

**The Service of Matins
Pentecostarian — On Saturday of the Fourth Week
Third Finding of the Forerunner's Head**

Maui Orthodox Christian Mission

*Metropolis of San Francisco
Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America
Service held at Saint Theresa Church
Kihei, Maui, Hawaii
(Dated: May 5, 2019)*

**Octoechos
Fourth Tone
On Saturday Morning
Menaion**

**Maui Orthodox Christian Mission Project
for a Daily Sequential Hymnal in English**

Liturgical Texts courtesy from the following:

*Holy Cross Press
50 Goddard Avenue, Brookline, Massachusetts
The Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Denver
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Sophia Press
158 Pleasant Street, Brookline, Massachusetts*

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Part I

Akolouth (Fixed portion)

I. ROYAL BEGINNING

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

People: *(intoned)* Amen.

Priest: Glory to You, O God, glory to You.

Heavenly King, Comforter, the Spirit of truth, present everywhere and filling all things, Treasury of good things and Giver of life: come and dwell in us, cleanse us of every impurity; and save our souls, O good One.

People: Amen.

A. Trisagion

People: **Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.

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

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

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

All-holy Trinity, have mercy on us.

Lord, cleanse us of our sins. Master, pardon our iniquities. 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 to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Our Father, Who art in the heavens, 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, *(intoned) but deliver us from the evil one.*

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 ever, and to the ages of ages.

People: Amen.

II. THE ROYAL TROPARIA

A. Troparion of the Cross

People: O Lord, save Your people, and bless Your inheritance; grant victory to the rulers against the adversaries of the faith, and protect Your commonwealth through Your holy Cross.

B. Kontakion of the Cross

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

People: You, O Christ our God, Who chose of Your own will to be lifted up on the Cross, grant Your mercies to Your new commonwealth which is called by Your name. In Your power, gladden the hearts of our faithful rulers against those who war against them, having Your alliance as their weapon of peace, an invincible standard.

C. Theotokion

Now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

People: Awesome and blameless protection, do not overlook our petitions, O pure and praiseworthy Theotokos; make firm the community of the Orthodox; save those whom you have called to rule; and grant them victory from heaven, *(intoned) for you bore God, only blessed one.*

III. LITANY

Priest: Have mercy on us, O God, according to Your great mercy; we beseech You, hear us and have mercy.

Chanter: *(intoned)* Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Priest: Again we pray for pious and Orthodox Christians.

Chanter: *(intoned)* Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Priest: Again we pray for our Archbishop (Name), and for all our brotherhood in Christ.

Chanter: *(intoned)* Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Priest: Truly You are a merciful God Who loves mankind, and to You we send up glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages.

Chanter: *(intoned)* Amen. In the name of the Lord, Father, bless.

Priest: Glory to the holy, consubstantial, life-creating and undivided Trinity, always; now and ever, and to the ages of ages.

People: Amen.

IV. HEXAPSALM (SIX PSALMS)

People: Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth, good will to men.

Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth, good will to men.

Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth, good will to men.

O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall show forth Your praise.

O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall show forth Your praise.

A. Psalm 3

O Lord, why are those who afflict me multiplied?

Many rise up against me. Many say to my soul: there is no salvation for him in his God.

But You, O Lord, are my Helper, my Glory, and the One who lifts up my head.

I cried to the Lord with my voice, and He heard me out of His holy mountain.

I laid down and slept; I awoke, for the Lord will help me.

I will not be afraid of ten thousands of people that set themselves round about against me.

Rise, O Lord; save me, my God; for You have struck down all who without cause are my enemies; You have broken the teeth of sinners.

Salvation is of the Lord, and Your blessing is on Your people.

(And Again) I laid down and slept; I awoke, for the Lord will help me.

B. Psalm 37

O Lord, do not rebuke me in Your anger, nor chasten me in Your wrath!

For Your arrows are fastened in me, and You have laid Your hand heavily upon me.

