

## The 25<sup>th</sup> Day of May

### ✠ The Third Finding of the Precious Head of the Forerunner and Baptist, John.

#### Vespers

After the Introductory Psalm, “Blessèd is the man...,” the first Kathisma.

At “Lord, I call...,” 8 stichera.

3 stichera from the Pentecostarion and

5 stichera, in Tone 8: *To the melody, “O glorious wonder...”*

O blessèd John, the forerunner of Christ,  
Thy head hath risen from the earth /  
Shining forth more brightly than the Sun. /  
It illumines all the faithful /  
Who draw from it a wealth of grace /  
Thus sanctifying our bodies, minds and souls.  
Holding it now as a divine treasure /  
We keep the feast and bless thee. *(twice)*

O blessèd forerunner of Christ, /  
The place of thy holy head was revealed to the pious priest /  
Who felt eternal grace flowing forth from it. /  
He hastened filled with grace and faith /  
And [straightway] found its resting place, /  
And is now sanctified with all the God-loving people ///  
Who faithfully uphold the Orthodox Faith. *(twice)*

We celebrate the third finding of thy precious head /  
Which was crowned by the Holy Trinity /  
When severed for the sake of thy zealous love. /  
And now upon its discovery, O glorious one, /  
The hosts of angels and the assembly of the martyrs, /  
The ranks of divine apostles and all the prophets rejoice; /  
Together with them, remember us, O Forerunner of the Lord!

#### Glory..., in Tone 6:

Thy divinely preserved head, O Forerunner, /  
Which hath shone forth from the bosom of the earth; /  
Is a treasury of divine gifts; /

25 MAY

For we who accept and venerate it with faith, /  
Are enriched with the most wondrous miracles, /  
And the forgiveness of our transgressions, ///  
O Baptist of Christ our Savior.

**Now and ever..., from the Pentecostarion.**

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

**The Entrance and the Prokeimenon of the Day.**

**Three Readings:**

**The Reading from the Prophecy of Isaiah: (Composite 8, Chaps. 40, 41, 45, 48, 54)**

IS. 40:1 **T**hus saith the Lord: “Comfort ye, comfort ye My people, <sup>2</sup>“Speak, ye priests, to the heart of Jerusalem; comfort her, for her humiliation is accomplished, her iniquity is put away, for she hath received of the Lord’s hand double that of her sins.” <sup>3</sup>The voice of one crying in the wilderness: “Prepare ye the way of the Lord; make straight the paths of our God. <sup>9</sup>O thou that bringest glad tidings to Sion, get thee up upon the high mountain; lift up thy voice with strength, thou that bringest glad tidings to Jerusalem; lift it up, be not afraid! <sup>41:17</sup>I, the Lord God, the God of Israel, will hear and will not forsake them. <sup>18</sup>But I will open rivers on the mountains and fountains in the midst

of plains; I will make the wilderness pools of water and watercourses of a thirsty land. <sup>45:8</sup>Let the heavens rejoice from above, and let the clouds rain righteousness; let the earth bring forth and bloom mercy and likewise bring forth righteousness ...<sup>48:20</sup>Declare this with a voice of joy and let this be made known, proclaim it to the ends of the earth; say, ‘The Lord hath delivered His servant Jacob.’ <sup>21</sup>And if they thirst He shall lead them through the desert; He shall bring forth water out of the rock to them. <sup>54:1</sup>Rejoice, thou barren that bearest not; break forth and cry, thou that travailest not, for more are the children of the desolate than of her that hath a husband.”

