

eMatins powered by AGES

The Service of Matins

for Thursday, August 29, 2019

Menaion - August 29

Commemoration of the Beheading of the Holy Forerunner

Katavasias of the Cross

Text in English

Sources

AC Copyright © 2019 by Anthony Cook

VPA Copyright © 2016 by Virgil Peter Andronache

RB Copyright © 2019 by Richard Barrett

SD Copyright © 2019 by Fr. Seraphim Dedes

GKD Copyright © 2017 by Geroge K. Duvall

GOA © The Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America

HC Liturgical Texts courtesy and copyright of Holy Cross Press, Brookline, MA

JMB Copyright © 2015 by John Michael Boyer

EL Copyright Archimandrite Ephrem [Lash] ©

KW © Metropolitan Kallistos Ware

NKJV Scripture taken from the New King James Version™. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

OCA Copyright © 1996–2015. All rights reserved.

RSV Revised Standard Version of the Bible, copyright © 1946, 1952, and 1971 National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

SAAS Scripture taken from the St. Athanasius Academy Septuagint™. Copyright © 2008 by St. Athanasius Academy of Orthodox Theology. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

vol Orthodox Monastery of the Veil of our Lady

Disclaimer

The translation, rubrics, Greek and English texts are for the purposes of worship only and is subject to change without notice and should not be construed as a commitment by the authors, translators, developers, and personnel associated with its publication. Efforts are taken to make this booklet complete and accurate, but no warranty of fitness is implied.

All rights reserved. The materials contained within this booklet remain the property of all contributing translators. It is published solely for the purpose of providing a source of worship materials to the parishes of the Orthodox Church and may be copied and otherwise reproduced as needed by the parish toward this end; however, it may not be reprinted, reproduced, transmitted, stored in a retrieval system, or translated into any language in any form by any means — electronic, mechanical, recording, or otherwise — for the purpose of sale without the express written permission.

AGES DCS Website

<https://www.agesinitiatives.com/dcs/public/dcs>

The AGES Digital Chant Stand is supported by grants from Leadership 100 and the National Forum of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians.

This document was produced using the AGES Liturgical Workbench. For more information, contact AGES Initiatives: info@agesinitiatives.org

Menaion - August 29

Commemoration of the Beheading of the Holy and Glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John.

Horologion

Service of the Small Paraklesis

MATINS

CHOIR

Mode 2.

God is the Lord, and He revealed Himself to us. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. [SAAS]

Verse 1: *Give thanks to the Lord and call upon His name.*

or: Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; for His mercy endures forever.

Verse 2: *All the nations surrounded me, but in the name of the Lord I defended myself against them.*

Verse 3: *And this came about from the Lord, and it is wonderful in our eyes.*

Apolytikion.

From Menaion - - -

Mode 2.

The memory of the just is observed with hymns of praise; for you suffices the testimony of the Lord, O Forerunner. You have proved to be truly more ven'erable than the Prophets, since you were granted to baptize in the river the One whom they proclaimed. Therefore, when for the truth you had contested, rejoicing, to those in Hades you preached the Gospel, that God was manifested in the flesh, and takes away the sin of the world, and grants to us the great mercy. [SD]

Glory. **Repeat.**

The memory of the just is observed with hymns of praise; for you suffices the testimony of the Lord, O Forerunner. You have proved to be truly more ven'erable than the Prophets, since you were granted to baptize in the river the One whom they proclaimed. Therefore, when for the truth you had contested, rejoicing, to those in Hades you preached the Gospel, that God was manifested in the flesh, and takes away the sin of the world, and grants to us the great mercy. [SD]

From Octoechos - - -

Both now. **Theotokion.**

Mode 2.

All surpassing every thought, all surpassing glorious, O Theotokos, are your mysteries. For while bearing the seal of purity and preserved in virginity, you were deemed a Mother in truth, for to the true God you gave birth. To Him pray fervently, entreating Him to save our souls. [SD]

The appointed Kathisma of the Psalter may be read, i.e. Kathisma 13. It would be followed by the short litany.

PRIEST

Again and again, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

(Lord, have mercy.)

Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and protect us, O God, by Your grace.

(Lord, have mercy.)

Commemorating our most holy, pure, blessed, and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.

(To You, O Lord.)

For Yours is the dominion, and Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

(Amen.)

CHOIR

Kathisma I.

From Menaion ---

Mode pl. 1. *Let us worship the Word.*

Come together, believers, and let us all extol * John the Baptist who stands in between the Law and Grace; * for he publicly proclaimed repentance to us; * and courageously denouncing King Herod openly, * he was unjustly beheaded. * And as he lives now with the angels, * he intercedes with Christ to save our souls. [SD]

Glory. Both now. **Theotokion.**

Mode pl. 1. *Let us worship the Word.*

The exceptional wonder of how He was conceived, * and ineffable manner of how your Son was born, * O pure and ever-virgin Maid, have been revealed in you. * And astonished is my mind, and my reason is amazed * by your glory, O Theotokos; * which over all has been spread out * for our protection and to save our souls. [SD]

The appointed Kathisma of the Psalter may be read, i.e. Kathisma 14. It would be followed by the short litany.

PRIEST

Again and again, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

(Lord, have mercy.)

Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and protect us, O God, by Your grace.

(Lord, have mercy.)

Commemorating our most holy, pure, blessed, and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.

(To You, O Lord.)

PRIEST

For You, O God, are good and love mankind, and to You we offer glory, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever, and to the ages of ages.

(Amen.)

CHOIR

Kathisma II.

From Menaion ---

Mode pl. 1. *Let us worship the Word.*

To the Forerunner John and the baptizer of Christ, * who to us was shone forth as a Prophet from the womb * and has risen on the world as a shining light * from the barren one: to him let us offer hymns of praise, as a victorious athlete, * who intercedes with the Master, that on our souls He be merciful. [SD]

Glory. Both now. **Theotokion.**

Mode pl. 1. *Let us worship the Word.*

I implore you to show forth your promptness to provide * your protection and help and your mercy unto me, * O pure Maid, and calm the waves of unruly thoughts, * and resurrect the fallen soul of me your servant, I entreat, * O all-holy Theotokos. * I know, I know, O Virgin, * that you can do whatever you wish. [SD]

The Polyeleos.

Psalm 134 (135).

Psalm 135 (136).

Selected Psalm Verses

**Selected Psalm Verses for the
Feast of the Holy Forerunner**

The man who fears the Lord Alleluia.

1. Blessed is the man who fears the Lord; he will delight exceedingly in His commandments. Alleluia. (111:1) [SAAS]

2. His seed shall be mighty on earth. His righteousness continues unto ages of ages. Alleluia. (111:2) [SAAS]

3. For the upright, light springs up in darkness. Alleluia. (111:4) [SAAS]

4. A righteous man shall be in everlasting remembrance. Alleluia. (111:6) [SAAS]

5. His horn shall be exalted with glory. Alleluia. (111:9) [SAAS]

6. Now the salvation of the righteous is from the Lord. Alleluia. (36:39) [SAAS]

7. Light dawned for the righteous and gladness for the upright in heart. Alleluia. (96:11) [SAAS]

8. The righteous man shall be glad in the Lord, and shall hope in Him. Alleluia. (63:11) [SAAS]

9. The Lord swore to David this truth, and He shall not reject it. Alleluia. (131:11) [SAAS]

10. I shall set upon your throne one from the fruit of your loins. Alleluia. (131:11) [SAAS]

11. There I shall cause to spring up a horn for David; there I prepared a lamp for my anointed. Alleluia. (131:17) [SAAS]

