

# The Beheading of Saint John the Baptist

AUGUST 29



1. To - day in your fore - run - er's praise your Church will raise its voice;
2. While in the midst of na - tal feast, King Her - od— at the sight
3. Caught 'twixt two e - vils, Her - od chose to keep his cra - ven vow;



And once a - gain we tell the tale of awe - some, lov - ing choice:  
Of danc - ing, schem - ing Sa - lo - me— gave pro - mise to de - light.  
He had the Bap - tist mur - dered then; and John, though voice - less now,



How John the Bap - tist, speak - ing truth, to Her - od gave of - fense;  
And she, in an - swer to his oath, spurred on by mo - ther's spite,  
Still calls us each to pe - nance from his place in hea - ven's rest,



And thus was shut in pri - son cell with - out a sure de - fense.  
Asked for the se - vered head of John as boon that fate - ful night.  
Where he sings songs of glo - ry to the Tri - ni - ty most blest.

Text: J. Michael Thompson, based on the Vespers texts for August 29

Melody: *Forest Green*