

Stichera at "Lord, I Call"

1st & 2nd Finding of the Honorable Head of the Forerunner, and Baptist of the Lord, John
February 24

Optina Hermitage Melody
Model: "Rejoice, O Life-bearing Cross"
arr. by G. Ealy & V. Morosan

Tone 5
Sticheron 1

The musical score is written for four voices: Soprano, Alto, Tenor, and Bass. It is in the key of B-flat major (one flat) and 4/4 time. The score is divided into four systems, each with a circled letter (A, B, C, D) above the first measure. The lyrics are: "Re - joyce, O ho - ly and light - bear - ing head, ven - er - at - ed by the an - gels! Of old, you were cut off by the sword, for you had cut through the shameful deeds with sharp re - proach es." The music features a mix of chords and single notes, with some measures containing accidentals (sharps) for the Alto and Tenor parts. A fermata is placed over the final measure of the fourth system.

[Like a fountain . . .]

*) In some harmonizations, an F# is sung here. The original chant melody does not have an F#, however. In this arrangement, the use of an F# in the places marked with # is optional.

NOTE: May be sung a half-step or a step higher.

(A)

Like a foun - tain refreshing the faith - ful with won -

(B)

ders, you de - clared the saving coming of the

(C)

Sav - ior, and per - ceived the com - ing

of the Spirit, Who took up His a - bode in you,

(D)

as you stood between the grace of the Old and New

Cad.

Cov - e - nants. // Entreat Christ God to grant our

souls great mer - cy!

Sticheron 2

The head of the Forerunner is made - man - i - fest.

Once it was concealed in an earth - en ves - sel;

now it is openly given up from the depths - of the earth,

[pour-ing forth streams]

pour-ing forth streams of heal - ing. For he washed

in the wa-ters the head of the One Who e-ven now cov-ers

the chambers of the fir-ma-ment with wa - ters

and rains down di-vine for-give-ness for man-kind. Then let us

bless this truly praiseworthy head and joyfully celebrate its

find - ing, // entreating Christ to grant our souls great

mer - cy!

Sticheron 3

The head that proclaimed the Lamb of God Who ap-peared

in the flesh de-clared to all the ways of saving re-ment-ance

with di-vine pre - cepts, be-fore it had denounced the

[lawlessness of Her-od, ...]

lawlessness of Her - od and therefore was sev - ered from its

bod - y. It was con-cealed for a time and has

ris - en to us as a shin - ing sun, cry - ing out:

"Re - pent and with com - punc - tion of soul sub - mit

to the Lord, // Who grants the world great mer - cy!"