**The Reading from Prophecy of Malachi: (Composite 9, Chapters 3, 4)**

MAL.3:1 **T**hus saith the Lord Almighty: “Behold, I send My messenger, and he shall prepare the way before Me. And the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come into His temple, <sup>2</sup>but who shall with-stand at His appearing? For He cometh in as the fire of a furnace and as

the herb of fullers. <sup>3</sup>He shall sit to melt and purify as it were silver and as it were gold, <sup>5</sup>and He will draw near to you in judgment, and He will be a swift witness against the witches and against the adulteresses and against them that swear falsely by My name and against

them that keep back the hireling's wages and them that oppress the widow and afflict the fatherless and that wrest the judgment of the stranger and fear not Me," saith the Lord Almighty. <sup>6</sup>"For I am the Lord your God, and I am not changed, <sup>7</sup>but ye the sons of Jacob have not refrained from the iniquities of your fathers. Ye have perverted My statutes and have not kept them. Return unto Me, and I will return unto you," saith the Lord Almighty <sup>12</sup>...and all nations shall call you blessed. And they shall understand that I am the Lord, who <sup>18</sup>discerneth between the righteous

and the wicked on that day, in which I shall act to spare those who love Me. <sup>4:6</sup>"Remember ye the law of My servant Moses accordingly as I charged him in Horeb for all Israel, even the commandments and ordinances. <sup>4:4</sup>And behold, I will send you Elijah the Tishbite before the great and glorious day of the Lord cometh, <sup>5</sup>who shall turn again the heart of the father to the son and the heart of a man to his neighbor, lest I come and smite the earth grievously," saith the Lord Almighty, God, the Holy One of Israel.

### **The Reading from the Wisdom of Solomon: (Composite 3, Chapters 4, 5)**

**T**he righteous man, though he die early yet shall he be at rest. <sup>16</sup>Thus the righteous that is dead shall condemn the ungodly which are living, <sup>17</sup>for they shall see the end of the wise, and shall not understand what God in His counsel hath decreed for him, <sup>19</sup>For He shall rend them, and cast them down headlong, that they shall be speechless; and He shall shake them from the foundations, and they shall be utterly laid waste and be in sorrow, and their memorial shall perish. <sup>20</sup>And when they cast up the account of their sins they shall come with fear, and their own iniquities shall convict them to their face. <sup>5:1-7</sup> Then shall the righteous man stand in great boldness before the face of such as have afflicted him, and made no account of his labors. <sup>2</sup>When they see it, they shall be troubled with

terrible fear, and shall be amazed at the strangeness of his salvation, so far beyond all that they looked for. <sup>3</sup>And they, repenting and groaning for anguish of spirit shall say within themselves, "This was he, whom we held at one time in derision, and a proverb of reproach; <sup>4</sup>we fools accounted his life madness, and his end to be without honor: <sup>5</sup>how he is numbered among the children of God, and his lot is among the saints! <sup>6</sup>Therefore have we erred from the way of truth, and the light of righteousness hath not shined unto us, and the sun of righteousness rose not upon us. <sup>7</sup>We wearied ourselves in the way of wickedness and destruction: yea, we have gone through deserts, where there lay no way; but the way of the Lord, we have not known.

**At the Aposticha, these stichera, in Tone 1: *To the melody, "Joy of the ranks of heaven..."***

**O** come all ye faithful /  
 And let us joyfully celebrate the blessed festival /  
 Of the lamp that preceded the Light, /  
 The voice of the Word, the best friend of the Bridegroom, /  
 The great luminary of the Truth, the baptizer of the Lord, ///  
 Who hath revealed his holy head for us.

*Verse:* I have made the horn of David flourish there, I have prepared a lamp for My Christ!

**B**eing the great preacher of purity /  
 Thou didst expose Herod and his pernicious sins, /  
 And the abomination of his adultery, /  
 For which cause thou wast beheaded, /  
 And through the miraculous action of grace ///  
 Thy head hath now been revealed to us, O Forerrunner of Christ,

*Verse:* Remember David, O Lord and all his meekness.

**C**ome, all you lovers of the feasts of the Church /  
 And let us honor today /  
 The precious treasury of gifts which hath been revealed to us by God /  
 From the very bosom of the earth: /  
 A spring of grace flowing with the gift of miracles, ///  
 The wondrous head of the forerrunner of Christ.

### **Glory..., in Tone 2:**

**A**s a divine shrine of divine reasoning /  
 Hast thy head shone forth, O all-praised John; /  
 Thou didst appear from the secret places of the earth as from thy mother's womb /  
 Clearly foreseeing the mystery of the ineffable Trinity /  
 And perfuming the world with the myrrh of sanctification /  
 Mystically preaching the way of repentance ///  
 Entreating the Savior on behalf of all our souls.

