

May 25, 2020, Reader Service - Finding of the Head of St. John the Baptist

Reader: Through the prayers of our holy Fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us. Amen.

[Sing:] “Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs, bestowing life!”
(*Thrice*)

Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. (*Thrice*)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

O Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. O Lord, blot out our sins. O Master, pardon our iniquities. O Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for Thy name's sake.

Lord have mercy. (*Thrice*)

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Our Father, Who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy Name. Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

O Lord, Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on us. Amen.

Lord have mercy. *Twelve Times.*

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

O come let us worship God our King.

O come let us worship and fall down before Christ our King and God.

O come let us worship and fall down before Christ Himself, our King and God.

First Antiphon

Bless the Lord, o my soul; blessed art Thou, O Lord. | Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me bless His holy name. | Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits. | Who forgives all your iniquity, Who heals all your diseases. | The Lord is compassionate and merciful, long-suffering and of great goodness. * Bless the Lord, O my soul; | blessed art Thou, O Lord

Second Antiphon

Glory to the Father, | and to the Son, | and to the Holy Spirit. | Praise the Lord, O my soul. I will praise the Lord as long as I live, I will sing praises to my God while I have being. | Put not your trust in princes, in sons of men, in whom there is no salvation. | When his breath departs he returns to his earth; on that very day his plans perish. * Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord his God, | The Lord will reign forever; thy God, O Zion, to all generations.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages; Amen. | Only-begotten Son and immortal Word of God, Who for our salvation willed to be incarnate of the Holy Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary, who without change didst become man, and was crucified, Who is One of the Holy Trinity, glorified with the Father and the Holy Spirit; O Christ God, trampling down death by death, save us.

Third Antiphon

In Thy kingdom remember us, O Lord, : when Thou comest into Thy kingdom.

Blessed are the poor in spirit, : for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are they that mourn, : for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, : for they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are they that hunger and thirst after righteousness, : for they shall be filled.

Blessed are the merciful, : for they shall obtain mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, : for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, : for they shall be called the sons of God.

Blessed are they who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, : for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, : and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.

Rejoice, and be exceeding glad, : for great is your reward in heaven.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Come let us worship and fall down before Christ, O Son of God Who rose from the dead, save us who sing to Thee: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Troparia of the day:

Tone 5 Troparion (*Pentecostarion*)

Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word,
co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit,
born for our salvation from the Virgin;
for He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh,
to endure death,
and to raise the dead//
by His glorious Resurrection.

Tone 4 Troparion (*Forerunner*)

Thy head was revealed to us by Christ
as a divine treasure in the earth, O Prophet and Forerunner.
We gather in honor of this discovery
with inspired hymns of praise to the Savior//
Who saves us from corruption through thy prayers.

For holy art Thou, O our God, and unto Thee do we send up glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto the ages of ages. Amen

Trisagion:

Reader: Holy God, Holy mighty, Holy Immortal have mercy on us. (Thrice)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Holy Immortal have mercy on us.

Holy God, Holy mighty, Holy Immortal have mercy on us.

Reader: The Prokeimenon in the 8th Tone: Pray and make your vows / before the Lord, our God!

Pray and make your vows / before the Lord, our God!

v: In Judah God is known; His name is great in Israel.

Pray and make your vows / before the Lord, our God!

In the 7th Tone: The righteous shall rejoice in the Lord, and shall hope in Him.

The righteous shall rejoice in the Lord, and shall hope in Him.

Epistles: Acts 17:1-15 and 2 Corinthians 4:6-15 (Forerunner)

Reader: “The reading is from the Acts of the Apostles.”

