August 30th

Leave-taking of the Commemoration of the Beheading of St. John the Baptist

Stichera at "O Lord, I have cried"

1) O prophet, Forrunner and incarnate angel,

God sent mediator of Old and New Covenants,

Thou who wast called from on high

Thou didst censure Herod when he worked forbidden deeds;

But not enduring thy just rebuke, he gave the order

Thou science sprung from a barren womb, thou mouth most fiery

And sharp rebuke unto all iniquity,

That they should cut off thy head; and thou, who art

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was brought forth in a charger like food to eat,
yet more greatly convicting
that unbridled and abandoned king.

2) The lawless mother doth press her lawless daughter
to request thy glorious and celebrated head,
which is esteemed as most honorable even by angels;
for she cannot bear its concealed reproach.

Therefore, in a charger she doth bear it forth, O John;
and with the dancing of playful feet she wholly changeth
But thou the more dost openly condemn
the defilement of unchecked licentiousness,
and dost make intercession
with Christ Jesus that our souls be saved.

3) Driven to madness with drink, the drunken Herod
was beguiled and cheated by a dancer's base-born cries;

and for the oath's sake, he thus contrived an unjust murder
for thee, the just man, O Prophet great of fame.

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But thy death hath plainly blazoned immortality
unto all them that had died before; and thou didst go down
to those in Hades to preach to them as well
the saving advent of our Christ and God,
as His preacher and messenger sent before.

Do thou therefore entreat

to enlighten and to save our souls.