There is no healing in my flesh in the face of Your wrath; and there is no peace in my bones in the face of my sins.

For my iniquities have risen higher than my head; they have pressed heavily on me as a heavy burden.

My wounds have become foul and festering in the face of my foolishness.

I have been wretched and utterly bowed down until the end; I went all the day long with downcast face.

For my loins are filled with inflammation, and there is no healing in my flesh.

I am afflicted and exceedingly humbled, I have groaned from the turmoil of my heart.

O Lord, all my desire is before You, and my groaning is not hidden from You.

My heart is troubled, my strength has failed me; and the light of my eyes, even this is not with me.

My friends and my neighbors drew near over against me and stood, and my nearest of kin stood afar off.

And those who sought after my soul used violence; and those who sought evils for me spoke vain things, and they meditated deception all the day long.

But as for me, like a deaf man I did not hear them, and I was as a speechless man who does not open his mouth.

And I became as a man that does not hear, and that has no reproofs in his mouth.

For I have hoped in You, O Lord; You will hear me, Lord my God.

For I said: Let my enemies never rejoice over me; indeed, when my feet were shaken, those men spoke boastful words against me.

For I am ready for scourges, and my sorrow is continually before me.
 For I will declare my iniquity, and I will anguish concerning my sin.
 But my enemies live and are made stronger than I, and those who hated me unjustly are multiplied.
 Those who render me evil for good slandered me, because I pursued goodness.
 Do not forsake me, O Lord my God, do not depart from me.
 Be attentive to my help, O Lord of my salvation.
 (And Again) Do not forsake me, O Lord my God, do not depart from me.
 Be attentive to my help, O Lord of my salvation.

C. Psalm 62

O God, my God, to You I rise early at dawn.
 My soul has thirsted for You; how often has my flesh longed after You in a land barren and untrodden and unwatered.
 So I have appeared before You in the sanctuary to see Your power and Your glory.
 For Your mercy is better than lives; my lips shall praise You.
 So shall I bless You in my life, and I will lift up my hands in Your name.
 Let my soul be filled as with marrow and fatness, and my mouth shall praise You with lips of rejoicing.
 If I remembered You on my bed, I meditated on You at the dawn.
 For You have become my Helper; I will rejoice in the shelter of Your wings.
 My soul has cleaved after You, Your right hand has been quick to help me.
 But as for those who in vain have sought after my soul, they shall go into the lowest parts of the earth, they shall be surrendered to the edge of the sword, they shall be portions for foxes.
 But the king shall be glad in God; everyone shall be praised that swears by Him; for the mouth of those who speak unjust things is stopped.
 (And Again) At the dawn I meditated on You; for You have become my Helper; in the shelter of Your wings I will rejoice.
 My soul has cleaved after You, Your right hand has been quick to help me.
 Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.
 Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Glory to You, O God.
 Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

D. Psalm 87

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

O Lord, God of my salvation, I have cried by day and by night before You.

Let my prayer come before You, bow down Your ear to my supplication.

For my soul is filled with evils, and my life has drawn near to Hades.

I am counted with those who go down into the pit; I have become as a man without help, free among the dead.

I am like the bodies of the slain that sleep in the grave, Whom You remember no more, and who are cut off from Your hand.

They laid me in the lowest pit, in darkness and the shadow of death.

Your anger lies heavily on me, and You have afflicted me with all Your waves.

You have removed my friends far from me; they have made me an abomination to themselves.

I have been delivered up, and have not come forth; my eyes have grown weak from poverty.

I have cried to You, O Lord, the whole day long; I have stretched out my hands to You.

No, will You work wonders for the dead? Or shall physicians raise them up that they may give thanks to You?

No, shall any in the grave tell of Your mercy, and of Your truth in that destruction?

No, shall Your wonders be known in that darkness, and Your righteousness in that land that is forgotten?