“Brethren: Now when they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where was a synagogue of the Jews: And Paul, as his manner was, went in unto them, and three sabbath days reasoned with them out of the scriptures, Opening and alleging, that Christ must needs have suffered, and risen again from the dead; and that this Jesus, whom I preach unto you, is Christ. And some of them believed, and consorted with Paul and Silas; and of the devout Greeks a great multitude, and of the chief women not a few. But the Jews which believed not, moved with envy, took unto them certain lewd fellows of the baser sort, and gathered a company, and set all the city on an uproar, and assaulted the house of Jason, and sought to bring them out to the people. And when they found them not, they drew Jason and certain brethren unto the rulers of the city, crying, These that have turned the world upside down are come hither also; Whom Jason hath received: and these all do contrary to the decrees of Caesar, saying that there is another king, one Jesus. And they troubled the people and the rulers of the city, when they heard these things. And when they had taken security of Jason, and of the other, they let them go. And the brethren immediately sent away Paul and Silas by night unto Berea: who coming thither went into the synagogue of the Jews. These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so. Therefore many of them believed; also of honourable women which were Greeks, and of men, not a few. But when the Jews of Thessalonica had knowledge that the word of God was preached of Paul at Berea, they came thither also, and stirred up the people. And then immediately the brethren sent away Paul to go as it were to the sea: but Silas and Timotheus abode there still. And they that conducted Paul brought him unto Athens: and receiving a commandment unto Silas and Timotheus for to come to him with all speed, they departed.”

Reader: “The reading is from the Apostle Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians”

“Brethren: For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us. We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed; Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body. For we which live are always delivered unto death for Jesus' sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh. So then death worketh in us, but life in you. We having the same spirit of faith, according as it is written, I believed, and therefore have I spoken; we also believe, and therefore speak; Knowing that he which raised up the Lord Jesus shall raise up us also by Jesus, and shall present us with you. For all things are for your sakes, that the abundant grace might through the thanksgiving of many redound to the glory of God.”

Reader: Alleluia in the 8th Tone

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

v. Look upon me and have mercy on me!

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

v. Guide my steps according to Thy word!

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Tone 5 *v. Light dawns for the righteous, and joy for the upright in heart.*

Gospels: John 11:47-57 and Matthew 11:2-15 (Forerunner)

Reader: Let us listen to the Holy Gospel. The Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to St. John and St. Matthew.

Glory to Thee, O Lord, Glory to Thee!

Let us attend.

[The Gospel is read in a normal voice.]

“Then gathered the chief priests and the Pharisees a council, and said, What do we? for this man doeth many miracles. If we let him thus alone, all men will believe on him: and the Romans shall come and take away both our place and nation. And one of them, named Caiaphas, being the high priest that same year, said unto them, Ye know nothing at all, Nor consider that it is expedient for us, that one man should die for the people, and that the whole nation perish not. And this spake he not of himself: but being high priest that year, he prophesied that Jesus should die for that nation; And not for that nation only, but that also he should gather together in one the children of God that were scattered abroad. Then from that day forth they took counsel together for to put him to death. Jesus therefore walked no more openly among the Jews; but went thence unto a country near to the wilderness, into a city called Ephraim, and there continued with his disciples. And the Jews' passover was nigh at hand: and many went out of the country up to Jerusalem before the passover, to purify themselves. Then sought they for Jesus, and spake among themselves, as they stood in the temple, What think ye, that he will not come to the feast? Now both the chief priests and the Pharisees had given a commandment, that, if any man knew where he were, he should shew it, that they might take him.”

“Now when John had heard in the prison the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples, And said unto him, Art thou he that should come, or do we look for another? Jesus answered and said unto them, Go and shew John again those things which ye do hear and see: The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them. And blessed is he, whosoever shall not be offended in me. And as they departed, Jesus began to say unto the multitudes concerning John, What went ye out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken with the wind? But what went ye out for to see? A man clothed in soft raiment? behold, they that wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. But what went ye out for to see? A prophet? yea, I say unto you, and more than a prophet. For this is he, of whom it is written, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee. Verily I say unto you, Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist: notwithstanding he that is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force. For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John. And if ye will receive it, this is Elias, which was for to come. He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.”

Glory to Thee, O Lord, Glory to Thee!

Holy Holy Holy in the 6th Sticheron Tone:

Reader:

Remember us, O Lord, when Thou comest in Thy kingdom.
Remember us, O Master, when Thou comest in Thy kingdom.
Remember us, O Holy One, when Thou comest in Thy kingdom.

The heavenly choir praiseth Thee and saith: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord of Sabaoth; heaven and earth are full of Thy glory.

[Stichos:] Come unto Him, and be enlightened and your faces shall not be ashamed.

The heavenly choir praiseth Thee and saith: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord of Sabaoth; heaven and earth are full of Thy glory.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

The choir of Holy angels and archangels, with all the heavenly hosts praiseth Thee and saith: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord of Sabaoth; heaven and earth are full of Thy glory.