12. Behold, I fled far away, and lodged in the wilderness. Alleluia. (54:8) [SAAS]

13. I have become like a pelican in a desert; I have become like an owl in a ruined house. Alleluia. (101:7) [SAAS]

14. I kept watch, and have become like a sparrow alone on a housetop. Alleluia. (101:8) [SAAS]

15. My knees were weak from fasting, and my flesh was changed because of the oil. Alleluia. (108:24) [SAAS]

16. He who walks blamelessly, and works righteousness. Alleluia. (14:2) [SAAS]

17. And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High. Alleluia. (Ode 9b:8) [RSV]

18. For you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways. Alleluia. (Ode 9b:8) [RSV]

19. To give knowledge of salvation to his people. Alleluia. (Ode 9b:9) [RSV]

20. In the forgiveness of their sins, through the tender mercy of our God. Alleluia. (Ode 9b:9) [RSV]

21. I held to hard ways because of the words of Your lips. Alleluia. (16:4) [SAAS]

22. I declared Your truth and Your salvation. Alleluia. (39:11) [SAAS]

23. I did not hide Your mercy and Your truth from the great congregation. Alleluia. (39:11) [SAAS]

24. I said to those who transgress the law, "Do not transgress the law," and to those who sin I said, "Do not exalt yourselves." Alleluia. (74:5) [SAAS]

25. Behold, I shall not restrain my lips, O Lord, You know. Alleluia. (39:10) [SAAS]

26. And my tongue shall meditate on Your righteousness, and on Your praise all the day long. Alleluia. (34:28) [SAAS]

Glory. **For the Trinity.**

Mode 1.

Come, let us bow in worship and extol,
* all together singing doxologies * to God
the Father and the Son * and the Holy Spirit
faithfully, * crying out and saying: Save us, all-
holy Trinity.

Both now. **Theotokion.**

Mode 1.

O Christ, your people now invoke the
name * of Your holy Mother, O Good One,
and pray.* By her entreaties for us, * will You
give us Your tender love, * so that we may
glorify * You, the hope of our souls, O Lord.

PRIEST

Again and again, in peace, let us pray to
the Lord.

(Lord, have mercy.)

Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and
protect us, O God, by Your grace.

(Lord, have mercy.)

Commemorating our most holy, pure,
blessed, and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and
ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us
commend ourselves and one another and our
whole life to Christ our God.

(To You, O Lord.)

For blessed is your name, and glorified is
your kingdom, of the Father and the Son and
the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the
ages of ages.

(Amen.)

CHOIR

Kathisma III.

From Menaion - - -

Mode pl. 4. By conceiving the wisdom.

Having shone from one barren by God's
decree * and thus rent the restraints on your
father's tongue, * to us you made known
the Sun, as luminous morning-star; * and
you preached the Creator to people in the
wilderness, * and you called Him the Lamb
who takes away the sins of the world. *
Therefore when you zealously denounced
King Herod, * that glorious head of yours
was cut off, O all-lauded one, * holy John the
Forerunner. * Intercede with Christ our God *
that He grant forgiveness of offences * to those
who with longing observe your holy memory.

[SD]

Glory. Both now. **Theotokion.**

Mode pl. 4. By conceiving the wisdom.

Holy Virgin and Mother of Christ our
God, * I entreat you most earnestly now to
cure * the passions that grieve my soul, *
and to grant me forgiveness* for the sins and
offences * that I committed mindlessly, * thus
polluting my body, * wretched one that I am.
* O! And how I shudder* at the thought of
that hour * when Angels will separate * my
soul from my body. * Then, alas! What shall
become of me? * O Lady, hence I pray you will
come * to my aid as an ardent patron then. *
For I your unworthy servant * have you as my
only hope. [SD]

Antiphon I.

Mode 4.

Since my youth have many passions
waged war against me. O my Savior,
nonetheless help me and save me. (2) [SD]

You, the haters of Zion, be put to shame by the Lord, for like thatch in fire you will be completely dried up. (2) [SD]

Glory.

From the Holy Spirit every soul receives life, and through cleansing is lifted and brightened, in a hidden, sacred manner, by the trinal Monad. [SD]

Both now.

From the Holy Spirit do the streams of grace well forth; they irrigate everything created, so that life be engendered. [SD]

Prokeimenon. Psalm 115.

Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His holy one. (2)

Verse: *What shall I give back to the Lord for all He rendered to me?*

Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His holy one. [SAAS]

DEACON

Let us pray to the Lord.

(Lord, have mercy.)

PRIEST

For you are holy, our God, who rest among the Saints, and to you we give glory, to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

CHOIR

Amen.

Mode 2.

Let everything that breathes praise the Lord. (2) Let everything that breathes praise the Lord. [SAAS]

DEACON

Let us pray to the Lord our God that we may be made worthy to hear the holy Gospel.

(Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.)

DEACON

Wisdom. Arise. Let us hear the Holy Gospel.

PRIEST

Peace be with all.

(And with your spirit.)

PRIEST

The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

DEACON

Let us be attentive.

(Glory to You, O Lord, glory to You.)

PRIEST *(from the gate)*

14:1-13

At that time, Herod the tetrarch heard about the fame of Jesus; and he said to his servants, "This is John the Baptist; he has been raised from the dead; that is why these powers are at work in him." For Herod had seized John and bound him and put him in prison, for the sake of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife; because John said to him, "It is not lawful for you to have her." And though he wanted to put him to death, he feared the people, because they held him to be a prophet. But when Herod's birthday came, the daughter of Herodias danced before the company and pleased Herod, so that he promised with an oath to give her whatever she might ask. Prompted by her mother, she said, "Give me the head of John the Baptist here on a platter." And the king was sorry;

but because of his oaths and his guests he commanded it to be given; he sent and had John beheaded in the prison, and his head was brought on a platter and given to the girl, and she brought it to her mother. And his disciples came and took the body and buried it; and they went and told Jesus. Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a lonely place apart. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. [RSV]

(Glory to You, O Lord, glory to You.)

READER

Psalm 50 (51).

Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your great mercy; and according to the abundance of Your compassion, blot out my transgression. Wash me thoroughly from my lawlessness and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my lawlessness, and my sin is always before me. Against You only have I sinned and done evil in Your sight; that You may be justified in Your words, and overcome when You are judged. For behold, I was conceived in transgressions, and in sins my mother bore me. Behold, You love truth; You showed me the unknown and secret things of Your wisdom. You shall sprinkle me with hyssop, and I will be cleansed; You shall wash me, and I will be made whiter than snow. You shall make me hear joy and gladness; my bones that were humbled shall greatly rejoice. Turn Your face from my sins, and blot out all my transgressions. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Do not cast me away from Your presence, and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.

Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me with Your guiding Spirit. I will teach transgressors Your ways, and the ungodly shall turn back to You. Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, the God of my salvation, and my tongue shall greatly rejoice in Your righteousness. O Lord, You shall open my lips, and my mouth will declare Your praise. For if You desired sacrifice, I would give it; You will not be pleased with whole burnt offerings. A sacrifice to God is a broken spirit, a broken and humbled heart God will not despise. Do good, O Lord, in Your good pleasure to Zion, and let the walls of Jerusalem be built; then You will be pleased with a sacrifice of righteousness, with offerings and whole burnt offerings; then shall they offer young bulls on Your altar. [SAAS]

From Menaion ---

CHOIR

Glory. Mode 2.

At the intercession of Your holy Forerunner, O Lord of mercy, blot out my many offences. [SD]

Both now.

At the intercession of the Theotokos, O Lord of mercy, blot out my many offences. [SD]

Idiomelon. Mode 2.

