Month of May

THE 25TH DAY

Commemoration of Our Father among the Saints Aldhelm,
Abbot of Malmesbury & Bishop of Sherborne

At Vespers

On “Lord, I have cried...”, 6 stichera: 3 from the Pentecostarion; and 3 of the holy hierarch, in Tone V: Spec. Mel.: Rejoice,...”—

O holy hierarch Aldhelm, from thy youth thou didst steadfastly cleave unto the Lord, and deeming all the beauties of this world as nought, thou didst zealously seek divine knowledge and wisdom, making thine abode as monk in the holy Malmesbury, where, laboring long with great patience, thou didst attain the mansions of eternal life. Wherefore, we entreat thee, O saint: Beseech the Holy Trinity that our souls be saved, for the Godhead is source of all mercy!

O divinely wise father Aldhelm, taking the yoke of Christ upon thy shoulder from thy youth, thou didst follow after Him with unwavering intent; and, full of all the virtues, thou truly becamest a model for monks and a source of knowledge and healings for the faithful. Wherefore, thou art resplendent with miracles even after thy repose, for God hath wondrously glorified thee. Him do thou entreat, we pray thee, O saint, that He save our souls, in that He is the Wellspring of loving-kindness.

O God-bearing father Aldhelm, as a vessel chosen by God from thine infancy, thou wast shown to be filled with the grace of the Holy Spirit; and even after death thou pourest forth wondrous healings, having received power over the demons, to drive them from the souls of the afflicted and oppressed. Free us also from their torment and tyranny, praying earnestly unto the Christ the Word, that He have pity and save our souls, in that He is the Source of all love and compassion.

Glory..., in Tone VIII—

Come, ye who love the saints of God, and with hymns, as with wreaths and garlands, let us crown our ever-memorable father Aldhelm. For, nurtured in grace by the saints of God—Maidulf of Ireland and Adrian of Canterbury—he is shown to be a fruitful olive-tree in the house of God, pouring forth the oil of healing upon those suffering divers ailments; and like a palm-tree he hath flourished in his sacred writings, nourishing us with the goodly fruit thereof; and like a cedar of Lebanon, watered by the streams of his tears, he sheltereth his flock in Malmesbury and Sherborne as they were doves and sparrows; and like a lily hath he blossomed through the grace of Christ our God, filling the whole Church of Christ with the sweet fragrance of his virtues.

Now & ever..., from the Pentecostarion.
Aposticha stichera from the Octoechos; and Glory....: Idiomelon of the holy hierarch, in Tone III—

Come, ye choirs of monastics! Come, ye assemblies of the Orthodox faithful! With jubilation let us venerate the holy memory of the holy hierarch Aldhelm today, imitating his many and great virtues, taking nourishment for our souls from his sacred writings, and extolling his ascetic struggles in song, that by his supplications we may receive mercy and obtain grace as a timely aid. And let us entreat him most fervently with earnest prayer.

Now & ever..., from the Pentecostarion.
Troparia from the Pentecostarion and of the holy hierarch, in the order prescribed by the Typicon.

Troparion of the holy hierarch, in Tone V—

Like  Samuel  of  old  thou  wast  afire  from  thy  youth  with  spiritual  desire  for  wisdom  divine,  O  venerable  and  God-bearing  hierarch  Aldhelm;  for  this  cause  thou  didst tread  the  narrow  path  of  life  unto  Christ,  making  Malmesbury  a  worthy  monastic  abode,  a haven  of  stillness  where  thou  didst  struggle  in  ascetic  labor  for  many  years.  Wherefore, as  thou  now  beholdest  the  face  of  Christ  in  the  heavens,  entreat  Him  in  behalf  of  us  who honor  thy  holy  memory  with  love.

At Matins

At  “God  is  the  Lord...”,  the  troparion  from  the  Pentecostarion,  twice;  Glory,  that  of  the venerable  one;  Now & ever...,  as  prescribed  by  the  Typicon.

Canon  from  the  Pentecostarion,  with  8  troparia,  including  the  irmos;  and  that  of  the  holy hierarch,  with  6  troparia,  the  acrostic  whereof  is  "Aldhelm's  discourse  is  as  sweet  as honey",  in  Tone  III—

Ode I

Irmos:  To  God,  Who  alone  saved  His  people  in  the  sea  and  engulfed  the adversaries,  let  us  sing,  for  He  hath  been  glorified.

Aldhelm  taught  the  people  of  the  New  Israel  to  chant:  Unto  Christ  God  let  us  sing, for  He  hath  been  glorified!

Let  us  hymn  Aldhelm,  the  holy  hierarch  of  Christ,  the  great  High  Priest,  for  in  His saints  He  hath  truly  been  glorified.

Delivering  us  from  the  noetic  Pharaoh,  Aldhelm  rightly  receiveth  goodly  praise from  us,  for  he  hath  been  glorified.

Theotokion:  Hymn  we  now  the  most  pure  Mother  of  our  God,  the  all-immaculate Virgin  Theotokos,  who  hath  been  glorified.