But as for me, I have cried to You, O Lord; and in the morning my prayer shall come before You.

O Lord, why do You therefore cast off my soul and turn Your face away from me?

I am as a poor man, and in troubles from my youth; indeed, having been exalted, I was humbled and brought to distress.

Your fierce wrath has gone over me, and Your terrors have sorely troubled me.

They came around me all day long like water, they engulfed me altogether.

Because of my misery You have removed friend and neighbor and my acquaintances far from me.

(And Again) O Lord God of my salvation, I have cried by day and by night before You.

Let my prayer come before You, bow down Your ear to my supplication!

E. Psalm 102

Bless the Lord, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless His holy name.

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and do not forget all that He has done for you.

Who is gracious to all your iniquities, Who heals all your infirmities.

Who redeems your life from corruption, Who crowns you with mercy and compassion.

Who fulfills your desire with good things; your youth shall be renewed as the eagle's.

The Lord does deeds of mercy, and executes judgment for all those who are wronged.

He has made His ways known to Moses, the things that He has willed to the sons of Israel.

The Lord is compassionate and merciful, long-suffering and plenteous in mercy; He will not be angered to the end, neither will He be angry to eternity.

He has not dealt with us according to our iniquities, neither has He rewarded us according to our sins.

For according to the height of heaven from the earth, so has the Lord made His mercy to prevail over those who fear Him.

As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our iniquities from us.

Like a father has compassion on his sons, so has the Lord had compassion on those who fear Him; for He knows of what we are made, He has remembered that we are dust.

As for man, his days are as the grass; as a flower of the field, so shall he blossom forth.

For when the wind passes over it, then it shall be gone, and its place will no longer remember it.

But the mercy of the Lord is from eternity, even to eternity, on those who fear Him.

And His righteousness is on sons of sons, on those who keep His testament and remember to do His commandments.

The Lord in heaven has prepared His throne, and His kingdom rules over all.

Bless the Lord, O all you His Angels, mighty in strength, that perform His word, to hear the voice of His words.

Bless the Lord, O all you His hosts, His ministers that do His will.

Bless the Lord, O all you His works, in every place of His dominion; bless the Lord, my soul.

(And Again) Bless the Lord, O all you His works, in every place of His dominion; bless the Lord, my soul.

F. Psalm 142

O Lord, hear my prayer, in Your truth give ear to my supplications; hear me in Your righteousness.

And do not enter into judgment with Your servant, for in Your sight no man living shall be justified.

For the enemy has persecuted my soul; he has humbled my life down to the earth.

He has sat me in darkness as those who have been long dead, and my spirit within me has become despondent; my heart within me is troubled.

I remembered days of old, I meditated on all Your works, I pondered on the creations of Your hands.

I stretched forth my hands to You; my soul thirsts after You like a waterless land.

Quickly hear me, O Lord; my spirit has fainted away.

Do not turn Your face from me, lest I be like those who go down into the pit.

Cause me to hear Your mercy in the morning; for I have put my hope in You.

Cause me to know, O Lord, the way in which I should walk; for I have lifted up my soul to You.

Rescue me from my enemies, O Lord; I have fled to You for refuge.

Teach me to do Your will, for You are my God.

Your good Spirit shall lead me in the land of uprightness; You shall quicken me for Your name's sake, O Lord.

In Your righteousness You shall bring my soul out of affliction, and in Your mercy You shall utterly destroy my enemies.

And You shall cut off all those who afflict my soul, for I am Your servant.

(Repeat) Hear me in Your righteousness, O Lord, and do not enter into judgment with Your servant.

(And Again) Hear me in Your righteousness, O Lord, and do not enter into judgment with Your servant.

(And Again) Let Your good spirit lead me on a level path!

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

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia; Glory to You, O God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia; Glory to You, O God.

Reader: (*intoned*) Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia; Glory to You, O God. Lord, my Hope, glory to You.