Verse: *Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your great mercy; and according to the abundance of Your compassion, blot out my transgression.* [SAAS]

O Baptist John, preacher of repentance, when your head was cut off you sanctified the earth, for you spread the Law of God to the faithful, and made lawlessness disappear. As one present at the throne of Christ, the

heavenly King, plead with Him to have mercy on our souls. ^[SD]

DEACON

O God, save your people and bless your inheritance. Look upon your world with mercy and compassion. Raise the Orthodox Christians in glory, and send down upon us your rich mercies, through the intercessions of our most pure Lady the Theotokos and ever-Virgin Mary, the power of the precious and life giving Cross, the protection of the honorable, bodiless Powers of heaven, the supplications of the honorable and glorious prophet, and forerunner John the Baptist, whose memory we celebrate; the holy, glorious, and praiseworthy Apostles, our Fathers among the Saints, the great hierarchs and ecumenical teachers, Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian and John Chrysostom, Athanasios, Cyril, and John the Merciful, patriarchs of Alexandria; Nicholas, bishop of Myra, Spyridon, bishop of Trimythous, Nektarios of Pentapolis, the wonder-workers; the holy, glorious great Martyrs George the Victorious, Demetrios the Myrobletes, Theodore the Teron, and Theodore the General, Menas the Wonderworker, the Hieromartyrs Haralambos and Eleftherios; the holy, glorious, and victorious martyrs; the glorious great Martyr and all-laudable Euphemia; the holy and glorious Martyrs Thecla, Barbara, Anastasia, Katherine, Kyriake, Fotene, Marina, Paraskeve and Irene; of our holy God-bearing Fathers; **(local patron saint)**; the holy and righteous ancestors of God Joachim and Anna, and of all your Saints. We beseech you, only merciful Lord, hear us sinners who pray to you and have mercy on us.

CHOIR

Lord, have mercy. (12)

PRIEST

Through the mercy, compassion, and love of mankind of your only-begotten Son, with whom you are blessed, together with your all-holy, good and life-giving Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

(Amen.)

From Horologion - - -

CHOIR

Canon for the Theotokos.

Ode i. Mode pl. 4. Heirmos.

Of old when the Israelite had crossed * the watery passage as if over a tract of land, * fleeing from the misery of Egypt, * he cried: "To God our Redeemer, O let us sing." (2) ^[SD]

Most-holy Theotokos, save us.

By many temptations am I distressed. * Praying to be rescued, for salvation I run to you. * O Virgin and Mother of the Logos, * from all afflictions and evils deliver me. ^[SD]

Most-holy Theotokos, save us.

Assaults from the passions unsettle me, * and they fill my soul to overflowing with much despair. * Quiet them, O undefiled Maiden, * with the dispassionate calm of your Son and God. ^[SD]

Most-holy Theotokos, save us.

O Virgin who mothered our Savior God, * I earnestly beg that I be rescued from my distress. * For now as I flee to you for refuge, * my soul and reason I lift up in ardent prayer.

^[SD]

Most-holy Theotokos, save us.

My body and soul are alike diseased. * Only Theotokos, count me worthy of your divine * providence and gracious visitation,

* since you are good and the Mother of Him who is good. [SD]

Canon 1 for the Forerunner.

From Menaion - - -

Mode pl. 4. N/M (Of old when the Israelite.)

Baptist of Christ, intercede for us.

Let us sing the praises of the holy Forerunner who appeared from a barren womb, conceived as a prophet from fruitless loins. [OCA]

Baptist of Christ, intercede for us.

You surpassed the bounds of nature, keeping the laws of righteousness, rebuking lawless intercourse without fearing the bold pride of the king. [OCA]

Baptist of Christ, intercede for us.

You fed on the milk of the Law, and as its seal you upheld the place of lawful marriage, standing against abhorrent adultery. [OCA]

Most-holy Theotokos, save us.

Theotokion.

The ranks of angels and mankind praise you in song, unwedded Mother, for you carried their Creator in your arms as a child. [OCA]

Canon 2 for the Forerunner.

From Menaion - - -

Mode pl. 4. N/M ()

Baptist of Christ, intercede for us.

Let us all now extol the divine John, about whom Christ bore witness as being His Forerunner and His friend, and declaring that he was one greater than all men. [SD]

Baptist of Christ, intercede for us.

Let us all now extol the divine John, that citizen of the desert, who now dwells with

the Angels. He is the pride and joy of the new people. [SD]

Glory.

Let us join chorus with the angels for the memory of the Forerunner, and let us cry aloud to Christ: O Christ, by his intercessions, grant peace to Your world. [SD]

Both now. **Theotokion.**

O Theotokos, never cease your entreaties to God the Word, who ineffably took flesh from you, that He may rescue your servants from every tribulation. [SD]

Ode i. Katavasia. Mode pl. 4.

Moses prefigured the Cross. * Lifting up the rod, he stretched out his hand and split the Sea for Israel to cross on land. * Then he stretched it out again, * and the sea returned and covered Pharaoh's chariots. * The Cross was thus portrayed as our invincible armor. * So let us sing to the Lord, * Christ our God, for He is greatly glorified. [SD]

From Horologion - - -

Canon for the Theotokos.

Ode iii. Mode pl. 4. Heirmos.

O divine Master Builder of the celestial vault, * as the only Lover of mankind and Founder of the Church, * establish me, O Lord, in love for You, the believers' * firm support and ultimate object of all desire. (2) [SD]

Most-holy Theotokos, save us.

I have named you the shelter and the defense of my life. * Therefore, I entreat you, O virgin Maid who gave birth to God, * conduct me to your port, * originator of good things, * the believers' firm support, * only all-lauded one. [SD]

Most-holy Theotokos, save us.

I beseech you, O Virgin, dispel my soul's turbulence, * also the tempestuous surging of grave despondency. * For you, O Bride of God, * gave birth to Christ who is Author * of serene tranquility, * only all-spotless one. [SD]

Most-holy Theotokos, save us.

Pour the wealth of your goodness and benefactions on all, * since you bore the great Benefactor, the Cause of every good. * You carried in your womb * Christ who is mighty in power; * therefore you can do all things, * O Lady blest by God. [SD]

Most-holy Theotokos, save us.

I implore you to help me as I am now being tried * by distressing ailments, O Virgin, and morbid suffering. * For I know you to be * an inexhaustible treasure * plenteous in remedies, * only all-blameless one. [SD]

Canon 1 for the Forerunner.

From Menaion - - -

Mode pl. 4. *N/M (Lord, You are the firm.)*

Baptist of Christ, intercede for us.

When Herod was filled with strong drink, the infamous girl said to him: Herod, give me now the head of John on a platter. [OCA]

Baptist of Christ, intercede for us.

The girl danced and pleased sinful Herod. She drew him to have the Forerunner and Preacher killed. [OCA]

Baptist of Christ, intercede for us.

Foolish and miserable transgressor Herod, what boldness from a wanton girl made you commit unjust murder? [OCA]

Most-holy Theotokos, save us.

Theotokion.

Give us help by your prayers, all-pure Virgin, and drive away the assaults of adversity. [OCA]

Canon 2 for the Forerunner.

From Menaion - - -

Mode pl. 4. *N/M (O divine Master Builder.)*

Baptist of Christ, intercede for us.

As the Mediator between the Old and New Covenants, you were a leader in preaching the Gospel, O Forerunner; and when you denounced the unlawful fornication of the tyrant, you famously went to your death rejoicing. [SD]

Baptist of Christ, intercede for us.

The young lady, having been instructed beforehand by her lawless mother, said to a drunken Herod in the midst of his bacchanal: Give me the head of John on a platter, so that I may give joy to my mother with the gift she desires. [SD]

Glory.

