

# Aposticha - Beheading of the Forerunner

August 30

Reader: Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Tone 4

Obikhod

Herod's birthday celebration was a lawless and shame - ful feast,  
for, spellbound by feminine licentiousness and stricken with madness by a  
woman's wan - ton - ness, he cut off the head of the Fore - run - ner;  
but he did not cut out the Prophet's tongue, which had denounced  
his fool - ish - ness. Spilling innocent blood, he wished to con - ceal  
a law - less sin; but he could not stop the voice of one who called

all to re - pen - tance. He joined in taking delight in mur - der,

but let us join in celebrating with love the blessed slaying of John

the Bap - tist; for he was in Hades in an - tic - i - pa - tion

to proclaim to those who sat in darkness and in the shad - ow

of death the Life, the Day - spring from on high,

Christ our God, Who alone is rich in mer - cy.