Ode III

Irmos:  O  Thou  Who  didst  found  the  earth  upon  its  firmament  and  establish  the heavens  with  might,  make  steadfast  all  of  us  who  praise  Thee  with  faith.

Earth  did  not  confine  the  thoughts  of  the  holy  hierarch,  who  fixed  his  mind  on  the firmament  and  the  heavens,  worshiping  the  Author  of  creation.

Living  a  life  well-pleasing  to  Christ,  the  venerable  one  ascended  the  virtues  like  a ladder,  loving  Him  by  keeping  His  saving  commandments  with  faith.

Malmesbury  was  filled  with  gladness,  for  its  walls  were  raised  up  by  the  holy Aldhelm,  who  therein  taught  all  to  praise  the  Lord  God  with  faith.

Theotokion:  Stars  form  a  splendid  diadem  for  thee,  O  Queen  of  all,  and  the heavens  clothe  thee  in  a  robe  of  royal  purple,  for  thou  gavest  birth  to  the  King  of kings.

Kontakion  of  the  holy  hierarch,  in  Tone  III:  Spec.  Mel.:  "This  day  the  Virgin..."—

Desiring  that  which  is  sublime,  thou  didst  despise  all  that  draweth  man  down;  and, forsaking  thine  own  country  and  thy  father's  house,  thou  didst  set  out  to  attain  the knowledge  of  God,  for  which  cause  thou  didst  labor  for  the  Lord  for  many  years, acquiring  divine  wisdom.  Wherefore,  piously  celebrating  thy  holy  memory,  we  cry  out  to thee  with  love:  Rejoice,  O  divinely  wise  Aldhelm  our  father!

Ikos:  As  thou  didst  strive  to  become  a  fit  dwelling-place  for  the  Spirit  of  God,  He adorned  thee  with  all  manner  of  divine  beauties,  O  Aldhelm,  and  thou  wast  shown  to  be  a wondrous  guide  for  monks,  ever  instructing  them  in  the  precepts  of  thy  Master.
Wherefore, celebrating thy memory, with reverence we cry out to thee: Rejoice, O heavenly adornment of the land of Wessex! Rejoice, divine ornament of holy Malmesbury! Rejoice, lover of true theology! Rejoice, boast of Kent! Rejoice, thou who wast all things to all men, that thou mightest lead some to salvation! Rejoice, bold champion of the unity of the Church of Christ! Rejoice, thou whom we exalt among the saints of God! Rejoice, thou who art glorified by Christ God among the ranks of angels! Rejoice, O divinely wise Aldhelm our father!

*Sessional hymn of the holy hierarch, in Tone I: Spec. Mel.: “Thy tomb, O Savior...”*—

O blessed Aldhelm, thou wast truly a star of exceeding brilliance, illuminating thy flock with gifts of miracles and the wisdom of thy sacred writings; wherefore, celebrating thy splendid memorial today, we magnify Christ in gladness of heart.

Glory..., Now & ever....: *Sessional hymn from the Pentecostarion.*

**Ode IV**

*Irmos:* Nay, with the rivers wast Thou wroth, O Lord? Nay, against the rivers was Thine anger, or against the sea Thine attack?

Divine knowledge didst thou pursue in thy life, O holy hierarch, ever pondering the ineffable mysteries of the Lord Most High.

In thy sacred writings thou didst extol the virtues of holy virginity, O saint of God, for thy life itself was an example thereof.

Sanctified by the mystery of the monastic tonsure, O Aldhelm, thou didst follow the statutes of the venerable Benedict to perfection.

*Theotokion:* Christ gave thee to us sinners as a great mediatress, O Mother of God, ever pouring forth rivers of loving-kindness upon us all.

**Ode V**

*Irmos:* Grant us Thy peace, O Son of God; for we know none other God than Thee, Who art glorified in the highest with the Father and the Spirit.

O Son of God, with the Father and the Holy Spirit grant that, through the prayers of Thy holy hierarch, we may find true peace for our souls.

Unto thee, O venerable Aldhelm, do we fall down, praying earnestly: Beseech the Holy Trinity without ceasing, that our souls may find peace.

Reverence and veneration do we piously offer to the blessed hierarch of Christ, who taught the people the true worship of the Holy Trinity.

*Theotokion:* Sanctified was thy pure womb by the indwelling of the Spirit, O mother of God, and it was made a fitting abode for the Word of the Father.

**Ode VI**

*Irmos:* I have been cast into the abyss of the heart of the sea of iniquities, and like Jonah I cry unto Thee: Lead me up from corruption, that I may render my supplications unto Thee, O Lord!

Even as we drown in the sea of our iniquities we cry out to the helper given us by God: O Aldhelm, Lead us up from corruption, that we may render supplication unto our merciful Lord!

In thy birth thou wast of royal kinship, O saint, but by thy pious manner of life thou didst become a true son of the heavenly King, to Whom thou dost eternally render filial worship.

