

February 24th

First and Second Discoveries of the Forerunner's Honorable Head

Stichera at the Aposticha at Vespers

Byzantine Tone 2

Special Melody: *When he took thee*

Adapted by Dn. John El Massih

1) Come, ye faith - ful, let us on this day hon - or John the

Bap - tist's re - vered head, which, once cut off by the sword,

hath been found a - gain and now is made known

un - to us. Let us meet it with songs of praise

and hon - or with long - ing that which pour - eth

forth the gifts of heal - ings un - to us,

e - ven that which Her - od the tri - fler

long a - go cut off in his fren - zy,

bound with cords of pas - sion for He - ro - di - as.

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2) Like bright gold brought new - ly from the mine, so the bless - ed

Fore - run - ner's head doth flash forth its rays from thē earth,

shin - ing in its ves - sel, clear - ly speak - ing

out in re - proach of King Her - od's a - dul - ter - y

and blood - guilt - y mur - der; but with gleam - ing

splen - dor it doth fill our minds with light.

As in faith to - day we em - brace it,

let us of - fer hymns in its hon - or,

for it in - ter - ced - eth with God for us all.

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3) Long a - go, the Bap - tist's ho - ly head, as a god - ly
treas - ure, was hid in a ves - sel un - der the ground,
but to - day hath been re - vealed to all thē
ends of thē earth; and its rich - es, it pour - eth forth
great foun - tains of heal - ings, cur - ing sun - dry
ail - ments and il - lu - mi - nat - ing souls.
For this cause, with hymns let us praise it
and with god - ly rev - 'rence ac - claim it,
as we now en - joy the gift of all de - light.