

Translation by Isaac E. Lambertsen, ©1997, "The Menaion of the Orthodox Church", Vol XII.
The complete service is available through St. John of Kronstadt Press, sjkp.org