Saved from the corruption of thy times by thy steadfast faith in Christ God, O Aldhelm, thou didst lead many to salvation through repentance, guiding them to the
kingdom on high.

_Theotokion:_ Accept from us these suppliant cries, O all-immaculate Maiden, and in thy love for us sinners bear them to the dread throne of thy Son and Lord, Who sitteth in awesome majesty.

_Kontakion & ikos from the Pentecostarion._

Ode VII

_Irmos:_ The children quenched the flame in the furnace, and through faith received a heavenly dew. Blessed art Thou, O God of our fathers!

Sing we now in praise of the wondrous Aldhelm, who by fasting and prayer, vigils and ascetic feats, pleased the God of our fathers.

Subdue the flames of the passions that cruelly burn our souls, O holy one, pouring forth upon us the cooling heavenly dew of grace divine.

Wretched are we, and consumed by the fire of sin; yet do we cry out with the holy Aldhelm: Blessed art Thou, O God of our fathers!

_Theotokion:_ Eden with its Tree of Life could not rival thy most pure womb, O Virgin, for therein arose the true Source of all life, grace and holiness.

Ode VIII

_Irmos:_ Him Who is worshiped and unceasingly glorified by the holy angels, ye priests, hymn; ye people, exalt Him supremely for all ages!

Entering among the monks of Malmesbury, Aldhelm instructed them to chant aright: Ye people, exalt Christ supremely for all ages!

Thou didst labor manfully to teach all to love the divine services, O saint, crying out: Ye people, exalt the Lord supremely for all ages!

All of Wessex and Kent were hallowied by thy labors, O holy hierarch, and therein priests and people exalt the Most High for all ages.

_Triadicon:_ Supremely is the Holy Trinity worshiped and continually glorified by men and angels: the unoriginate Father, with His Son and Spirit.

_Theotokion:_ Help us, we beseech thee, O Lady of tender compassion, lest we perish utterly; for there is nought that is impossible for thy prayers.

Ode IX

_Irmos:_ We ever magnify thee, the wellspring of immortality and holiness, who givest healings to the human race, for thou savest our souls.

Our souls magnify the Lord, the Bestower of light and life, Who in His love for mankind hath given us the holy Aldhelm as an advocate.

Never will the memory of the saint of God fade among us, for he is a wellspring of healing for the grave infirmities of our souls and bodies.

Exult ye greatly, O ye faithful Christians, for through the blessed hierarch is the saving grace of God poured forth upon the human race.

_Theotokion:_ Ye faithful, let us piously magnify the spring that gave rise to Christ, the boundless Torrent of immortality, holiness and salvation.

_Exapostilarion of the holy hierarch: Spec. Mel.: "The heaven with stars...”_—

Thou didst set the lamp of Orthodoxy alight amid the gloom of the dark night of thy times, O blessed Aldhelm, favorite of Christ; wherefore thou dwellest now in everlasting light, where thou prayest that our souls be saved.

_Glory..., Now & ever: Exapostilarion from the Pentecostarion._

_Aposticha stichera from the Pentecostarion; and Glory..., Idiomelon of the holy_
hierarch, in Tone II —

Thy radiant and God-pleasing countenance sheddesth light on all the English lands, O blessed Aldhelm our father; for spurning thy royal rank and all worldly pursuits, thou didst eagerly seek the true knowledge of God, and having devoted thy life to prayer and the ascetic struggle, thou hast been vouchsafed to behold the Unapproachable One. Him do thou ever beseech, O hierarch of Christ, that in His mercy He save our souls.

Now & ever...., from the Pentecostarion.

At Liturgy

On the Beatitudes, 6 troparia from the appointed ode.

Prokimenon from the Pentecostarion; and that of the holy hierarch, in Tone I—

My mouth shall speak wisdom, and the meditation of my heart shall be of understanding.

EPISTLE TO THE HEBREWS, §318

Brethren: Such a High Priest became us, Who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens; Who needeth not daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people's: for this He did once, when He offered up Himself. For the law maketh men high priests who have infirmity; but the word of the oath, which was since the law, maketh the Son, Who is consecrated for evermore. Now of the things which we have spoken this is the sum: We have such a High Priest, Who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens; a Minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man.

Alleluia from the Pentecostarion; and that of the holy hierarch, in Tone II—

Stichos: The mouth of the righteous shall meditate wisdom, and his tongue shall speak of judgment.

GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN, § 36

The Lord said to the Jews who came to Him: “I am the door: by Me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture. The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly. I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep. But he who is a hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth: and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep. The hireling fleeth, because he is a hireling, and careth not for the sheep. I am the good Shepherd, and know My sheep, and am known of Mine. As the Father knoweth Me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down My life for the sheep. And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear My voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd.”

Communion verse from the Pentecostarion; and that of the holy hierarch—

In everlasting remembrance shall the righteous be; he shall not be afraid of evil tidings.