

Horologion - Midnight Office
Menaion - August 29

Commemoration of the Beheading of the
Holy Forerunner

MIDNIGHT OFFICE

PRIEST

Blessed is our God always, now and ever,
and to the ages of ages.

(Amen.)

Glory to You, our God. Glory to You.

Heavenly King, Comforter, Spirit of Truth,
present in all places and filling all things,
treasury of good things and giver of life: come;
take Your abode in us; cleanse us of every
stain, and save our souls, O Good one. [HC]

READER

Trisagion Prayers.

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.

All-holy Trinity, have mercy on us.
Lord, forgive our sins. Master, pardon our
transgressions. Holy One, visit and heal our
infirmities for your name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Glory to the Father and the Son and the
Holy Spirit. Both now and ever and to 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. [GOA]

PRIEST

For Thine 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.

READER

Amen. Lord, have mercy. (12)

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

Come, let us worship and bow down
before God our King.

Come, let us worship and bow down
before Christ God our King.

Come, let us worship and bow down
before Him, Christ our King and God.

Psalms 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]

If the Lity was not sung at Vespers, sing the following:

CHOIR

Idiomela of the Lity.

From Menaion ---

Mode 1.

What shall we call you, Prophet? / Angel, apostle, martyr: / Angel, for you have spent your life like those who have no body. / Apostle, for you have taught the nations, / and martyr, for your head has been cut off for the sake of Christ. // Pray to Him then that our souls may be granted great mercy. [OCA]

Mode 1.

We now celebrate the memorial of the beheading of the Forerunner: / At that time you gushed forth blood upon the platter, // and now you pour forth healing to the ends of the earth! [OCA]

Mode 1.

Today the mother of murder / acting with more wickedness than has ever been seen, / has roused her utterly wanton daughter / to evil against the divinely-chosen and greatest of all the prophets. / For while hateful Herod was celebrating his ungodly birthday / she contrived according to the oath he had given her for her dancing, / to beg for the precious head of the herald of God, / that gushed forth miracles. / And he, quite mad, fulfilled his promise / and gave her the sworn reward of her dancing. / But the initiate of the coming of Christ / ceased not after death to rebuke them for their abominable union, / but reproved them loudly, saying: / It does not become you to commit adultery with the wife of your brother Philip. / What birthday, killer of prophets and feast full of blood! / Let us with reverent minds / making ourselves white as snow, / rejoice on this day and keep feast. / And let us ask the Forerunner to propitiate the Trinity for us // to be delivered from the disgrace of the passions and to save our souls!

[OCA]

Glory.

From Menaion ---

Mode pl. 1.

Herod, intending to escape reproaches for his sinful doings, / gave your head, Forerunner, to a lawless woman. / For the wretched man did not know / that in having

it carried round on a platter he was rebuking himself./But as teacher of purity and guide to redeeming repentance,/Baptist, intercede with Christ for us//to be delivered from the disgrace of the passions! ^[OCA]

Both now.

Mode pl. 1.

Now we call you blessed, O Virgin Theotokos, and we glorify you, duty-bound as believers; the city unshakable, the wall indestructible, the firm and steadfast protection, and the place of refuge for our souls. ^[SD]

READER

Trisagion Prayers.

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All-holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, forgive our sins. Master, pardon our transgressions. Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for your name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Glory to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Both now and ever and to 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. ^[GOA]

PRIEST

For Thine 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.

READER

Amen.

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]

Lord, have mercy. (40)

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

In the name of the Lord, Father, bless!

PRIEST

May Christ our true God, through the intercessions of His all-pure and all-immaculate holy Mother, (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.

Let us pray for the peace of the world.

(Lord, have mercy.)

For all pious and Orthodox Christians.

For our (episcopal rank) (name).

For our nation.

For the armed forces.

For our departed fathers and mothers,
sisters and brothers.

For those who have mercy on us and serve
us.

For those who hate us and those who love
us.

For those who have asked us the
unworthy to pray for them.

For the release of captives.

For those who are traveling.

For those who are ill.

Let us pray also for the abundance of the
fruits of the earth.

And for all our family and friends who
have fallen asleep before us, the Orthodox
here and everywhere piously laid to sleep.

Let us also say for ourselves: Lord, have
mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

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

(Amen.)