

August 29th

# The Beheading of John the Baptist

## Stichera at the Praises

Byzantine Chant Tone 8  
Special melody: *O strange wonder*

Adapted by Dn. John El Massih  
from various sources

D C

1) O strange won - der great and ter - ri - ble! Be - hold, that

most sa - cred head, which thē An - gels them -

G↓ C G↓

-selves re - vere, shame - less - ly was borne a - bout

C

by a dam - sel pro - fane and lewd; the tongue that

G↓

blamed the trans - gres - sor did she bring

C

to thē a - dul - tress, her moth - er all - de - filed.

O how un - speak - a - ble is Thy great for - bear - ance,

Un. G↓

O my Sav - ior Christ! Where - by save our souls, since

C

Thou a - lone art mer - ci - ful.

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2) How Her - od hard - ened his reck - less heart! For hav - ing  
 bro - ken the Law, he that great - ly dis -  
 - hon - ored God plead - eth in hy - poc - ri - sy  
 that he keep - eth thē oath he made; and while dis -  
 - sem - bling a mourn - ful coun - te - nance,  
 he add - eth mur - der un - to a - dul - ter - y.  
 O how un - speak - a - ble is Thy great com - pas - sion,  
 Un. O our Mas - ter Christ! Where - by save our souls, since  
 Thou a - lone art mer - ci - ful.

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3) O ter - ror more than the mind can bear! That An - gel  
dwell - ing on earth and the seal of the  
Proph - ets' choir is pre - sent - ed as the prize  
of a har - lot's un - seem - ly dance; set on be -  
fore is that tongue which spake of God,  
to her - ald Christ to the dead in Ha - des' depths.  
How in - ex - pres - si - ble is Thy prov - i - dence toward  
all, O Mas - ter Christ! Where - by save our souls, since  
Thou a - lone art mer - ci - ful