

FEBRUARY 24 – The 1st and 2nd finding of the precious head of Saint John the Baptist

FIRST ANTIPHON. PSALM 91.

It is good to give thanks to the Lord; to sing praises to Your name, O most High.

Refrain: Through the prayers of the Mother of God, O Savior, save us.

To declare Your mercy in the morning, and Your faithfulness every night.

Refrain: Through the prayers of the Mother of God, O Savior, save us.

To show that the Lord is upright, and there is no unrighteousness in Him.

Refrain: Through the prayers of the Mother of God, O Savior, save us.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.
Amen.

Refrain: Through the prayers of the Mother of God, O Savior, save us.

SECOND ANTIPHON. PSALM 92.

The Lord is King, He is clothed with majesty; the Lord is clothed with strength, He has girded Himself.

Refrain: Through the prayers of Your saints, O Savior, save us.

The world also is established, so that it cannot be moved.

Refrain: Through the prayers of Your saints, O Savior, save us.

Your decrees are very sure; holiness befits Your house, O Lord, forevermore.

Refrain: Through the prayers of Your saints, O Savior, save us.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.
Amen.

Only-begotten Son...

THIRD ANTIPHON. PSALM 94

O come, let us sing unto the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation.

Refrain: O Son of God, Who are wondrous in Your saints, save us who sing to You: Alleluia!

Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving, let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise.

Refrain: O Son of God, Who are wondrous in Your saints, save us who sing to You: Alleluia!

For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods.

Refrain: O Son of God, Who are wondrous in Your saints, save us who sing to You: Alleluia!

In His hand are the deep places of the earth; the strength of the hills is His also.

Refrain: O Son of God, Who are wondrous in Your saints, save us who sing to You: Alleluia!

TROPARI

Tone 4 The head of the Forerunner rose from the earth as a star, / brilliant with rays of healing and immortality. / It gathers the choirs of angels in heaven, / and assembles the human race on earth // to sing with one voice the glory of Christ our God.

Tone 4 In truth you were revealed to your flock
as a rule of faith, a model of meekness, and teacher of abstinence,
so you won the heights by humility,
and riches by poverty,
O Holy Father Nicholas,
intercede with Christ God to save our souls.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Amen. KONTAKION

Tone 3 O Prophet of God and Forerunner of Grace, / your head has blossomed from the earth as a sacred rose. / We are ever being healed, // for as of old, you preach repentance to the world.

The Prokeimenon in the Seventh Tone: The righteous one shall rejoice in the Lord / and shall set his hope on Him.

v. Hear my voice, O God, when I pray to you.

THE READING FROM THE SECOND EPISTLE OF THE APOSTLE PAUL TO THE

CORINTHIANS (4:6-15) Brethren: it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us. We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed – always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body. For we who live are always delivered to death for Jesus' sake, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. So then death is working in us, but life in you. And since we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, "I believed and therefore I spoke," we also believe and therefore speak, knowing that He who raised up the Lord Jesus will also raise us up with Jesus, and will present us with you. For all things are for your sakes, that grace, having spread through the many, may cause thanksgiving to abound to the glory of God.

Alleluia, Tone 4

v: The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree, and grow like a cedar in Lebanon. (Ps 91/92:12)

v. They are planted in the house of the LORD, they flourish in the courts of our God. (Ps 91/92:13)

THE READING IS FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW (11:2-15)

COMMUNION HYMN

The righteous will be in everlasting remembrance, he shall not fear evil tidings. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!