O glorious Forerunner, your God-protected tongue uttered reproaches which the shameless tyrant could not endure. Thus, he gave your august and renowned head to the young lady as the reward for her vulgar dance. [SD]

Both now. **Theotokion.**

You dwelt bodily in the Virgin, and you appeared to mankind as was appropriate for You to be seen. You showed your mother to be the true Theotokos and the help of the faithful, O Lord who alone love humanity. [SD]

Ode iii. Katavasia. Mode pl. 4.

The rod of Aaron is seen as typifying the mystery; * for it budded, and thus was the priest selected. * Now in the Church, that was barren once, the Cross of Christ, like a tree, * has blossomed forth, * as power and a firm support. [SD]

DEACON

Again and again, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

(Lord, have mercy.)

Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and protect us, O God, by Your grace.

(Lord, have mercy.)

Commemorating our most holy, pure, blessed, and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.

(To You, O Lord.)

PRIEST

For you are our God, and to you we give glory, to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

(Amen.)

Mid-Ode Kathisma or Hypakoe

CHOIR

Kathisma.

From Menaion ---

Mode 1. N/M (The soldiers.)

Come, faithful, and with a pure conscience/let us honor the Forerunner, Baptist and prophet of Christ,/for as a glorious preacher and teacher of repentance/and wholly true witness of the Savior/ he rebuked the folly of Herod//and was murdered by being beheaded. [OCA]

Glory. **Another.**

Mode 4. N/M (Joseph marveled.)

The Baptist of the Savior now appears to us,/bringing spiritual rejoicing to the minds of the faithful./He is the adornment of the wilderness and seal of the prophets,/revealed to be the Forerunner of Christ and true witness of His coming./Let us with one accord cry out to John in spiritual songs:// Prophet and preacher of the truth, intercede for our salvation! [OCA]

Both now. **Theotokion.**

Mode 4. N/M (Joseph marveled.)

All the choirs of angels wonder, pure Virgin,/at the mystery of your awesome childbearing./How He, Who by a single movement of His hand holds fast the universe,/was held in your arms, and as the pre-eternal One, began to be!//How He, Who in His ineffable goodness feeds every breathing creature/is fed on milk!// They praise you and glorify you as the true Theotokos! [OCA]

From Horologion ---

Canon for the Theotokos.

Ode iv. Mode pl. 4. Heirmos.

I have heard the report, O Lord, * of Your incarnation, which is a mystery. * I considered Your astounding works, * and I glorified Your divinity. (2) [SD]

Most-holy Theotokos, save us.

I entreat you, O Bride of God * who have borne the Helmsman and Lord, to pacify * the confusion that my passions bring * and the surging waves of my iniquities. [SD]

Most-holy Theotokos, save us.

You have borne the compassionate * Lord who is the Savior of all who sing your praise. * Hence, bestow upon me the abyss * of your own compassion which I now invoke. [SD]

Most-holy Theotokos, save us.

We who know you, O wholly pure * Virgin, to be truly the Mother of our God, * have enjoyed so many gifts from you. * Hence, we sing this canticle of gratitude. [SD]

Most-holy Theotokos, save us.

In possessing you as our hope * and the stable buttress and solid battlement * of salvation, O all-lauded one, * we are liberated from all misery. [SD]

Canon 1 for the Forerunner.

From Menaion - - -

Mode pl. 4. *N/M (You are my strength.)*

Baptist of Christ, intercede for us.

A man subject to the penalties of the Law,/unable to endure its severity or divine boldness,/disfigured by the wantonness of lust,/kept and bound John, who before his end/was already united spiritually to the choirs on high. [OCA]

Baptist of Christ, intercede for us.

Sick with drink and unbridled passion,/the wretched betrayer, bound by the song and dance of a girl,/became the murderer of the Prophet./For conceiving drunkenness, the mother of lust,/he brought forth a deep sin.

[OCA]

Baptist of Christ, intercede for us.

Truly, the divine voice has not lied in you! For, most outstanding dove among prophets,/you were counted worthy of prophecies from

the very womb,/in a body not yet completed:/you prophesied of God the Word,/Whom you saw and baptized in the flesh. [OCA]

Most-holy Theotokos, save us.

Theotokion.

You are the boast of the faithful, unwedded dove:/the advocate, refuge, rampart and haven of Christians,/for you carry prayer for all to your Son, spotless Virgin,/and save from danger those who acknowledge you with faith and love/to be the Theotokos. [OCA]

Canon 2 for the Forerunner.

From Menaion - - -

Mode pl. 4. *N/M (The Prophet understood.)*

Baptist of Christ, intercede for us.

O all-blessed John, the servant of Christ, Herod was unable to withstand your reproaches, so he implemented your unjust murder, for he was unashamed of your eminence. [SD]

Baptist of Christ, intercede for us.

The unrighteous king unlawfully condemns you to death and leads you away, O all-blest Prophet, in a bacchanalia of drunkenness and frenzied passion, for he was unashamed of your eminence. [SD]

Glory.

Under the power of the words of the young lady, the ungodly and terrible Herod truly gives a gift to the adulteress: your head, O Prophet, from which gushes forth grace to us all. [SD]

Both now. **Theotokion.**

O holy Theotokos, receive from us these salutations: Rejoice, you who bore the joy of

the whole world! Rejoice, the sole defense of all men, O blessed Theotokos most-pure! [SD]

Ode iv. Katavasia. Mode pl. 4.

I have heard the report, O Lord, * of Your incarnation, which is a mystery. * I considered Your astounding works, * and I glorified Your divinity. [SD]

From Horologion - - -

Canon for the Theotokos.

Ode v. Mode pl. 4. Heirmos.

Sovereign Lord our God, * as the One who loves humanity, * with your commandments enlighten us, we pray; * and also grant us * Your peace with Your own uplifted arm. (2)

[SD]

Most-holy Theotokos, save us.

Since you bore the prime * Source of happiness, impart to me, * O pure Maid, your unadulterated joy. * And fill my heart now * to overflowing with your happiness. [SD]

Most-holy Theotokos, save us.

Mother of our God, * do redeem us from all jeopardy, * since the eternal Redemption you have borne, * and Peace that passes * all understanding, O Virgin pure. [SD]

Most-holy Theotokos, save us.

Dissipate the gloom * of my trespasses, O Bride of God, * with the effulgence of your irradiance, * being the Mother * of the divine pre-eternal Light. [SD]

Most-holy Theotokos, save us.

Cure the weakness wreaked * by my passions, O pure virgin Maid. * Account me worthy of your solicitude, * and by your earnest * intercessions give me health again. [SD]

Canon 1 for the Forerunner.

From Menaion - - -

Mode pl. 4. N/M (Why, O Lord.)

Baptist of Christ, intercede for us.

At a mother's instructions,/the most cruel whelp of the grasping lioness/begged as prize for her devilish and evil dancing/the head of the Forerunner and preacher/honored by all the wild beasts of the wilderness! [OCA]

Baptist of Christ, intercede for us.

How beyond reach and understanding/are Your judgments, Lover of mankind!/By her dancing, the wanton girl/has won him who was revealed as the receiver of the Spirit/while still in his mother's womb,/and who grew up in wisdom and purity. [OCA]

Baptist of Christ, intercede for us.

Loving your own dear and disgraceful union,/you added the destruction of the prophet/to drinking on your birthday./With love of lust you mingled a cup filled with prophetic and holy blood. [OCA]

Most-holy Theotokos, save us.

Theotokion.

Since you have the boldness of a Mother towards your Son,/we entreat you, all-pure Virgin,/do not turn from the thought of your kindred,/for we Christians place you as an advocate in whom He is well pleased/before the Master! [OCA]

Canon 2 for the Forerunner.

From Menaion - - -

Mode pl. 4. N/M (We rise at early morn.)

