The Beheading of Saint John the Baptist

1. Today in your for - runn - er’s praise your Church will raise its voice;
2. While in the midst of na - tal feast, King Her - od—at the sight
3. Caught ’twixt two e - vils, Her - od chose to keep his cra - ven vow;

And once a - gain we tell the tale of awe - some, lov - ing choice:
Of danc - ing, schem - ing Sa - lo - me—gave pro - mise to de - light.
He had the Bap - tist mur - dered then; and John, though voice - less now,

How John the Bap - tist, speak - ing truth, to Her - od gave of - fense;
And she, in an - swer to his oath, spurred on by mo - ther’s spite,
Still calls us each to pe - nance from his place in hea - ven’s rest,

And thus was shut in pri - son cell with - out a sure de - fense.
Asked for the se - vered head of John as boon that fate - ful night.
Where he sings songs of glo - ry to the Tri - ni - ty most blest.

Text: J. Michael Thompson, based on the Vespers texts for August 29
Melody: Forest Green