

August 29 - The Beheading of the Forerunner, John the Baptist
Stichera at the Praises: Tone 8, Special Melody, "O Glorious Wonder"
Optina Hermitage Melody

II-chant melody

1. O all-glo-ri-ous won - der! the im-pure wan - ton girl

I-descant

hath borne to her adulter-ous mo - - - ther the sa - cred head,

which e - ven the an - gels rev - er - ence, and which de - nounced her

in - i - qui - tous acts. O Thine ineffable patience, O Thou Who

August 29 - Stichera of the Praises

lov - est man-kind, where-by do Thou save our souls, — O Christ,

The first system of musical notation consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature. It contains a melodic line with a long phrase of notes, including a half note followed by a dotted half note, and a final phrase with a long horizontal line indicating a sustained note. The lower staff is in bass clef with the same key signature and time signature, providing a harmonic accompaniment with chords and single notes.

in that Thou a - lone art com - pas - - - sion - ate.

The second system of musical notation also consists of two staves. The upper staff continues the melody from the first system, ending with a final cadence. The lower staff continues the accompaniment, ending with a double bar line and a repeat sign (two vertical lines with a small circle between them).

2. O the hard-ness of Her - od's heart! He who dis - hon - ored God

by vi - o - la - ting His laws dis - play - eth his hy - poc - ri - sy

by de - ceit - ful - ly keep - ing his oath and join - eth murder to adultery, while

feign - ing re - gret. O Thine unspeakable loving kindness, O Mas - ter,

August 29 - Stichera of the Praises

where - by save thou our souls, O Christ,

The first system of music consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature. The lower staff is in bass clef with the same key signature. The lyrics are written below the notes. The melody for 'souls,' is marked with a long horizontal line above it, indicating a melisma.

in that Thou a - lone art com - pas - - - - sion - ate!

The second system of music continues the melody from the first system. It features two staves in the same key and time signature. The lyrics 'in that Thou a - lone art com - pas - - - - sion - ate!' are written below the notes. The melody for 'pas - - - - sion - ate!' is marked with a long horizontal line above it, indicating a melisma.

3. O mar-vel past un-der-stand - ing! The seal of the pro - phets,

the earth-ly an - - - gel, is shown to be the price of wan - ton

danc - - - ing; the tongue of the - o - lo - gy is sent__ forth

as her - ald of Christ to those in ha - des, O Thine ineffable providence,

August 29 - Stichera of the Praises

O Mas - - ter, where - by save thou our souls, — O Christ,

in that Thou a - lone art com - pas - - - sion - ate!

Translation by Isaac E. Lambertsen, ©1997, "The Menaion of the Orthodox Church", Vol XII.
The complete service is available through St. John of Kronstadt Press, sjkp.org