First & Second Discoveries of St. John the Baptist’s Head

Stichera at the Praises

1) Thine all-sacred head hath opened wide the gateways of abstinence, O all-laudable Baptist John; it seteth before us all the sweet and divine food of the gifts of God; whereof we, partaking faithfully assuage and sweeten the harshness of the Fast. With faith we therefore laud thee and we cry out loudly to Christ our God: O my Jesus, Almighty Lord, Thou divine Savior of our souls.

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2) The divine Forerunner's head doth flow with myrrh in unceasing streams; and set forth on the mystical divin table of the Lord, it doth sweetly send forth spiritual fragrance into our hearts and minds today and driveth off the unpleasantness of griefs, while filling with exceeding joy them that with longing and love exclaim: O my Jesus, Almighty Lord, Thou divine Savior of our souls.

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3) Like the keenest sword, thy precious head hath cut off the wretched heads of iniquitous enemies; but for all of upright life, it hath freely gushed forth godly gifts of healing. And for this cause we faithfully laud thee, O John, the Forerunner and the Friend of Him that hath created all; and unto Him, we cry fervently: O my Jesus, Almighty Lord, Thou divine Savior of our souls.