February 24th
First & Second Discoveries of St. John the Baptist's Head
Stichera at "O Lord, I have cried"

Byzantine Chant Tone 5
Special Melody: Rejoice

Adapted by Dn. John El Massih

1) Rejoice, thou sacred head full of light,

2) Revered by Angels, yet cut off by the sword of old;

3) For thou hadst, with cutting censures, thyself rebuked and hewn down

4) Lawless deeds of shame and vile licentiousness.

5) O fountain that wastest all the faithful with miracles,

6) The saving advent of the Savior didst thou declare,

7) And thou didst perceive when the Spirit, with wing'd descent,

8) Came and abode upon Him in time past; and thou didst become

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he that of grace mediated between the

Old and New Covenants. Beseech Christ the Savior

that forgiveness and Great Mercy be granted unto us.

Verse 2

2) Though it had once been hid in a jar,

now is the head of the Forerunner made manifest,

sent up in the sight of all men out of the depths of the earth,

pouring forth abundant streams of miracles.

For this is the same that washed in the waters the head of Him

that doth support His chambers high in the waters and
now doth make divine pardon rain down on mortal men.

Let us then call it blessed, since it truly is praised of all;

and on the feast of its finding, let us keep festival joyously, as it doth beseech Christ that forgiveness and Great Mercy be granted to the world.

3) That head which hath proclaimed unto all

the Lamb of God, Who was made manifest in the flesh;

and which made the saving ways of repentance plain unto all

through divine instructions and admonishments;
which rightly had once reproved Herod's lawless iniquity,

and for this reason, from its body was then cut off

and did undergo a concealment of many years,

now riseth up upon us like a splendidly beam-ing sun,

crying: Repent ye, and with all sincere com-

-punction of heart and soul cleave unto the Lord God,

Who bestoweth His Great Mercy and peace upon the world.