

## The 30<sup>th</sup> Day of August

**Afterfeast of the Beheading of the Forerunner; the Commemoration of our Fathers Among the Saints, Alexander, John and Paul the New, Patriarchs of Constantinople; also the Translation of the Relics of St. Alexander Nevsky, whose service is found following this.**

### Vespers

**At “Lord, I call...,” 6 stichera,**

**3 stichera of the Forerunner, in Tone 4: *To the melody, “Called from on high....”***

**A**s the mediator between the covenants both old and new, /  
As both a prophet and Forerrunner, /  
An angel in the flesh and denouncer of lawlessness, /  
The fiery-tongued offspring of a barren woman, /  
Thou didst expose the iniquity of Herod. /  
Unable to endure this accusation /  
He commanded the severing of thy head from off thy body /  
And on the platter of silver it became a divine delight, ///  
Like the food of abstinence, forever denouncing the adultery of Herod.

**I**ncited by her incestuous mother /  
The daughter of iniquity /  
Demanded of Herod thine all-glorious head /  
Which is cherished by the angels, /  
For she too, was unable to endure thine accusation. /  
And when she danced and bore thy head upon the platter /  
She turned the festive joy of the feast into lamentation, /  
For thou didst denounce them all in the sin of fornication, O blessèd one. ///  
O, entreat Christ that our souls may be saved.

**R**endered foolish by drunkenness /  
Herod was swept away in the embrace of adultery and lascivious song, /  
And was called to fulfill the foolish oath he had made, /  
Thus causing thy murder, O righteous and glorious prophet. /  
But thy death was a clear announcement of immortality to those in the tomb /  
For thou didst come as a prophet and herald to all in Hades /  
Proclaiming the salvific coming of Christ our God. ///  
Entreat Him now that He might save and enlighten our souls.

**And 3 stichera of the Holy Hierarchs, in Tone 1: *To the melody, “O all-praised***

*martyrs....”*

**O** Alexander, thou blessed pastor of the Church /  
And defender of Orthodoxy, /  
Thou didst put down the heresy of Arius, /  
Yet by thy prayers, O most wise one, /  
Thou didst pray that his soul be spared the misery of hell. ///  
Therefore we rightly honor thee, O glorious one.

**O**ur father John, /  
Thou didst disdain the corruption of the flesh, /  
And by thine abstinence and by thy faith, /  
And through thy night-long vigils and confession /  
Thou didst become an angel in the body and a heavenly man. ///  
Intercede then before Christ, that our souls be granted great mercy.

**C**arefully following the teachings of Paul the Apostle /  
Truly didst thou hasten to the third heaven, O glorious one, /  
Where thou didst hear the ineffable and divine words of the Spirit, /  
O blessed hierarch Paul. /  
Intercede now, before Christ, that mercy may be granted to our souls.

**Glory..., in Tone 6,**

**H**erodias now is vexed, now she is troubled. /  
O treacherous feast, O dance of deception! /  
The head of the Baptist is severed and the head of Herod is troubled! ///  
O Lord, through the prayers of Thy Forerunner, grant peace to our souls.

**Now and ever..., Theotokion, in Tone 6, or the Stavrotheotokion, in the same  
Tone: To the melody “On the third day....”**

**B**eholding Thee crucified, O Christ /  
She who gave Thee birth cried ot to Thee: /  
“What is this strange mystery I see, my Son? /  
How, being hung in the flesh, the Giver of Life, ///  
Dost Thou die on the Tree?”

*Or Dogmatic Theotokion in the Tone of the Week if a Resurrection service.*

**The Aposticha is from the Octoechos, then:**

**Glory..., of the Forerunner, in Tone 4:**

**T**oday Herod shamelessly celebrates his ill-begotten birthday. /  
And seduced by his lust for a woman and excited by her wantonness, /  
He commands the beheading of the Forerunner /  
But fails to silence the tongue of the prophet; /  
Which continued to denounce his madness. /  
Though he poured out innocent blood to hide his evil sin /  
He could not silence the voice that called the world to repentance. /  
And though he rejoiced in committing murder /  
We celebrate the blessed sacrifice of John the Baptist; /  
For before attaining Life he went down into Hades /  
And proclaimed to those sitting in the shadow of the darkness of death /  
The rising of the Dayspring from on high — ///  
The coming Christ our God the only greatly merciful One.

**Now and ever..., Theotokion, in Tone 4, or this Stavrotheotokion, in the same  
Tone: To the melody, “As one valiant among the martyrs....”**

**S**eeing Thee the Lamb and Shepherd on the Tree, /  
The ewe-lamb who gave birth to Thee lamented, /  
And as a mother cried out to Thee: /  
“O desired Son, how art Thou hung on the Tree of the Cross, /  
O Longsuffering One? /  
How art Thy hands and feet nailed by the transgressors, O Word? /  
How dost Thou shed Thy Blood, O Master?

**The Troparion of the Forerunner, in Tone 2:**

**T**he memory of the just is celebrated with hymns of praise, /  
But the Lord’s testimony is enough for thee, O Forerunner; /  
For thou wast shown to be more wonderful than the prophets, /  
Since thou wast granted to baptize Him whom thou didst proclaim. /  
Then having endured great suffering for the Truth, /  
Thou didst rejoice to bring even to those in Hades the good tidings: /  
That God who hath appeared in the flesh takes away the sin of the world, ///  
And grants us great mercy.

**The Troparion of the Hierarchs, in Tone 4:**

**O** God of our fathers /  
Deal with us according to Thy compassion /  
Take not away Thy mercy from us /  
But through the prayers of our fathers ///

30 AUGUST

Guide our lives along the way of peace.

### **Matins**

— *incomplete as of 3/23/2015*

#### **After the Third Ode, the Kontakion of the Hierarchs, in Tone 8:**

Inflamed with the love of Christ, O glorious ones /  
You took up His precious Cross upon your shoulders; /  
And having imitated His life on earth you now share in His divine glory, /  
O godly-wise Alexander, wondrous John and glorious Paul. /  
Therefore, standing now before the throne of glory ///  
Ceaselessly pray for the salvation of our souls.

#### **After the Sixth Ode, the Kontakion of the Forerunner, in Tone 5:**

The beheading of the glorious Forerunner /  
Was by divine providence; /  
That the coming of the Savior might be proclaimed to those in hell. /  
Let Herodias, therefore, mourn — who sought unlawful murder, /  
For she has not affected the Law of God, /  
Nor has she sought eternal life, ///  
Preferring instead the worldly one.

RLE 8/15/2015 SDA  
UPDATED 6/7/2023 SDA