

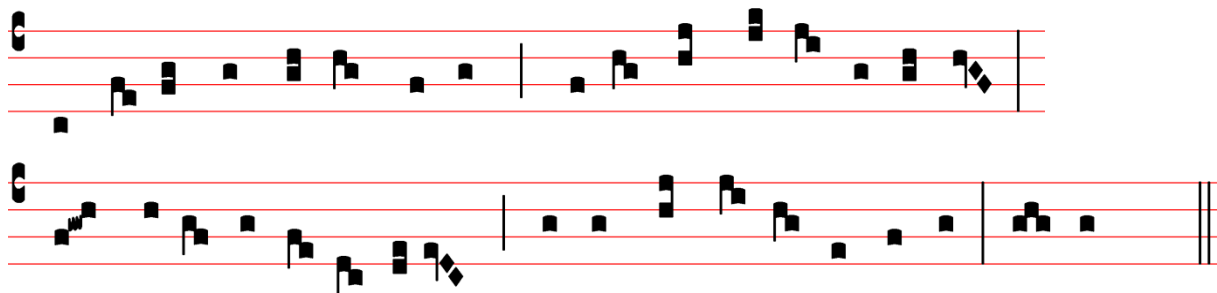
Office Propers – Beheading of S John the Baptist

These are the proper texts for the Office on the feasts of Martyrs, which you should substitute for the seasonal texts provided in the booklet.

Venite Antiphon:

The Lord is the Life of the Martyrs; O come, let us adore Him.

Office Hymn:



A-men.

O God, Thy soldiers' crown and guard,
And their exceeding great reward,
From bonds of evil set us free,
Who sing Thy martyr's victory.

On this the martyr's triumph day,
Let every voice its tribute pay
To those who counted all things loss
For love of Him Who bore the Cross.

Right valiantly they kept the Faith,
And glorified Thee unto death;
For Thee their blood they dared to pour,
And thence have joy for evermore.

O Christ, most loving King, to Thee
With God the Father, glory be,
And glory to the Holy Ghost,
From men and from the angel-host.

Look down upon us from above,
Uplift our hearts, O God of love,
And as our hymns to Thee we raise,
Accept Thy people's prayer and praise.

Psalm:

(11) IN the Lord put I my trust : how say ye then to my soul, that she should flee as a bird unto the hill?

2 For lo, the ungodly bend their bow, and make ready their arrows within the quiver : that they may privily shoot at them which are true of heart.

3 For the foundations will be cast down : and what hath the righteous done?

4 The Lord is in his holy temple : the Lord's seat is in heaven.

5 His eyes consider the poor : and his eye-lids try the children of men.

6 The Lord alloweth the righteous : but the ungodly, and him that delighteth in wickedness, doth his soul abhor.

7 Upon the ungodly he shall rain snares, fire and brimstone, storm and tempest : this shall be their portion to drink.

8 For the righteous Lord loveth righteousness : his countenance will behold the thing that is just.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost.

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.

(126) WHEN the Lord turned again the captivity of Sion : then were we like unto them that dream.

2 Then was our mouth filled with laughter : and our tongue with joy.

3 Then said they among the heathen : The Lord hath done great things for them.

4 Yea, the Lord hath done great things for us already : whereof we rejoice.

5 Turn our captivity, O Lord : as the rivers in the south.

6 They that sow in tears : shall reap in joy.

7 He that now goeth on his way weeping, and beareth forth good seed : shall doubtless come again with joy, and bring his sheaves with him.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost.

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.

Reading:

A Reading from the Gospel according to Saint Mark.

Herod had sent and seized John, and bound him in prison for the sake of Hero'di-as, his brother Philip's wife; because he had married her. For John said to Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." And Hero'di-as had a grudge against him, and wanted to kill him. But she could not, for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and kept him safe. When he heard him, he was much perplexed; and yet he heard him gladly. But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his courtiers and officers and the leading men of Galilee. For when Hero'di-as' daughter came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests; and the king said to the girl, "Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will grant it." And he vowed to her, "Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half of my kingdom." And she went out, and said to her mother, "What shall I ask?" And she said, "The head of John the baptizer." And she came in immediately with haste to the king, and asked, saying, "I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter." And the king was exceedingly sorry; but because of his oaths and his guests he did not want to break his word to her. And immediately the king sent a soldier of the guard and gave orders to bring his head. He went and beheaded him in the prison, and brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl; and the girl gave it to her mother. When his disciples heard of it, they came and took his body, and laid it in a tomb.

Responsory:

These are they who were faithful; even unto death.

[These are they who were faithful; even unto death.](#)

They have won a martyr's crown.

[These are they who were faithful; even unto death.](#)

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost:

These are they who were faithful; even unto death.

Benedictus Antiphon:

Herod sent an executioner and commanded him to behead John in prison; and when his disciples heard of it, they came and took up his body and laid it in a tomb.

Magnificat Antiphon:

This is indeed a Martyr, who for the love of Christ poured forth his/her blood; but with joy attained unto the heavenly Kingdom.

Collect of the Day:

Almighty God, Who didst call Thy servant John the Baptist to be the forerunner of Thy Son in birth and death: strengthen us by Thy grace that, as hath suffered for the Truth, so we may boldly resist corruption and vice and receive with him the unfading crown of glory; through Jesus Christ, Thy Son our Lord, Who liveth and reigneth with Thee in the unity of the Holy Ghost, God, throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.