Baptist of Christ, intercede for us.

The young lady, through trickery, was given as payment for her dance the head of the Forerunner on a platter. O, the folly! [SD]

Baptist of Christ, intercede for us.

The adulteress was thrilled and conceited,
O herald of God, as blood dripped from your
head. O, the folly! [SD]

Glory.

Though thinking he had silenced your
tongue, O all-praised one, Herod is more
reproached by its silence. [SD]

Both now. **Theotokion.**

O Theotokos, you bore God the Logos in
the flesh for the world, and after childbirth
remained a virgin. Therefore we extol you. [SD]

Ode v. Katavasia. Mode pl. 4.

Tree of the Cross, you are thrice-blessed,
* for Jesus Christ, who is King and Lord, was
crucified on you. * Through you fallen is the
one who by a tree deceived us, * for he was
lured by God who in the flesh indeed * was
hung and nailed to you, * and who grants to
our souls His peace. [SD]

From Horologion - - -

Canon for the Theotokos.

Ode vi. Mode pl. 4. Heirmos.

I pour out my supplication to the Lord, *
and I tell Him all about my afflictions, * and
that my soul has been flooded with evils, *
and that my life has come close to being in
hell. * Like Prophet Jonah, I entreat, * "Raise
me up from corruption, O Lord my God." (2)

[SD]

Most-holy Theotokos, save us.

Solicit * your Son and Lord to rescue me
* from the enemies' malignance, O Virgin, *
as He redeemed out of death and corruption
* my human nature held down by mortality
* and overpowered by decay, * having freely
submitted Himself to death. [SD]

Most-holy Theotokos, save us.

O Virgin, * I know you well as Patroness
* of my life and most reliable sentry. * For you
disperse a great throng of temptations, * and
spiteful treatment by demons you drive away.
* And constantly do I entreat * to be saved
from my passions' depravity. [SD]

Most-holy Theotokos, save us.

We have you * as a protective citadel *
and the absolute salvation, O Maiden, * of our
souls, and in straits as a broad way. * And in
your light we unceasingly jubilate. * And now,
O Lady, we beseech, * from the passions and
perils deliver us. [SD]

Most-holy Theotokos, save us.

I lie now * in failing health upon my bed,
* and there is no cure for my ailing body. * But
I entreat, O good Lady who gave birth * to the
Reliever of illnesses, who is God * the Savior
of the world, and plead: * raise me up from the
ravages of disease. [SD]

Canon 1 for the Forerunner.

From Menaion - - -

Mode pl. 4. N/M (Be gracious to me.)

Baptist of Christ, intercede for us.

You brought yourself into danger, blessed
John,/for the commandments of the Law,/for
teaching the transgressor by rebukes./He
was shown to be a reed shaken by the wind of
contrary spirits. [OCA]

Baptist of Christ, intercede for us.

Even after the end,/your head, offered as
a prize in a lustful contest,/reproached Herod
for having a vile nature. [OCA]

Baptist of Christ, intercede for us.

Walking in the wilderness covered with camel's hair,/you lived there as a king, shining with light./you wore beauty there, and reigned over the passions. [OCA]

Most-holy Theotokos, save us.

Theotokion.

Pure Theotokos,/let our serious offences be destroyed./May we obtain divine illumination from the Son of God/Who was ineffably made flesh of you, pure Virgin. [OCA]

Canon 2 for the Forerunner.

From Menaion ---

Mode pl. 4. *N/M (I pray... grant.)*

Baptist of Christ, intercede for us.

Gushing forth teachings divine for the fullness of the faithful, O glorious John, you announced to us the Lamb of God. [SD]

Baptist of Christ, intercede for us.

As you stand near Christ, O Forerunner, do not neglect those who extol you, the true exemplar of dignity and of the strict life. [SD]

Glory.

O Forerunner and Prophet and Baptizer of Christ, grant peace to the world through your prayers, and guard our souls from any danger.

[SD]

Both now. **Theotokion.**

We pray you, who by a word alone bore the Word within your womb, to deliver our souls from the entrapments of the foe. [SD]

Ode vi. Katavasia. Mode pl. 4.

In the belly of the sea beast * the prophet Jonah prayed with his arms extended crosswise; * thus he clearly prefigured the saving Passion of Christ. * When after three

days he emerged, * he was depicting the supernal resurrection from the dead * of Christ God, who was physically nailed to the Cross * and by His third-day arising illumined the universe. [SD]

DEACON

Again and again, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

(Lord, have mercy.)

Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and protect us, O God, by Your grace.

(Lord, have mercy.)

Commemorating our most holy, pure, blessed, and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.

(To You, O Lord.)

PRIEST

For You are the King of peace and the savior of our souls, and to You we give glory, to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

(Amen.)

From Menaion ---

READER

Kontakion.

Mode pl. 1.

The Forerunner's glorious decapitation occurred out of divine dispensation, so that even to those in Hades he should declare the coming of the Savior. Therefore, mourn, O Herodias, who asked for unlawful murder: The law of God, nor the living age did she love, but one contrived and fleeting. [GKD]

Oikos.

Herod's birthday festivities seemed to all unhallowed, for in the midst of the

debauchers, the head of the Faster was like a meaty dish presented. Sadness joined to joy, and with laughter, wailing bitter blended; for as the girl entered in before all, bearing on a platter the brow of the Baptist through mad desire, as it says, lamentation fell likewise on the king and all the banqueters. For it did not delight them, nor Herod himself, it says; and they were dampened with a sadness that wasn't real, but one contrived and fleeting. [GKD]

Synaxarion.

From the Menaion.

On August 29 we commemorate the beheading of the precious Head of the glorious Prophet and Forerunner Saint John the Baptist.

By the intercessions of Your Forerunner, O Christ, have mercy and save us. Amen.

From Horologion - - -

CHOIR

Canon for the Theotokos.

Ode vii. Mode pl. 4. Heirmos.

Those Servants from Judea, * who of old were deported and sent to Babylon, * once treaded on the fire * of the furnace by holding * to the faith in the Trinity * and chanted: Blessed are You the God of our fathers. (2) [SD]

Most-holy Theotokos, save us.

As You wished our salvation * to be thusly dispensed, You abode within the womb * of the all-holy Virgin * whom You have manifested * to the world as our patroness. * O Savior, blessed are You * the God of our fathers. [SD]

Most-holy Theotokos, save us.

O pure Mother, implore Him * unto Whom you gave birth, Who delights in

steadfast love, * to free from their offenses * and from their souls' defilements * those who cry out in faith and say * to Him: O blessed are You * the God of our fathers. [SD]

Most-holy Theotokos, save us.

You have shown forth Your Mother * as a tower of safety, salvation's treasury, * a spring of incorruption, * the doorway of repentance * unto all those who cry aloud * and say: O blessed are You * the God of our fathers. [SD]

Most-holy Theotokos, save us.

Unto us you delivered * Christ the Savior; and hence we entreat you: Deign to heal * the bodily diseases * and spiritual ailments * of your servants who earnestly * to your divine shelter run, * O Lady Theotokos. [SD]

Canon 1 for the Forerunner.

From Menaion - - -

Mode pl. 4. N/M (The fire in Babylon.)

Baptist of Christ, intercede for us.

While you were fully armed with wanton desire and heavy drunkenness, wicked Herod/you came up against the Baptist of Christ:/the unshaken tower of abstinence and prudence destroyed you/for he was a city that could not be taken. [OCA]

Baptist of Christ, intercede for us.

You shone forth as a heralding light; as an angel./As prophet you preached the Lamb of God who appeared as Christ./As martyr, you were beheaded by the sword,/and you went before to announce Him to those in hell. [OCA]

Baptist of Christ, intercede for us.