V. LITANY OF THE PEACE (THE GREAT LITANY)

Deacon: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Chanter: (*sung*) Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For the peace from above and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

Chanter: (*sung*) Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For the peace in the whole world, for the stability of the holy churches of God, and for the union of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Chanter: (*sung*) Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For this holy house and for those who enter with faith, reverence, and the fear of God, let us pray to the Lord.

Chanter: (*sung*) Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For pious and Orthodox Christians, let us pray to the Lord.

Chanter: (*sung*) Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For our Archbishop (Name), the honorable presbytery, the diaconate in Christ, and for all the clergy and the laity, let us pray to the Lord.

Chanter: (*sung*) Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For the president of our country, for all civil authorities, and for our armed forces on land, at sea, and in the air, let us pray to the Lord.

Chanter: (*sung*) Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For this city, for every city and land, and for the faithful who dwell in them, let us pray to the Lord.

Chanter: (*sung*) Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For favorable weather, an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord.

Chanter: (*sung*) Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For travelers by sea, land and air; the sick, the suffering, the captives and their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Chanter: (*sung*) Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For our deliverance from all tribulation, wrath, danger, and necessity, let us pray to the Lord.

Chanter: (*sung*) Lord, have mercy.

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

Chanter: (*sung*) Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Commemorating our all-holy, pure, most-blessed, and glorious * Lady, the Theotokos and ever-Virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commit ourselves and one another and all our life to Christ our God.

Chanter: (*sung*) To You, O Lord.

Priest: For to You belong all glory, honor, and worship: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages.

Chanter: (*sung*) Amen.

Part II

Sequences (Variable portion)

VI. THEOS KYRIOS (GOD IS LORD)

CHOIR

Mode 4.

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 4. Come quickly.

Now Christ has revealed to us your sacred head once again, * a most holy treasure hidden underground for so long, * O Prophet and Forerunner. * Therefore we have assembled for the feast of its Finding, * singing our God-inspired hymns in praise of the Savior, * who saves us from destruction, by your earnest prayers to Him. [SD]

Glory. Repeat.

From Menaion - - -

Mode 4. Come quickly.

Now Christ has revealed to us your sacred head once again, * a most holy treasure hidden underground for so long, * O Prophet and Forerunner. * Therefore we have assembled for the feast of its Finding, * singing our God-inspired hymns in praise of the Savior, * who saves us from destruction, by your earnest prayers to Him. [SD]

Both now.

Apolytikion of the Feast.

From Pentecostarion - - -

Mode pl. 4.

O Lord, midway through the feast, give drink to my thirsty soul from the waters of true religion. For to all You the Savior cried aloud, "Let whoever is thirsty come to Me and drink." O Christ our God, the fountain of life, glory to You. [SD]

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

A. Kathisma I

From Menaion - - -

Mode 4. Come quickly.

The Forerunner's head has risen once again from the earth; * it sends forth the brilliant rays of incorruption and cures to the faithful all. * Above it has assembled the arrays of the Angels; * below it calls the human race to gather together. * In unison we offer up glory to Christ our God. [SD]

Glory. Both now. For the Feast.

From Pentecostarion - - -

Mode 4. Come quickly.

The Master, aware of all the thoughts in everyone's hearts, * stood up in the center of the Temple crying aloud; * to the liars He spoke the truth. * "Why is it you are seeking to arrest Me, the Life-giver?" * He spoke openly in the middle of the feast's celebration. * "You breakers of the Law, judge not by appearances." [SD]

Kathisma II.

From Menaion - - -

Mode 4. You who were lifted.

Your sacred Head was found through strange circumstances; * for it was hidden underground in a cavern, * and it came up like gold out of a mine, enriching all * who came to participate in the feast of its Finding, * singing hymns of praise to Christ, our Creator and Savior. * O blessed Baptist of the Lord, through you * He gives forgiveness and mercy abundantly. [SD]

Glory. Both now. For the Feast.

