The memory of the just is celebrated

with hymns of praise, but the Lord’s testimony is sufficient for thee, O Foreunner; for thou hast proved to be truly even more venerable than the prophets since thou wast granted to baptize in the running waters Him Whom they proclaimed. Wherefore having contested for the truth, thou didst rejoice to announce the good tidings even to those in Hades: that God hath appeared in
the flesh, taking away the sin of the world and

granting us great mercy.
The glorious beheading of the Forerunner was a certain divine dispensation, that the coming of the Saviour might also be preached to those in Hades. Let Herodias lament, then, that she demanded a wicked murder; for she loved not the Law of God, nor eternal life, but one false and fleeting.