The girl taught by the devil did not fear or weaken,/nor was she numb as she carried

your precious head on a platter,/her mind
beguiled by her mother's advances. [OCA]

Most-holy Theotokos, save us.

Theotokion.

We are delivered from the condemnation
of the ancient fall/by your childbearing,
Virgin Mother,/and together with your Son
who gave you to us as a means of deliverance/
we ever glorify you as the manifest cause of
our freedom. [OCA]

Canon 2 for the Forerunner.

From Menaion ---

Mode pl. 4. N/M (Servants, descendants.)

Baptist of Christ, intercede for us.

As the morning-star foretokens the rising
of the Sun, so John, the servant of the Coming
of the Master, hastens to Hades, crying aloud:
Blessed are You, O Lord our God, unto the
ages! [SD]

Baptist of Christ, intercede for us.

O, the folly of Herod! He gives to the
degenerate wench as a toy the one who is the
bodily equal of the angels, who sings thusly:
Blessed are You, O Lord our God, unto the
ages! [SD]

Glory.

"As I pray for the Church," shouts the
Forerunner to the Master, "accept me, O Holy
of Holies, as I cry aloud: Blessed are You, O
Lord our God, unto the ages!" [SD]

Both now. **Theotokion.**

You halted the onslaught of death by
conceiving and bearing the deathless God,
O Pure One. To Him we all sing: Blessed are
You, O Lord our God, unto the ages! [SD]

Ode vii. Katavasia. Mode pl. 4.

The impious tyrant's preposterous
decree disturbed the populace, * breathing
threats and blasphemous pronouncements
hateful to God. * His brutal anger did not
intimidate * the three Servants, nor did the
consuming fire. * But when the dew-laden
breeze whistled against the fire, they joined it
and together sang, * "Blessed are You, O Lord.
You are highly praised, O God, the God of our
fathers." [SD]

From Horologion ---

Canon for the Theotokos.

Ode viii. Mode pl. 4. Heirmos.

O praise and bless Him * who by the
armies of Angels * is extolled as King of the
heavens, * supremely exalting Him unto all
the ages. (2) [SD]

Most-holy Theotokos, save us.

Do not disdain us * who need the help
that you offer, * virgin Maiden, and who bless
and extol you, * supremely exalting you unto
all the ages. [SD]

Most-holy Theotokos, save us.

Virgin, you pour out * your great
abundance of healings * over those who
faithfully extol you * and exalt supremely
your ineffable childbirth. [SD]

Most-holy Theotokos, save us.

You heal the sicknesses * of my soul, O
pure Virgin, * and the physical pains that
afflict me. * Hence I glorify you the highly
favored Maiden. [SD]

Most-holy Theotokos, save us.

You drive away from us * the assaults of
temptations * and the onsets of passions, O

Virgin. * Therefore do we praise you in hymns throughout the ages. [SD]

Canon 1 for the Forerunner.

From Menaion ---

Mode pl. 4. N/M (The tyrant king.)

Baptist of Christ, intercede for us.

The one who came before Your birth and divine Passion, /is by a sword, in the depths of the earth. /The Prophet and Messenger of Your descent to there, /John cries as the Voice of the Word: /Dead, exalt the Giver of Life; blind, the Giver of light! /Prisoners, exalt Christ as the Deliverer above all forever! [OCA]

Baptist of Christ, intercede for us.

You, who came from a barren mother as forerunner to the virgin birth, /now, by your beheading, have become the precursor /of the voluntary crucifixion of the Creator of all. /And to those in Hades you cry out: /Dead, exalt the Giver of Life; blind, the Giver of light! /Prisoners, exalt Christ as the Deliverer above all forever! [OCA]

Baptist of Christ, intercede for us.

Your head, Forerunner, was cut from your body, /and your soul which had led it, was parted from it. /But the divine nature never parted from the flesh of Emmanuel; /not one bone of the God and Master was broken. /Therefore we exalt Him above all forever! [OCA]

Most-holy Theotokos, save us.

Theotokion.

Most pure Lady, the Mother of the Lord, /by your compassionate intercessions, /purify the open wounds and sores of my soul. /Raise me up and save me, fallen as the Prodigal,

spotless Virgin. /for you are my advocate and only defence, /pure and ever-blessed One! [OCA]

Canon 2 for the Forerunner.

From Menaion ---

Mode pl. 4. N/M (The tyrant king.)

Baptist of Christ, intercede for us.

In the carousals and debauchery of his birthday, the accursed and lawless tyrant Herod swears with oaths that he will grant every request of the young lady, thus preparing her for her dance; and she, following her mother's instructions, asks for the head of the Forerunner on a platter. [SD]

Baptist of Christ, intercede for us.

For the charge of bloodguiltiness, Herod, that miserable wretch, inherits for himself the endless divine retribution exacted on transgressors; for the head of the Forerunner is carried to the table like food, and it reproaches him and Herodias, unto all the ages. [SD]

Glory.

O blessed John, the highest of the Prophets, and the radiant Forerunner and Apostle of the Lord, guard by your prayers those who, with longing, celebrate your brilliant and light-bearing memory as they shout: O you Servants, bless Christ; O priests, extol Him; O people, exalt Him, unto all the ages. [SD]

Both now. **Theotokion.**

In bearing the Holy of Holies, O all-holy Lady, you were made more holy than the Angels; for in His pity for us, He truly became a man, without confusion, to save those who ceaselessly shout: O you Servants, bless Christ; O priests, extol Him; O people, exalt Him, unto all the ages. [SD]

Ode viii. Katavasia. Mode pl. 4.

We praise and we bless and we worship the Lord.

You three pious Servants, * same in number as the Trinity, * bless God the Father, Maker of all; * sing a hymn to the Word who condescended * and who changed the fire in the furnace into dew; * as for the all-holy Spirit, who gives life to all, exalt It * beyond measure unto the ages. [SD]

DEACON

Let us honor and magnify in song the Theotokos and the Mother of the light.

CHOIR

Ode ix.

Megalyrnarion. Mode pl. 4.

Verse: *My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior.* [NKJV]

Greater in honor than the Cherubim, and in glory greater beyond compare than the Seraphim; you without corruption gave birth to God the Word, and are truly Theotokos. You do we magnify. [SD]

Verse: *For He has regarded the lowly state of His maidservant; for behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed.* [NKJV]

Greater in honor than the Cherubim, and in glory greater beyond compare than the Seraphim; you without corruption gave birth to God the Word, and are truly Theotokos. You do we magnify. [SD]

Verse: *For He who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is His name. And His*

mercy is on those who fear Him from generation to generation. [NKJV]

Greater in honor than the Cherubim, and in glory greater beyond compare than the Seraphim; you without corruption gave birth to God the Word, and are truly Theotokos. You do we magnify. [SD]

Verse: *He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.* [NKJV]

Greater in honor than the Cherubim, and in glory greater beyond compare than the Seraphim; you without corruption gave birth to God the Word, and are truly Theotokos. You do we magnify. [SD]

Verse: *He has put down the mighty from their thrones, and exalted the lowly. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich He has sent away empty.* [NKJV]

Greater in honor than the Cherubim, and in glory greater beyond compare than the Seraphim; you without corruption gave birth to God the Word, and are truly Theotokos. You do we magnify. [SD]

Verse: *He has helped His servant Israel, in remembrance of His mercy, as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his seed forever.* [NKJV]

Greater in honor than the Cherubim, and in glory greater beyond compare than the Seraphim; you without corruption gave birth to God the Word, and are truly Theotokos. You do we magnify. [SD]

From Horologion - - -

Canon for the Theotokos.

Ode ix. Mode pl. 4. Heirmos.