From Pentecostarion - - -

Mode pl. 1. Let us worship the Word.

In the midst of the venerable feast of Pentecost, * in the midst of the Temple, the Master of all things * stood, and speaking to the Jews, openly censured them, * for their heavy handed daring against their King and God.* Whereas, in His loving-kindness, * He is granting great mercy * to all of us who believe in Him. [SD]

Kathisma III.

From Menaion - - -

Mode 4. You appeared today.

To a woman Herod gave * your most august head, * and he thus transgressed the law, * O holy Forerunner St. John. * Now at its finding we cry to you, * Entreat the Savior that mercy be given to all. [SD]

Glory. Both now. For the Feast.

From Pentecostarion - - -

Mode pl. 4. By conceiving the wisdom.

At the middle, O Lord, of the sacred feast, * as You stood in the Temple amid the crowd, * You proclaimed, "If anyone thirst, let him come unto Me and drink." * And You said, "He who drinks this divine drink that I provide, * from his heart will My dogmas like rivers flow out of him. * Whoever believes in God the Father, who sent Me, * will truly be glorified together with Me by Him." * Let us therefore cry aloud, * "Glory be to You, Christ God, * for you poured out to Your servants abundantly* the waters of Your love for humanity." [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 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

B. Antiphon I

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]

C. Prokeimenon

There I shall cause to spring up a horn for David; there I prepared a lamp for my anointed. (2)

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

There I shall cause to spring up a horn for David; there I prepared a lamp for my anointed. [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 Luke.

DEACON

Let us be attentive.
(Glory to You, O Lord, glory to You.)

PRIEST (from the gate)

7:17-30

At that time, a report concerning Jesus spread through the whole of Judea and all the surrounding country. The disciples of John told him of all these things. And John, calling to him two of his disciples, sent them to the Lord, saying, "Are you he who is to come, or shall we look for another?" And when the men had come to him, they said, "John the Baptist has sent us to you, saying, 'Are you he who is to come, or shall we look for another?'" In that hour he cured many of diseases and plagues and evil spirits, and on many that were blind he bestowed sight. And he answered them, "Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have good news preached to them. And blessed is he who takes no offense at me." When the messengers of John had gone, he began to speak to the crowds concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to behold? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? A man clothed in soft clothing? Behold, those who are gorgeously appareled and live in luxury are in kings' courts. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is he of whom it is written, 'Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who shall prepare your way before you.' I tell you, among those born of women none is greater than John; yet he who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he." When they heard this all the people and the tax collectors justified God, having been baptized with the baptism of John; but the Pharisees and the lawyers rejected the purpose of God for themselves, not having been baptized by him. [RSV]
(Glory to You, O Lord, glory to You.)

READER

Having beheld the Resurrection of Christ, let us worship the holy Lord Jesus, the only sinless one. Your Cross, O Christ, we venerate, and Your holy Resurrection we praise and glorify. For You are our God; apart from You we know no other; we call upon Your name. Come, all faithful, let us venerate the holy Resurrection of Christ; for behold, through the Cross, joy has come to the whole world. Ever blessing the Lord, let us praise His Resurrection; for having endured the Cross for us, He destroyed death by death. [GOA]

VII. 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]

Your Head, that all-venerable repository of divine concepts, which clearly foresaw the mystery of the ineffable Essence, has arisen today out of the storehouses of the earth, as it were out of a mother's womb, O John, who are worthy of all praise. It poured forth the fragrant oil of sanctification and perfumed everything under the sun. It spiritually preaches the way of repentance, and it intercedes with the Savior of all, on behalf of 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, the Finding of whose precious Head 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.)

READER

From Pentecostarion - - -

Kontakion of the Feast.

Mode 4. You who were lifted.

