

Introduction: Herod & John The Baptist

Matthew 14:1-13

The wickedness of Herod Antipas' family drives the grudge which leads to Queen Herodias' request for John the Baptist's head. This couple was full of murderous fury at John because he condemned their ungodly marriage. It was ungodly because Herodias was originally married to Herod Philip, the father of Salome and brother of Antipas (Salome dances in Matthew 14:6.) It is this adulterous relationship which is roundly condemned by John the Baptist. The result is a grudge which Herodias nurses until she sees her opportunity to demand from her drunk husband the head of the Baptist in Matthew 14:8-11.

Reflection: Oh, what a longed-for day the Day of Judgment will be, when the cry for justice from the martyred will be answered by the perfect justice of God! In terms of Revelation 6:9-11, John the Baptist is even now one of the voices which cries out for justice for his innocent bloodshed at the hands of Herod Antipas! "Stay at peace, dear John: the day is coming. Even so, come Lord Jesus!"

Christ's Response: No wonder Christ withdraws with His disciples (Mt 14:13) to protect them from this threat and to keep them from panicking. Beyond that, Christ draws apart to offer prayers *that will result in* the preserving of their faith (Lk 22:32); their deliverance from the storm on the lake and because His obedient prayers and cries are offered on our behalf in every trial and crisis (Hebrews 5:7-9).

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LORD'S DAY MORNING WORSHIP

August 3, 2025



GOD GATHERS HIS PEOPLE

Welcome

Announcements

Prelude *A time to be quiet and prepare for holy worship.
When the music begins, please take your seats.*

Silent Reflection

Salutation

Call to Worship

GOD'S PEOPLE RESPOND

*** Opening Hymn** *All That I Am I Owe to Thee*
#37 Trinity Hymnal (all verses)

- 1 All that I am I owe to thee; thy wisdom, Lord, has fashioned me.
I give my Maker thankful praise, whose wondrous works my soul amaze.
- 2 Ere into being I was brought, thine eye did see, and in thy thought
my life in all its perfect plan was ordered ere my days began.
- 3 Thy thoughts, O God, how manifold, more precious unto me than gold!
I muse on their infinity, awaking I am still with thee.
- 4 The wicked thou wilt surely slay; from me let sinners turn away.
They speak against the name divine; I count God's enemies as mine.
- 5 Search me, O God, my heart discern; try me, my inmost thought to learn;
and lead me, if in sin I stray, to choose the everlasting way. **

* Invocation & Lord's Prayer

*** God's Law** Matthew 14:1-13
(p. 974 pew Bible)

Confession of Sin (unison) Psalm 139:23-24

Search me, O God, and know my heart!

Try me and know my thoughts!

And see if there be any grievous way in me,
and lead me in the way everlasting!

Assurance of Pardon

Matthew 14:14
(p. 974 pew Bible)

*Song of Response

Only A Holy God
(all verses)

1 Who else commands all the hosts of heaven?
Who else could make every king bow down?
Who else can whisper and darkness trembles? Only a Holy God!
2 What other beauty demands such praises?
What other splendor outshines the sun?
What other majesty rules with justice? Only a Holy God!

Chorus: Come and behold Him, The One and the Only!
Cry out sing holy, Forever a Holy God, Come and worship the Holy God!
3 What other glory consumes like fire? What other power can raise the dead?
What other name remains undefeated? Only a Holy God! (**Chorus**)
4 Who else could rescue me from my failing?
Who else would offer His only Son?
Who else invites me to call Him Father? Only a Holy God! Only my Holy God!
(**Chorus**)

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We Petition God

Congregational Prayer

Offering & Prayer of Dedication

Offertory Hymn

Rock of Ages
500 Trinity Hymnal (verses 1-2)

1 Rock of Ages, cleft for me let me hide myself in thee;
let the water and the blood, from thy riven side which flowed,
be of sin the double cure, cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.
2 Not the labors of my hands can fulfil thy law's demands;
could my zeal no respite know, could my tears for ever flow,
all for sin could not atone; thou must save, and thou alone.**

* Gloria Patri

#735 Trinity Hymnal

GOD SPEAKS HIS WORD TO HIS PEOPLE

* Prayer & Scripture:

Matthew 14:22-24
(p 975, pew Bible)
Hebrews 5:7-9
(p 1190 pew Bible)

Sermon

Christ Preserves Life Through His Prevailing Prayers

Prayer of Application

* Closing Hymn

Arise, My Soul, Arise
305 Trinity Hymnal (all verses)

1 Arise, my soul, arise, shake off your guilty fears:
the bleeding Sacrifice in my behalf appears:
before the throne my Surety stands, before the throne my Surety stands,
my name is written on his hands.
2 He ever lives above, for me to intercede,
his all-redeeming love, his precious blood to plead;
his blood atoned for ev'ry race, his blood atoned for ev'ry race,
and sprinkles now the throne of grace.
3 Five bleeding wounds he bears, received on Calvary;
they pour effectual prayers, they strongly plead for me.
"Forgive him, O forgive," they cry, "Forgive him, O forgive," they cry,
"nor let that ransomed sinner die!"
4 My God is reconciled; his pard'ning voice I hear;
he owns me for his child, I can no longer fear;
with confidence I now draw nigh, with confidence I now draw nigh,
and "Father, Abba, Father!" cry.

* Benediction

* Doxology

#731 Trinity Hymnal

* Please stand if able
** by permission, GCP