You are the Theotokos * lit'rally, O Virgin; * and we confess it, for we have been saved

through you * whom we, O pure one, with
choirs of angels magnify. [SD]

Most-holy Theotokos, save us.

Do not dismiss the river * of my tears, O
Virgin. * For in your womb you conceived and
you carried Christ * the Lord who takes every
teardrop away from every face. [SD]

Most-holy Theotokos, save us.

With joy, all-holy Virgin, * fill my heart to
fullness, * having received, O pure Maiden,
the fullness of joy * and thereby causing the
sorrow of sin to disappear. [SD]

Most-holy Theotokos, save us.

For those who flee for safety * unto you, O
Virgin, * be a retreat and a fortress immovable,
* defense and shelter and refuge and joyous
ecstasy. [SD]

Most-holy Theotokos, save us.

With rays of your effulgence * brighten
us, O Virgin, * who in the Orthodox manner
declare you to be * the Theotokos who drives
out the gloom of ignorance. [SD]

Most-holy Theotokos, save us.

Restore my health, O Virgin; * for
because of illness, * I am reduced to a state
of tormenting pain. * Transform my feeble
condition into vitality. [SD]

Canon 1 for the Forerunner.

From Menaion - - -

Mode pl. 4. N/M (All hearers.)

Baptist of Christ, intercede for us.

The gathering of evil men, and their
advocate the devil/feared your tongue
that spoke of God and proclaimed Christ,
Prophet,/and through the wanton girl, Herod

submitted and beheaded you:/but we faithful
magnify you! [OCA]

Baptist of Christ, intercede for us.

The valleys of humble nature were
exalted,/and the hills brought low through
the arrogance of death,/for the Voice that had
cried in the wilderness/called to light those
who were dwelling in hell:/Open wide, you
gates, for the King of Glory shall enter! [OCA]

Baptist of Christ, intercede for us.

Mankind's passions tremble, and demons
run in fear/at the overshadowing of grace
given you by God,/but, Forerunner of the
Lord, from both of those temptations/deliver
the flock that ever magnifies you! [OCA]

Most-holy Theotokos, save us.

Theotokion.

Son of the Theotokos:/go forth, ride
prosperously and reign./Place the forces
of Ishmael that fight against us, beneath
our feet,/and grant victory to the Orthodox
Christians over their adversaries/by the
intercessions of her who bore You, Word of
God. [OCA]

Canon 2 for the Forerunner.

From Menaion - - -

Mode pl. 4. N/M (The heavens.)

Baptist of Christ, intercede for us.

Shining forth in the desert as a Prophet
born from a Prophet, O Baptist, you were
the voice that cried aloud, calling all to
repentance, and reproaching Herod for his
vulgar licentiousness; and for this, you ran
ahead to those in Hades, proclaiming the
Kingdom of our God. [SD]

Baptist of Christ, intercede for us.

The cruel and wanton young lady,
encouraged by her mother Herodias,
requested of Herod that he might chop off
the holy head of the Baptist. Then Herod
quickly ordered that it be served like food in a
dish, and offered as though a gift, which itself
reproached his folly. [SD]

Glory.

O Forerunner, since you are the Martyr
and Prophet and Baptizer of the Lord, His
voice and light and Angel, and the greatest
of His prophets, as God Himself declared,
entreat Him that He may deliver from every
assault and temptation of the enemy those
who, with yearning, keep your splendid
memory. [SD]

Both now. **Theotokion.**

The good Word flowed out from the
heart of the Father before all ages, since He is
good; and you, O Virgin, became the Mother
of God by bodily bearing Him in a manner
surpassing nature, for we now understand
that He transcends all bodies, even though He
is arrayed in a body. [SD]

Ode ix. Katavasia. Mode pl. 4.

Theotokos, you are mystical Paradise, *
for without husbandry you have blossomed
Christ, * by whom on earth the Cross, as a life-
bearing tree, has been planted and watered.
* As it is now exalted, * we adore Him and
worship Him and magnify you. [SD]

DEACON

Again and again, in peace, let us pray to
the Lord.

(Lord, have mercy.)

Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and
protect us, O God, by Your grace.

(Lord, have mercy.)

Commemorating our most holy, pure,
blessed, and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and
ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us
commend ourselves and one another and our
whole life to Christ our God.

(To You, O Lord.)

PRIEST

For all the powers of heaven praise You
and give You glory, to the Father and the Son
and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to
the ages of ages.

(Amen.)

CHOIR

Exaposteilarion.

From Menaion - - -

Mode 2. With the disciples.

On him renowned as greatest among
the Prophets, * who was selected prior to
the Apostles, * let us place a crown of sacred
hymns of praise, * as being grace's Forerunner.
* For he defended the Lord's Law, * and
therefore he was beheaded. [SD]

Another.

Mode 3. Having embellished heaven.

The lecherous King Herod * through
treachery beheaded you, * the Savior's Prophet
and Baptist * and promoter of chastity. * But
he could not at all cut off * your tongue's
denunciation. [SD]

Theotokion.

Mode 3. Having embellished heaven.

O pure one, who abolished * the ancient
curse upon the world * by your divine
parturition, * do from danger of any kind *

rescue your flock that with faith prays * to you, by your intercession. [SD]

Lauds. Mode pl. 4.

Let everything that breathes praise the Lord. Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest. It is fitting to sing a hymn to You, O God. [SAAS]

Praise Him, all you His angels; praise Him, all you His hosts. It is fitting to sing a hymn to You, O God. [SAAS]

Praise Him, sun and moon; praise Him, all you stars and light.

Praise Him, you heavens of heavens, and you waters above the heavens. Let them praise the Lord's name.

For He spoke, and they were made; He commanded, and they were created.

He established them forever and unto ages of ages; He set forth His ordinance, and it shall not pass away.

Praise the Lord from the earth, you dragons and all the deeps.

Fire and hail, snow and ice, stormy wind, which perform His word.

Mountains and all the hills, fruitful trees and all cedars.

Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds.

Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all judges of the earth.

Young men and maidens, elders with younger, let them praise the Lord's name, for His name alone is exalted.

His thanksgiving is in earth and heaven. And He shall exalt the horn of His people.

A hymn for all His saints, for the children of Israel, a people who draw near to Him.

Sing to the Lord a new song, His praise in the assembly of His holy ones.

Let Israel be glad in Him who made him, and let the children of Zion greatly rejoice in their King.

Let them praise His name with dance; with tambourine and harp let them sing to Him.

For the Lord is pleased with His people, and He shall exalt the gentle with salvation.

The holy ones shall boast in glory, and they shall greatly rejoice on their beds.

The high praise of God shall be in their mouth and a two-edged sword in their hand.

To deal retribution to the nations, reproof among the peoples.

To shackle their kings with chains and their nobles with fetters of iron.

To fulfill among them the written judgment: this glory have all His holy ones.

Praise God in His saints; praise Him in the firmament of His power.

Stichera for the Forerunner.

From Menaion - - -

Mode pl. 4. What a paradoxal.

