

**Divine Liturgy Variables on Saturday February 24, 2018
First & Second Discoveries of St. John the Baptist's Head
& Miracle of the Kolyva by Theodore the Solider ('Tyro')**

*(A bowl of Kolyva is placed on a table bearing the icons of
Ss. John the Baptist and Theodore the Soldier near the iconostasis.)*

****Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom****

*NOTE TO CLERGY: Remember to include this special petition in the Great
Litany before the one for the head of state, as directed by the Antiochian
Archdiocese.*

**Deacon: For Metropolitan Paul, Archbishop John, and for their quick
release from captivity and safe return, let us pray to the Lord.**

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

THE SECOND ANTIPHON

Save us, O Son of God, Who art wondrous in the Saints, who sing to Thee:
Alleluia.

THE EISODIKON (ENTRANCE HYMN) OF ORDINARY WEEKDAYS

Come, let us worship, and fall down before Christ. Save us, O Son of God, Who art wondrous in the Saints; who sing to Thee. Alleluia.

APOLYTIKION FOR ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST IN TONE FOUR

*(**Be quick to anticipate**)*

The Forerunner's sacred head, having dawned forth from the earth, * doth send incorruption's rays unto the faithful, whereby they find healings of their ills. * From on high he gathereth the choirs of the Angels * and on earth he summoneth the whole race of mankind, * that they with one voice might send up glory to Christ our God.

APOLYTIKION FOR ST. THEODORE THE SOLDIER IN TONE TWO

Great are the achievements of faith! In the fountain of flame, as by the water of rest, the holy Martyr Theodore rejoiced; for having been made a whole-burnt offering in the fire, he was offered as sweet bread unto the Trinity. By his prayers, O Christ God, save our souls.

- *Now sing the apolytikion of the patron saint or feast of the temple.*

ORDINARY KONTAKION IN TONE TWO

O protection of Christians that cannot be put to shame, mediation unto the Creator most constant, O despise not the suppliant voices of those who have sinned; but be thou quick, O good one, to come unto our aid, who in faith cry unto thee: Hasten to intercession, and speed thou to make supplication, thou who dost ever protect, O Theotokos, them that honor thee.

THE EPISTLE

(For St. Theodore the Soldier)

The righteous shall rejoice in the Lord. O God, hear my prayer.

The Reading from the Second Epistle of St. Paul to St. Timothy. (2:1-10)

Timothy, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus; and what you have heard from me before many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also. Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No soldier on service gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to satisfy the one who enlisted him. An athlete is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules. It is the hard-working farmer who ought to have the first share of the crops. Think over what I say, for the Lord will grant you understanding in everything. Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, descended from David, as preached in my gospel, the gospel for which I am suffering and wearing fetters like a criminal. But the word of God is not fettered. Therefore, I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain salvation in Christ Jesus with its eternal glory.

THE GOSPEL

(For St. John the Baptist)

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (11:2-15)

At that time, when John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples and said to Him, “Are you He Who is to come, or shall we look for another?” And Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. And blessed is he who takes no offense at Me.” As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to behold? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? A man clothed in soft raiment? Behold, those who wear soft raiment are in kings’ houses. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is he of whom it is written, ‘Behold, I send My messenger before your face, who shall prepare your way before you.’ Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has risen no one greater than John the Baptist; yet he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has been coming violently and men of violence take it by force. For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John; and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

- *The Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom continues with the following variables.*

KOINONIKON (COMMUNION HYMN) FOR
THE FORERUNNER IN TONE EIGHT

In everlasting remembrance shall the righteous be; he shall not be afraid of evil tidings. Alleluia.

Communion Hymn - For Hierarchs - Tone 8

135 bpm

The righteous shall be in e - ver - la - sting
re-mem brance; he shall not fear e - vil ti - dings.

Verses:

- (1) His heart is ready to hope in the Lord; his heart is established. (Psalm 111:7)
- (2) He shall not be afraid, until he look down upon his enemies. (Psalm 111:7)
- (3) He hath dispersed, he hath given to the poor, his righteousness abideth unto ages of ages; his horn shall be exalted with glory. (Psalm 111:8)

- *Following “Blessed be the Name of the Lord,” the clergy gather around the table that holds the kolyva (boiled wheat) and the icons of Ss. John the Baptist and Theodore the Soldier.*

THE PRAYER OF THE KOLYVA

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: O Lord, Who hast brought all things to perfection through Thy Word and hast commanded the earth to bring forth all manner of fruits for our enjoyment and food, Who through grain and vegetables hast made the Three Holy Children and Daniel fairer than the Babylonians who lived in luxury: Do Thou Thyself, O all-good King, bless this grain and fruit, and sanctify those who shall partake of them, for they have been offered by Thy servants to Thy glory, in honor and memory of the Forerunner and Baptist John, and the Great-Martyr Theodore, and for a memorial to those who have fallen asleep in the true Orthodox faith. Grant, O good One, to those who have prepared this offering and who keep this memorial, all their petitions that are for their salvation, and count them worth to rejoice in Thine eternal blessings, through the intercessions of our all-immaculate Lady Theotokos and Ever-virgin Mary; of the honorable, glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John; of the holy, glorious and right-victorious Great-Martyr Theodore the Soldier, whose memory we celebrate today, and of all Thy saints. For Thou it is Who dost bless and sanctify all things, O Christ our God, and unto Thee we ascribe glory, together with Thine unoriginate Father and Thine all-holy, good and life-giving Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

- *The clergy return to the sanctuary, and the priest offers the Dismissal.*

THE DISMISSAL

Priest: May Christ our true God, through the intercessions of His all-immaculate and all-blameless holy Mother; by the might of the Precious and Life-giving Cross; by the protection of the honorable Bodiless Powers of Heaven; at the supplication of the honorable, glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John—as we celebrate the first and second discoveries of his sacred head on this day—of the holy, glorious and all-laudable apostles; of our father among the saints, John Chrysostom, archbishop of Constantinople, whose Divine Liturgy we have now celebrated; of the holy, glorious and right-victorious Martyrs; of our venerable and God-bearing Fathers; of *Saint N., the patron and protector of this holy community*; of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; of the holy, glorious and right-victorious Great-martyr Theodore the Soldier (“Tyro”), whose miracle of the kolyva (boiled wheat) we celebrate today, and of all the saints: have mercy on us and save us, forasmuch as He is good and loveth mankind.

Priest: Through the prayers of our Holy Fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy upon us and save us.

Choir: Amen.

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