### **Now and ever..., from the Pentecostarion.**

### **The Troparion of the Forerunner, in Tone 4:**

**A**s a divine treasure hidden in the earth, /  
 Christ hath revealed thy head to us, O Prophet and Forerrunner, John. /  
 Wherefore, as we gather to celebrate its discovery /

### THIRD FINDING OF THE HEAD, ST JOHN THE BAPTIST

With divinely inspired hymns we praise the Savior, ///  
Who saves us from corruption through thy prayers.

**Glory..., now and ever..., from the Pentecostarion.**

#### **Matins**

— incomplete as of 4/2014

**At “God is the Lord...,” the Troparion from the Pentecostarion (twice),** Glory...,  
the Troparion of the Forerunner, Now and ever, that from the Pentecostarion.

If not in the season of Pentecost, then the Troparion of the Forerunner (twice),  
Glory..., now and ever, **Theotokion.**

#### **Polyeley and Magnification:**

**We** magnify thee, // O baptizer of the Savior, John, // and we honor the discovery //  
of thy precious head.

#### *Selected Psalm verses:*

**The** righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance. He shall not fear evil tidings.  
**The** righteous shall flourish like a palm tree and shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon.  
**The** righteous one shall rejoice in the Lord and shall set his hope on Him.

#### **After the Polyeley, the Sessional Hymn, in Tone 4:**

**A**fter having committed grievous sins, /  
Herod, the accursed, gave the orders /  
That thy precious head be severed from thy body by the sword; ///  
But we, the faithful, venerate it with love.

**Glory..., another Sessional Hymn, in Tone 8:** *To the melody “That which was commanded....”*

**The** head of the Baptist of Christ, /  
Like a gem, lay hidden in the earth /  
And like a divine star it now it illumines the whole world /  
Adorning it with many miracles. /  
For again doth the Forerunner, rising like the Sun in a glorious dawn, /  
Announce to all the everlasting Light: ///  
Proclaiming, “Behold, the Lamb of God!”

#### **Now and ever..., Theotokion, in the Same Tone:**

**S**trengthen thou, my feeble heart /

Which is ravaged by laziness, and sin, /  
And the temptations of the enemy, /  
As thou gavest birth to the eternal God, /  
Through thy prayers, most-gracious Lady, /  
That I may ever glorify thee. /  
Have mercy upon us, thy sheep, which thou hath gathered to thy flock, ///  
O most pure Mary, Mother of God!

**1<sup>st</sup> Antiphon of the 4<sup>th</sup> Tone (The Song of Ascents), “From my Youth....”**

**Prokeimenon, in Tone 4:**

**I** have made the horn of David flourish there, / I have prepared a lamp for My Christ!  
*Verse:* Remember David, O Lord and all his meekness.

**Let every breath praise the Lord! ...**

**Gospel: (31) Luke 7:17-30**

**After Psalm 50 (51), the Post-Gospel sticheron, of the Forerunner, Tone 6:**

**T**he precious head of the Baptist of Christ /  
Which once preached repentance to the faithful, /  
And denounced Herod’s pernicious sins, /  
Then lay upon a plate of silver /  
Hath now appeared as a treasure from the earth /  
Beckoning all to come before it with faith /  
And to approach with awe /  
And reverence it with spiritual love. /  
For it grants remission and the forgiveness of sins ///  
Bestowing that which is needful and great mercy.

### **The Canon of the Saint**

**During the season of Pentecost, first the Canon from the Pentecostarion, with 6 Troparia including the Irmosi, and that of the Forerunner, with 8 Troparia, in Tone 8.**

**But if this day falls during the Apostles’ Fast, then first, the Supplicatory Canon to the Mother of God (*Paraklesis*) with 6 Troparia, followed by the Canon of the Forerunner, with 8 Troparia.**

— incomplete – 4/2014

**After the Sixth Ode, The Kontakion of the Forerunner, in Tone 6: *To the melody, "Having fulfilled Thy dispensation ..."***

**O** splendid divine pillar of light in the world, /  
And luminary of the Sun, /  
Thou didst reveal thy light-bearing and holy head to the world /  
That it may sanctify all those who reverence it with faith /  
Crying, "O all-wise baptizer of Christ ///  
Save us all!"

