

A PRAYER TO ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

Oh Holy Forerunner John, The Baptizer of our Lord Jesus Christ: You were the last of the prophets and among the first of the martyrs: you were the instructor of fasters and desert-dwellers and a teacher of purity. We sing your praises as being the “ greatest of those born of woman.” We humbly beseech you to assist us in knowing our place in life, just as you recognized that it was necessary for you to “step back” and allow the Lord to take His own rightful place as the One who was the answer to your “. . . voice crying in the wilderness.” You proclaimed the teaching of the prophets of old about the coming of the Messiah. Help us to seek the repentance that you urged so many to search for as you baptized along the banks of the Jordan River, so that one day we may be worthy of entering the Kingdom of Heaven. As we commemorate your beheading through the treachery of Herodias and Salome, may we be inspired by your example of always speaking and defending the truth – even at the expense of sacrificing your own life in the process. O great and glorious John the Baptist, receive from us this heartfelt supplication which we offer to you with the hope that our intentions are pleasing to God. Deliver us from evil of every kind and rescue us from eternal torment. Make us heirs to God’s eternal dwelling place and intercede for us before the Throne of our Heavenly Father. For you are the radiance of the shining light of the Gospel and the fulfillment of God’s promise to mankind. Amen.