

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 are 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, illumining 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 mediatrix, 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 hallowed 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 sheddeth 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.