**At the Praises, 4 stichera, in Tone 5: *(to the melody "Rejoice!")***

**Rejoice**, O sacred and light-bearing head /  
Venerated by the angels, /  
Which of old was severed by the sword; /  
Which cut down the shame of impurity with sharp reproofs. /  
Wellspring of miracles quenching the thirst of the faithful; /  
Which proclaimed the salvific coming of the Savior. /  
And of old, perceived the coming of the Spirit /  
Which took up His abode in thee; /  
Who now advocates the grace of the covenants, both Old and New; ///  
Implore Christ that He grants our souls great mercy. *(twice)*

**The head** of the Forerunner /  
Which was once concealed in an earthen vessel /  
Hath appeared manifestly, from the bosom of the earth /  
Pouring forth streams of miracles: /  
For He whose head was washed in the waters /  
Now covers the chambers of the firmament with waters /  
And rains down divine remission upon mankind; /  
Wherefore, let us bless it as being truly glorious /  
And joyfully celebrate its uncovering ///  
Entreating Christ that He grant our souls great mercy.

**The head** which proclaimed that the Lamb of God /  
Was coming to us in the flesh; /  
And proclaimed to all in divine words the saving paths of repentance; /  
And once denounced the transgression of Herod, /  
For which cause it was severed from the body /  
And for a time endured concealment in the earth, /  
Hath shone forth upon us like the radiant sun, crying out:

Repent, ye now and submit yourselves with a contrite spirit ///  
To Christ who grants the world great mercy.

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

**R**eceiving the all honorable head of Thy Baptist, O Lord, /  
Which was given to us from the earth today. /  
We faithfully lift our voices in praise, /  
And coming now before it, we sinners beseech Thee: /  
That through his prayers, on the Day of Judgment, ///  
We may receive the cleansing of our sins from Thee and great mercy.

**Now and ever..., of the Pentecostarion, or the Theotokion, in Tone 6:**

**O** God and Savior /  
Who loveth the righteous /  
Deliver Thy servants from every evil misfortune /  
Through the prayers of Thy forerunner and of all the saints ///  
And the intercessions of Thy Mother.

**The Great Doxology.** After the Trisagion, the Troparion of the Forerunner; Glory..., now and ever..., the Troparion from the Pentecostarion, or the Theotokion, in Tone 4: “The mystery of all eternity...,” the Litanies and the Dismissal.

**Liturgy**

**At the Beatitudes, 8 Troparia:** 4 from the Third and Sixth Odes of the Canon of the Forerunner.

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

**A**s a divine treasure hidden in the earth, /  
Christ hath revealed thy head to us, O Prophet and Forerunner, John. /  
Wherefore, as we gather to celebrate its discovery /  
With divinely inspired hymns we praise the Savior, ///  
Who saves us from corruption through thy prayers.

**The Kontakion of the Forerunner, in Tone 6:**

**O** splendid divine pillar of light in the world, /  
And luminary of the Sun, /  
Thou didst reveal thy light-bearing and holy head to the world /  
That it may sanctify all those who reverence it with faith ///  
Crying, “O all-wise baptizer of Christ ///  
Save us all!”



### THIRD FINDING OF THE HEAD, ST JOHN THE BAPTIST

**Prokeimenon, Tone 7:** The righteous one shall rejoice in the Lord / and shall set his hope on Him. *Verse:* Hear my voice, O God, when I pray into Thee!

**The Epistle:** (176) 2 Corinthians 4:6-12

**The Alleluia, Tone 5:** Light dawns for the righteous, and joy for the upright in heart. *Verse:* Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous, and give thanks at the remembrance of His Holiness!

**The Gospel:** (40) Matthew 11:2-15

**The Communion Hymn:** The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance. He shall not be afraid of evil tidings.

RLE 4/2014 SDA  
Updated 3/5/2016SDA  
5/14/2023 SDA