[In plain chant:] Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

The Creed:

Reader: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, / Maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. / And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, / the Only-begotten, begotten of the Father before all ages; / Light of Light, true God of true God; / begotten, not made; of one essence with the Father, by Whom all things were made; / Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven, / and was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became man; / And He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate, / and suffered and was buried; / And the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures; / And ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of the Father; / And He shall come again, with glory, to judge the living and the dead; / Whose kingdom shall have no end. / And in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of life; Who proceeds from the Father; / Who together with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified; Who spoke by the prophets. / In One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church. / I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins. / I look for the resurrection of the dead, / and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer:

Reader: And vouchsafe us, O Master, that with boldness and without condemnation we may dare to call upon Thee the heavenly God as Father, and to say:

Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Kontakia:

Tone 6 Kontakion (Forerunner)

The shining pillar on earth, the Forerunner,
lamp of the Spiritual Sun, has revealed his radiant, holy head to the ends of the earth.
He sanctifies those who venerate it and who faithfully cry://
“Wise Baptist of Christ, save us all!”

Tone 4 Kontakion (Pentecostarion)

I come to Thee, O Christ, blind from birth in my spiritual eyes,
and call to Thee in repentance://
“Thou art the most radiant Light of those in darkness.”

Reader: Lord, have mercy. (x12)

O All-Holy Trinity, the consubstantial dominion, the indivisible Kingdom, and cause of every Good: Show Thy good will even unto me a sinner; make steadfast my heart and grant it understanding, and take away mine every defilement; enlighten my mind that I may glorify, hymn, worship, and say:

One is Holy, One is Lord, Jesus Christ, to the Glory of God the Father. Amen.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Psalm 33

Reader: I will bless the Lord at all times, His praise shall always be in on my lips.

In the Lord shall my soul be praised; let the meek hear and be glad.

O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt His name together.

I sought the Lord, and He heard me, and delivered me from all my tribulations.

Come unto Him, and be enlightened, and your faces shall not be ashamed.

This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him, and saved him out of all his tribulations.

The angel of the Lord will encamp round about them that fear Him, and will deliver them.

O taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the man that hopeth in Him.

O fear the Lord, all ye His saints; for there is no want to them that fear Him.

Rich men have turned poor and gone hungry; but they that seek the Lord shall not be deprived of any good thing. * Come ye children, hearken unto me; I will teach you the fear of the Lord.

What man is there that desireth life, who loveth to see good days?

Keep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips from speaking deceit.

Turn away from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it.

The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, and His ears are opened unto their supplication.

The face of the Lord is against them that do evil, utterly to destroy the remembrance of them from the earth.

The righteous cried, and the Lord heard them, and He delivered them out of all their tribulations.

The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a contrite heart, and He will save the humble of spirit.

Many are the tribulations of the righteous, and the Lord shall deliver them out of them all.

The Lord keepeth all their bones, not one of them shall be broken.

The death of sinners is evil, and they that hate the righteous shall do wrong.

The Lord will redeem the souls of His servants, and none of them will do wrong that hope in Him.

Megalyrnarion: *Instead of "It is truly meet ...," we sing:*

The Angel cried to the Lady, full of grace:

"Rejoice, O pure Virgin! Again, I say: Rejoice,

thy Son is risen from His three days in the tomb!

With Himself He has raised all the dead."

Rejoice, O ye people!

Shine, shine, O new Jerusalem!

The glory of the Lord has shone on thee.

Exult now, and be glad, O Zion!

Be radiant, O pure Theotokos,

in the Resurrection of thy Son!

Ending:

Glory to Thee, O Christ God, our hope, glory to Thee.

[Sing:]

"Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs, bestowing life!"

(3 times)

And unto us He has given eternal life.

Let us worship His Resurrection on the third day!

Reader (facing the east):

Thou that didst rise from the dead, O Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, for the sake of the prayers of Thy most pure Mother, of our holy and God-bearing fathers, and of all the saints, have mercy on us and save us, for Thou art good and the Lover of mankind. Amen.

His Beatitude, the Most Blessed Tikhon, Metropolitan of all America and Canada; His Eminence Archbishop Mark, Archbishop of Philadelphia and Eastern Pennsylvania; the members of this Holy community and all Orthodox Christians, preserve, O Lord, for Many Years.