

May 25

B. + *Third Finding of the Honorable Head of the Honorable and Glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John*



During the time of turmoil in Constantinople connected with the exile of John Chrysostom, the honorable head of the Forerunner was carried away to Emesa.

In the 8th century during the Saracen raids, it was transferred (about 810-820) to Comana and on the occasion of the iconoclast persecution against holy relics, it was hidden in the ground.

After the restoration of iconolatry, during his night prayer the Holy Patriarch Ignatius had a vision of the place where the holy head was hidden. The hierarch informed the emperor about this and both sent delegations to Comana, where the holy head was found (about 850) for the third time in the place specified by Patriarch Ignatius. After this finding of the holy head of John the Baptist, it was brought to Constantinople a second time and here on May 25 it was placed in the imperial court church.

Troparion, tone 4

**As a divine treasure hidden in the earth,
Christ revealed your head to us, O Prophet and Forerunner:
For as we all gather on this discovery,
With divinely inspired hymns we praise the Savior,
Who saves us from corruption by your prayers.**

Kontakion, tone 6

**Shining and divine pillar on earth, lamp of the sun,
The Forerunner has shown his light-bearing and divine head to the ends of the earth,
He sanctifies those who venerate it and faithfully cry:
O All-wise Baptist of Christ save us all.**

Paramoea and so forth see February 24.

Note the chapter in the Ustav [Typikon] and Menaion: If the Finding falls: 1) on the 7th Sunday after Pascha, the Holy Fathers (the service for the feast of Ascension will be dropped, and the service for the Sunday, Forerunner and the Holy Fathers will be sung); on Saturday of Pentecost or the 8th Sunday (we sing the service on Thursday of the 7th Sunday); 3) on Monday of the 8th Sunday (we sing in Matins on Tuesday together with the festal service); on Friday of the 7th Sunday after Pascha, or on the Saturday before the Sunday of All Saints (we sing its service to the order on Saturday, together with the Leavetaking of the feast); 5) on the Sunday of All Saints (we sing the service on Friday). If it is any major saint and the Ustav [Typikon]

prescribes a vigil: sing the service of the major saint, as for John the Theologian, on the 7th Sunday after Pascha, with the Holy Fathers in the order: likewise and where it is sung.

Hieromartyr Therapontes, Bishop of Cyprus

He endured cruel suffering in the Diocletian circus. In 806 his holy relics were transferred from Cyprus to Constantinople and have been glorified by numerous wonders and healings.

*S. V. Bulgakov, **Handbook for Church Servers**, 2nd ed., 1274 pp. (Kharkov, 1900), p. 0187a.
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