The feast according to the Law at its midpoint, O Christ our God, as the Creator and Master of everything, You said to all those who were present there, "Come that you might draw from Me the water of immortality." Hence with faith we cry to You as we prostrate before You. Your tender mercies grant to us, we pray. You are the fountain and source of our life, O Lord. [SD]

Kontakion. For the Forerunner.

From Menaion - - -

Mode pl. 2. When You had fulfilled.

In the world is he a divine and brilliant pillar; he is the noetic Sun's lamp and Forerunner. And today having shown his divine and light-bearing head to the furthest reaches of the earth, he makes holy those who faithfully venerate it and who cry to him, "O wise Baptist of Christ, we pray you, save us all." [SD]

1. *Oikos.*

From the earth, like a spring of Paradise the Forerunner's head - beloved of God-pours out streams of grace; and it provides a flow of miracles to those who need them. So let us all approach, and eagerly draw from it the divine streams of cures. For it refreshes our souls with abundant gifts, and washes away our bodily aches, and readily takes away every disease. Therefore let us sing in honor of this head, and kiss it in faith, and embrace it with respect; and with songs for crowns let us crown it, O Faithful. Let us go ahead and cleanse ourselves of spiritual stains, and adorn our souls with godly virtues, and steadily cry out, "O wise Baptist of Christ, we pray you, save us all." [SD]

VIII. SYNAXARION

From the Menaion.

On May 25 we commemorate the Third Finding of the Precious Head of the holy and glorious Prophet, Forerunner, John the Baptist.

On this day the holy Martyr Celestine died after his heels were pierced with iron spikes.

Our devout Father Olbian reposed in peace.

By their holy intercessions, O Christ our God, have mercy on us. Amen.

IX. KATAVASIAS OF THEOTOKOS

Katavasias Odes 1-8

CHOIR

Katavasias of Mid-Pentecost

Ode i. Mode pl. 4.

Lord, You congealed the sea, and Pharaoh the arrogant with all his chariots You drowned. * And You saved Your people, who did not get wet at all. * And You led them to the mountain of sanctification as they shouted, * "We will sing to You, O Lord our God, * a victory canticle, to You the Mighty One in war." [SD]

Ode iii.

My heart exults and in the Lord firmly is established; * and in my God is my horn exalted; * and my mouth is open wide at my enemies, and in Your salvation I rejoice. [SD]

Ode iv.

With his spiritual eyes, the Prophet Habakkuk saw * in the future Your appearance on the earth, O Lord. * And therefore he cried out and said that God from Theman will surely come. * Glory to Your glory, O Christ. * Glory to Your condescension, O Lord. [SD]

Ode v.

O Lord our God, give peace to us, for You have rendered all. * O Lord our God, we pray, take possession of us. * Lord, O Lord, we do not know any other God except for You, and we name Your name. [SD]

Ode vi.

The waves of life are tossing me like the waters of the sea, O Friend of humanity. * I cry to You, O Logos, as once did Jonah, * to raise my life from corruption, O Lord and only compassionate. [SD]

Ode vii.

All ablaze with a raging fire was the Chaldeans' furnace. * Then, by God's own authority, it was bedewed with a spirit. * The Servants were chanting thus, * "You are the God of our fathers, and blessed are You." [SD]

Ode viii.

We praise and we bless and we worship the Lord.

All you angels and the heavens, bless the One who on a throne of glory rides, * and who as God is glorified unceasingly.

* Ever bless Him as Lord, and praise Him and supremely exalt unto all ages. [SD]

DEACON

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

CHOIR

Ode ix.

X. MEGANLYNARION

Megalynarion. 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]

Ode 9: Katavasia

Ode ix. Katavasia. Mode pl. 4.

Virginity is a state alien to mothers, * and childbirth is foreign to those who are virgins. * But in you, Theotokos, have both of these been accomplished. * And therefore we of every race on earth * unceasingly pronounce you blest. [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

XI. EXAPOSTEILARION

From Menaion - - -

Mode 2. On the mountain.

