While the birth day of the shameless Herod was being observed, the oath made to-- - - the lustful dancer was fulfilled; the head of the Forerunner was cut off and offered to those at table. What a loathsome banquet, filled with
wick-edness and hor-ri-ble mur-der. As for us, let us worthily venerate and bless the Bap-tiz-er, for he is the great-est man born of wo-man.

Cantor: Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleading. All repeat "While the birthday of the shameless Herod..."

Cantor: If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt, Lord, who would survive?
But with you is found forgiveness: for this we revere you.

After danc-ing, the disciple of the all-evil Sa-tan re-quested your head as her payment, O Fore-run-er. What a blood-y ban-quet!

Would that you had not made that vow, O sinful Herod, off-spring of a lie.

Since you did make it, would that you had not car-ried it out, for it would have been better to have gone back on your oath and re-ceived life,

than re-main-ing true to your oath to have cut off the head
of the Fore-runner. As for us, let us worthily venerate and bless the
Baptizer, for he is the greatest man born of woman.

Cantor: My soul is waiting for the Lord. I count on his word.
Cantor: My soul is longing for the Lord more than watchman for daybreak.
Repeat "After dancing..."

Cantor: Let the watchman count on daybreak,
Cantor: and Israel on the Lord.

O Herod, it was not appropriate for you, because of a satanic passion,
to condemn to death the one who reproached you for your adultery
and the folly of your lust for women. It was not proper for you to err
and to deliver his all-honored head to a sinful woman for the
sake of a vow made to a dancer. Woe to you for daring such murder!

How was it that this adulterous dancer was not consumed by fire
in the midst of the banquet, as she carried the head on a platter?

As for us, let us worthily venerate and bless the Baptizer,

for he is the greatest man born of woman.

Cantor: Because with the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption,

(on 3) Israel indeed he will redeem from all its iniquity. Repeat "O Herod..."

Cantor: Praise the Lord, all you nations, Psalms 116

(on 2) acclaim him all you peoples!

Again Herodias has lost her self-control; she is again disturbed.

What a cunning and deceiving dance, and what mindless drunkenness!

The Forerunner's head is cut off and Herod is troubled. Therefore, O Lord, by

the intercessions of your Forerunner, grant peace to our souls.
While the birth-day of the shameless Herod was be-ing ob-served, the oath made to
the lustful dan-cer was ful -filled; the head of the Fore -runner was cut off
and of-fered to those at ta -ble. What a loath-some ban -quet, filled with
wick-edness and hor -ri -ble mur -der. As for us, let us worthily venerate
and bless the Bap-tiz -er, for he is the great -est man born of wo -man.

Cantor: Now and ever…

Doxastikon in the same tone (Tone 6, p. 87)
Hymn of the Evening, p. 12
Prokeimenon for the day of the week, pp. 114-115

Readings: Composite IX
Composite X
Composite III
(see Festal Menaion, Appendix A)

The service continues with the Litany of Fervent Supplication, p. 13
What shall we call you, O Prophet? An angel, an apostle, or martyr? An angel, because you lived as a bodiless being; an apostle, because you taught the nations; a martyr, because you were beheaded for Christ. En treat him to have mercy on our souls.

Cantor: (Tone 5) Glory...now and ever...

Doxastikon - Tone 5 Bolhar

When Herod wished to free himself from the rebuke of his sinful deeds, he delivered your head unjustly, O Foreunner, to a transgressing woman. Nor did this wretched one realize that
of fer - ing it on a plat - ter was a con - dem na - tion for him.

Therefore, since you are a prac - ti cal teach - er of pur i ty and a sav - ing guide to re - pent ance, O Bap - tiz - er,

im - plore Christ to de - liv - er us from the shame of our pas - sions.

The service continues with the Litany of the Litija, p. 116.

**Aposticha**

Tone 2 samohlasen

O John the Baptizer and preach - er of re - pent - ance, you sanc - ti - fied the earth when you were be - head - ed. You made plain to believers the law of God,

a - bol - ishing dis - o - be - dience to the law. There - fore, since you stand by the throne of Christ the heav - en - ly King, be - seech him to have mer - cy on our souls.
The just man will flourish like the palm tree and grow like a cedar of Lebanon.

O most holy John, your head was cut off for preaching the law of the Lord, for in blameless privilege you reproached the unbelieving king when he disobeyed the law. Therefore the hosts of angels wonder at you, and the ranks of apostles and martyrs praise you. We also honor your yearly memorial, O most noble one, giving glory to the holy Trinity who has crowned you, O blessed Forerunner.

Plant-ed in the house of the Lord, he will flour-ish in the courts of our God.
Born of the prophet Zechariah, he was the greatest of the prophets and was sanctified in his mother's womb for the service of the Lord. Today he was beheaded by an evil king. Both before and after his beheading, his head was a reproach for the maiden who danced indecently, thus covering one sin with another. Therefore we call out to you in faith: O John the Baptist, having acquired favor with the Lord, beseech him unceasingly for the salvation of our souls.

Cantor: (Tone 8) Glory...

Aposticha Doxastikon of the Beheading - Tone 8

You rebuked kings, O Forerunner of the Savior, that they might not act contrary to the law. But the frolicking of a sinful woman
won over Herod to behead you. Therefore, your name is praised from the place of the rising to the place of the setting of the sun. And since you have favor with the Lord, beseech him unceasingly for the salvation of our souls.

Cantor: Now and ever...

Aposticha theotokion of Saturday in the same tone (Tone 8, p. 110)


Troparion

The memory of the righteous is celebrated with praise, but for you,

O Forerunner, the Lord's testimony is enough. You were shown to be more honorable than the prophets since you were deemed worthy to baptize in the waters the Lord you had proclaimed. Therefore, you fought for the truth
and with joy proclaimed the good news to those in Hades, that God has appeared in the flesh to take away the sins of the world and to grant us great mercy.

Cantor: Glory...

The Troparion is repeated.

Cantor: Now and ever...

"Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos," p. 119

The service continues with the Blessing of Bread.