

Saturday, August 29
Beheading of John the Baptist

Tropar, tone 2: The remembrance of the just is worthy of praise,* but the Lord's testimony is sufficient for you, O Forerunner;* for it has shown that you are indeed more worthy of honour than the prophets.* You were found worthy to baptize the Lord whom you foretold.* Thereafter, you suffered for the truth* and rejoicing, also announced the good news to those in the Abyss that God has appeared as man,* taking away the sins of the world and granting to all of us the abundance of mercy.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever. Amen!

Kondak, tone 5: The glorious beheading of the Forerunner was part of God's saving plan* that the coming of the Saviour might be announced even to those in the Abyss.* Weep, then, Herodias, that you asked for the wicked murder,* because you loved neither God's law nor eternal life,* but only the passing pleasure of life.

Prokimen, tone 7: The just man shall be glad in the Lord shall hope in him.

Verse: Hear, O God, my voice, when I make my petition to you

EPISTLE

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

In those days Paul spoke to the Israelites saying: "As John's career was coming to an end, he would say, 'What you suppose me to be I am I am not. Rather, look for the one who comes after me; I am not worthy to unfasten the sandals on his feet.'

"My brothers, children of the family of Abraham, and you others who reverence God, it was to us that this message of salvation was sent forth. The inhabitants of Jerusalem and their rulers failed to recognize Jesus, and in condemning him they fulfilled the words of the prophets which we read sabbath after sabbath. Even though they found no charge against him which deserved death, they begged Pilate to have him executed. One they had thus brought about all that had been written of him, they took him down from the tree and laid him in a tomb. Yet God raised him from the dead, and for many days thereafter Jesus appeared to those who had

come up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem. These are his witnesses now before the people.

"We ourselves announce to you the good news that what God promised our fathers he has fulfilled for us, their children, in raising up Jesus, according to what is written in the second psalm, 'You are my son; this day I have begotten you.'"

(Acts 13: 25-33)

Alleluia Verses: The just man shall blossom like the palm tree, and he shall stand still like the cedars of Lebanon.

Planted in the house of the Lord, they will blossom in the courts of our God.

Gospel: Mark 6: 14 - 30

Communion Hymn: The just man shall be in everlasting remembrance; of evil hearsay he shall have no fear. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!