Now the Christ-loving emperor, * is gladdened by the finding * of your all-precious Head today, * more than by his imperial purple robes, O Forerunner. * Empower him from heaven, * and reward him with victories. * And by your prayers, O all-lauded Baptist John, * guard us from all enemies and protect us, * who celebrate you joyfully * and honor you with longing. [SD]

From Pentecostarion - - -

XII. EXAPOSTEILARION

Mode 3. Having embellished heaven.

O Lord, possessing the chalice * of inexhaustible free gifts, * grant me to draw out the water * unto forgiveness of my sins. * A mighty thirst has constrained me, * only compassionate Savior. [SD]

Lauds. Mode pl. 1.

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]

Show Stichologia

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, reproving 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. 1. Rejoice.

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

Rejoice, O sacred Head of St. John. * You are resplendent, and revered by angelic hosts. * Of old you were by a sword cut, for by your cutting reproofs * you cut off the shame of immorality. * O wellspring of miracles, you refresh the believers all. * The saving advent of the Savior you heralded. * And in former times you observed as the Spirit flew * down at the baptism of Christ, and how It remained on Him. * You mediated between both the Old and New Testament of grace. * To Christ pray intently, * and beseech that His great mercy be granted to our souls. [SD]

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

Rejoice, O sacred Head of St. John. * You are resplendent, and revered by angelic hosts. * Of old you were by a sword cut, for by your cutting reproofs * you cut off the shame of immorality. * O wellspring of miracles, you refresh the believers all. * The saving advent of the Savior you heralded. * And in former times you observed as the Spirit flew * down at the baptism of Christ, and how It remained on Him. * You mediated between both the Old and New Testament of grace. * To Christ pray intently, * and beseech that His great mercy be granted to our souls. [SD]

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

Hidden inside a silver case * for many years, the sacred head of the Forerunner * was manifestly recovered out of the bowels of the earth, * and it gushes forth with streams of miracles. * Indeed in the Jordan's streams he had baptized the head of Christ, * the Lord who showers God's forgiveness on mortal man, * and who covers lofts with the waters, as David said, * Therefore let us proclaim as blest this truly all-lauded head, * and let us joyfully keep feast and celebrate its discovery, * as it now entreats Christ * and beseeches Him to grant His great mercy to the world. [SD]

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

Here is the holy Forerunner's head * that had announced the Lamb of God in the flesh appeared. * By means of divine instructions that it proclaimed, it affirmed * the salvific ways of repentance to all. * Because it had formerly censured Herod's iniquity, * this head was cut off from the body of Prophet John, * and it then endured being hidden for many years. * Later it rose up like a sun and shone forth its light on us, * and once again it is crying, Repent, and come and submit yourselves, * with heartfelt compunction, * to the Lord who is bestowing great mercy on the world. [SD]

Glory.

From Menaion - - -

Mode pl. 2.

The all-venerable Head of Your Baptist was revealed today, O Lord, and we have faithfully brought it up from the earth, and accompanied it with the voice of praise. Now we, Your sinful servants, offer it to You as an intercession, O Lover of humanity. We pray that through it we may obtain forgiveness and great mercy from You on Judgment Day. [SD]

Glory. Both now. For the Feast.

From Pentecostarion - - -

Mode 4.

We were illumined, O brethren, by the Resurrection of Christ the Savior. And now we have reached the middle of the feast of the Lord. Let us sincerely keep the commandments of God, so that we may become worthy to celebrate the Ascension as well, and witness the coming of the Holy Spirit. [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 4. Come quickly.

Now Christ has revealed to us your sacred head once again, * a most holy treasure hidden underground for so long, * O Prophet and Forerunner. * Therefore we have assembled for the feast of its Finding, * singing our God-inspired hymns in praise of the Savior, * who saves us from destruction, by your earnest prayers to Him. [SD]