Praise Him for His mighty acts; praise Him according to the abundance of His greatness. [SAAS]

What a paradoxal miracle! * The Prophet John's sacred head, * which the Angels revere in awe, * was paraded round about * by a wanton licentious girl. * To her adulterous mother she offered it: * with it, the tongue that accused the lawless king. * Oh, the ineffable * forbearance You showed, O lover of mankind! * Therefore save our souls, O Christ * alone compassionate. [SD]

Praise Him with the sound of trumpet; praise Him with the harp and lyre. [SAAS]

What a paradoxal miracle! * The Prophet John's sacred head, * which the Angels revere in awe, * was paraded round about * by a wanton licentious girl. * To her adulterous mother she offered it: * with it, the tongue that accused the lawless king. * Oh, the ineffable * forbearance You showed, O lover of mankind! * Therefore save our souls, O Christ * alone compassionate. [SD]

Praise Him with timbrel and dance; praise Him with strings and flute. [SAAS]

Such was the hardness of Herod's heart! * For while dishonoring God * by refusing to keep the Law, * he deceitfully pretends * that he honors the oaths he makes; * and he adds murder to his adultery, * and then he feigns a dejected countenance. * Oh, the ineffable * tender mercy You, O Master, have for us! * Therefore save our souls, O Christ * alone compassionate. [SD]

Praise Him with resounding cymbals; praise Him with triumphant cymbals; let everything that breathes praise the Lord. [SAAS]

What an appalling atrocity! * The very Angel on earth * and the seal of the Prophets all * has been shown to be the prize * for the dance of a prostitute. * The tongue that utters the words of God is sent * to those in Hades, foretelling them of Christ. * Oh, the ineffable * providence that You, O Master, have for all! * Therefore save our souls, O Christ * alone compassionate. [SD]

Glory.

From Menaion - - -

Mode pl. 2.

Once again Herodias is in a rage; once again she is troubled. Oh, dance full of treachery; oh, drinking party of deceit! The Baptist was decapitated, and Herod was agitated. At the intercession of Your Forerunner, O Lord, grant peace to our souls.

[SD]

From Octoechos - - -

Both now. **Theotokion.**

Theotokos, you are the true vine that produced the fruit of life. Lady, we fervently entreat you to intercede along with the Forerunner and all the saints, that our souls be treated mercifully. [SD]

Great Doxology

Glory be to You who showed the light. Glory in the highest to God. His peace is on earth, His good pleasure in mankind. [SD]

We praise You, we bless You, we worship You, we glorify You, we give thanks to You for Your great glory.

Lord King, heavenly God, Father, Ruler over all; Lord, only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ; and You, O Holy Spirit.

Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, who take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us, You who take away the sins of the world.

Accept our supplication, You who sit at the right hand of the Father, and have mercy on us.

For You alone are holy, You alone are Lord, Jesus Christ, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Every day I will bless You, and Your name
will I praise to eternity, and to the ages of
ages.

Vouchsafe, O Lord, this day, that we be
kept without sin.

Blessed are You, O Lord, the God of our
fathers, and praised and glorified is Your
name to the ages. Amen.

Let Your mercy be on us, O Lord, as we
have set our hope on You.

Blessed are You, O Lord. Teach me Your
statutes.

Blessed are You, O Lord. Teach me Your
statutes.

Blessed are You, O Lord. Teach me Your
statutes.

Lord, You have been our refuge from
generation to generation. I said: Lord, have
mercy on me. Heal my soul, for I have sinned
against You.

Lord, I have fled to You. Teach me to do
Your will, for You are my God.

For with You is the fountain of life; in
Your light we shall see light.

Continue Your mercy to those who know
You.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal,
have mercy on us. (3)

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

Both now and ever and to the ages of ages.
Amen.

Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.

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

Apolytikion.

From Menaion - - -

Mode 2.

The memory of the just is observed
with hymns of praise; for you suffices the
testimony of the Lord, O Forerunner. You
have proved to be truly more ven'erable
than the Prophets, since you were granted
to baptize in the river the One whom they
proclaimed. Therefore, when for the truth you
had contested, rejoicing, to those in Hades you
preached the Gospel, that God was manifested
in the flesh, and takes away the sin of the
world, and grants to us the great mercy. [SD]

DEACON

Have mercy on us, O God, according to
Your great mercy, we pray You, hear us and
have mercy.

*(Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord,
have mercy.)*

Let us pray for pious and Orthodox
Christians.

*(Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord,
have mercy.)*

Again we pray for (episcopal rank)
(name).

*(Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord,
have mercy.)*

Again we pray for our brethren: the
priests, the hieromonks, the hierodeacons, the
monastics, and all our brotherhood in Christ.

*(Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord,
have mercy.)*

Again we pray for mercy, life, peace,
health, salvation, protection, forgiveness,
and remission of the sins of the servants of

God, all pious Orthodox Christians residing and visiting in this city: the parishioners, the members of the parish council, the stewards, and benefactors of this holy church.

(Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.)

Again we pray for the blessed and ever-memorable founders of this holy church, and for all our fathers and brethren who have fallen asleep before us, who here have been piously laid to their rest, as well as the Orthodox everywhere.

(Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.)

Again we pray for those who bear fruit and do good works in this holy and all-venerable church, for those who labor and those who sing, and for the people here present who await Your great and rich mercy.

(Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.)

PRIEST

For You are a merciful God Who loves mankind, and to You we offer up glory, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

(Amen.)

DEACON

Let us complete our morning prayer to the Lord.

(Lord, have mercy.)

Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and protect us, O God, by Your grace.

(Lord, have mercy.)

That the whole day may be perfect, holy, peaceful, and sinless, let us ask the Lord.

(Grant this, O Lord.)

For an angel of peace, a faithful guide, a guardian of our souls and bodies, let us ask the Lord.

(Grant this, O Lord.)

For pardon and remission of our sins and transgressions, let us ask the Lord.

(Grant this, O Lord.)

For that which is good and beneficial for our souls, and for peace for the world, let us ask the Lord.

(Grant this, O Lord.)

That we may complete the remaining time of our life in peace and repentance, let us ask the Lord.

(Grant this, O Lord.)

And let us ask for a Christian end to our life, peaceful, without shame and suffering, and for a good defense before the awesome judgment seat of Christ.

(Grant this, O Lord.)

Commemorating our most holy, pure, blessed, and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.

(To You, O Lord.)

PRIEST

For You are the God of mercy and compassion and love for mankind, and to You we give glory, to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to ages of ages.

(Amen.)

PRIEST

Peace be with all.

(And with your spirit.)

DEACON

Let us bow our heads to the Lord.

(To You, O Lord.)

PRIEST *(in a low voice)*

Holy Lord, dwelling on high and beholding things below and, with your eye that observes all, keeping watch over the whole creation, to you we have bowed the neck of our soul and body, and we beseech you, O Holy of Holies: Stretch forth your invisible hand from your holy dwelling and bless us all. And, as you are good and love humankind, pardon us if we have sinned in anything, voluntarily or involuntarily, granting us your blessings both of this world and of the world above.

For Yours it is to show mercy and to save us, O our God, and to You we give glory, to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to ages of ages.

(Amen.)

DEACON

Wisdom.

(Father, bless!)

PRIEST

Blessed are You, Christ our God, always now and forever and to the ages of ages.

(Amen.)

Make firm, Lord our God, the holy and pure faith of the pious Orthodox Christians, together with the Holy Church and this city forever.

READER

Amen.

Greater in honor than the Cherubim, and in glory greater beyond compare than the Seraphim; you without corruption gave birth to God the Word, and are truly Theotokos. You do we magnify.

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

Lord, have mercy. (3) Father, bless!

PRIEST

May Christ our true God, through the intercessions of His all-pure and all-immaculate holy Mother, the power of the precious and life-giving Cross, the protection of the honorable, bodiless powers of heaven, the supplications of the honorable, glorious prophet and forerunner John the Baptist, whose memory we celebrate; of the holy, glorious, and praiseworthy apostles, of the holy, glorious, and triumphant martyrs, of our righteous and God-bearing fathers, *(local patron saint)*; of the holy and righteous ancestors of God Joachim and Anna, and of all the saints, have mercy on us and save us, for He is good and loves mankind.

Through the prayers of our holy fathers, Lord Jesus Christ, our God, have mercy on us [and save us].

(Amen.)