

Month of October

THE SATURDAY ON OR AFTER THE 11TH

Synaxis of the Saints of Barking

At Vespers

On "Lord, I have cried..." , 6 stichera of the saints: 3 in Tone I: Spec. Mel.: "O all-praised martyrs..."—

O most glorious saints of God, who rendered Barking most illustrious! Though your grace-filled relics have been taken from us, yet do ye send down grace from paradise upon those who honor you. Entreat Christ, that He grant unto all of us peace and great mercy.

Rejoice greatly, O Erkonwald, for when the Sun of righteousness warmed thy land with rays of grace, thou didst blossom like a beautiful rose, and for the salvation of thy people didst found the Monastery of Chertsey and the Convent of Barking, the place of thy holy repose.

Exult exceedingly, O wondrous Ethelburga, who with thy holy brother didst shine forth the radiance of piety; for, embracing the life of chastity and ascetic struggle, thou becamest a mother to countless souls, guiding them in the paths of righteousness by thy most virtuous life.

And 3 in the same tone: Spec. Mel.: "Joy of the ranks of heaven..."—

With hymns let us praise the venerable Theogirtha, and with her the pious Hildelith; for together they adorned Barking with their virtues, as with ornaments of gold and precious stones. Wherefore, they dwell now in paradise, where they rejoice with Ethelburga, their abbess.

Let Cuthburga and Quenburga now dance with jubilation, for they laid a firm foundation for their ascetic life in Barking, and then founded the Convent of Wimborne upon the rock of their piety. Wherefore, they join chorus in heaven with their venerable mothers in the Faith

Holy are the nuns of Barking, whom the heathen slew out of hatred for Christ; for they laid down their lives for their Lord, shedding their blood for Him most willingly. Holy also is the venerable Wulfhilda, who restored their convent and governed it with great wisdom and love.

Glory...: Idiomelon, in Tone VI—

Come, ye faithful of the English lands, and assembling now in Barking, let us hallow its stones with hymns and spiritual songs, extolling its great saints: Erkonwald, scion of kings, who laid its foundation; Ethelburga, his sister, who nurtured and sustained it like a tender shoot; Theogirtha, model of patience and endurance; Hildelith, who guided it ably throughout her long life; Cuthburga and Quenburga, who in the new field of Wimborne sowed the virtues that had been planted in their hearts; the venerable martyrs, whose names are lost to the world, but known to heaven; and Wulfhilda, who inherited the mantle of the sanctity of them all. For as a model of the sanctified monastic life even such great saints as the hierarch Aldhelm knew it for a treasury of holiness, and Boniface, the apostle to the Germans in

latter times, did it grateful homage with praise. Wherefore, lifting up our voices in song, let us hymn the holy memory of its saints with reverence and awe.

Now & ever...: Dogmatic theotokion, in the tone of the current week.

Aposticha stichera, in Tone VI: Spec. Mel.: "On the third day..."—

Ye were brilliant lamps amid pagan darkness, O glorious Erkonwald and wondrous Ethelburga; for ye shed the light of Christ upon the English lands, filling them with radiance from on high.

Stichos: The saints shall boast in glory, and they shall rejoice upon their beds.

Ye mortified the coarseness of the flesh with holy abstinence and fasting, O saints, and taught those who came to you to wage goodly battle for Christ, and to keep the commandments of God.

Stichos: Blessed are all who fear the Lord, who walk in His ways.

The savagery of the Saxons abated when the teachings of the Lord took root in their souls; and, taught by the saints of Barking, they willingly took up the yoke of God, laboring in the fields of the Master.

Glory...: Idiomelon, in Tone I—

Long years and dire have passed since the ungodly tyrant laid waste to Barking; yet its stones cry out to us with the voices of the saints who dwelt therein, calling us to spurn the world and all its works and pomp. Wherefore, let us hearken to their solicitous cries, and let us run the good race, that, like them, we may win the wreath, wherewith the Judge of the contest will crown those who prevail until the end.

Now & ever...: Theotokion automelon, in the same tone—

Joy of the ranks of heaven, and mighty intercession for men on earth, O all-pure Theotokos: Save us who have recourse unto thee, for on thee, after God, have we set our hope, O Theotokos.

Troparion of the saints, in Tone IV—

Escaping the beguilements of this world, O blessed saints of Barking, ye adorned yourselves most beautifully, some with the sweat of your ascetic labors as with lustrous pearls, and others with the drops of your blood shed in martyrdom, as with precious rubies. Wherefore, thus arrayed for your Bridegroom on high, ye have joined the ranks of martyrs and the venerable at His glorious banquet.

Glory..., Now & ever...: Resurrectional theotokion, in the tone of the week.

At Matins

At "God is the Lord...", the troparion of the saints, twice; Glory..., Now & ever...: Resurrectional theotokion in the tone of the saints' troparion.

After the first chanting of the Psalter, this sessional hymn of the saints, in Tone IV: Spec, Mel.: "Having been lifted up on the Cross..."—

Offering fervent supplications to Christ the Lord, as ones chaste and humble ye were sanctified by the Spirit, O venerable mothers; wherefore, as ye now make your abode with the angels on high, ye unceasingly chant the thrice-holy hymn to the Almighty, entreating Him to have mercy on those who honor thee with love. *Twice*

Glory..., Now & ever...: Theotokion—

After God it is to thy divine protection that I, the lowly, flee; and, falling down, I pray: Have mercy, O all-pure Mistress, for my sins have passed over my head, and I fear

the torments and tremble. Make supplication to thy Son, O pure one, that He deliver me therefrom.

After the second chanting of the Psalter, this sessional hymn of the saints, in Tone I: Spec. Mel.: "Thy tomb, O Savior..."—

Shedding the radiance of godliness upon the English lands like the dawning sun, O saints, ye dispelled heathen darkness and lighted the narrow path of righteousness. Wherefore, the Church ever hymneth your illustrious memory, magnifying Christ, the Master of all. *Twice*

Glory..., Now & ever...: Theotokion—

O all-holy Virgin, hope of Christians, with the hosts on high unceasingly entreat God, to Whom thou gavest birth in manner past understanding and recounting, that He grant remission of all our sins and correction of life unto those who ever glorify thee with faith and love.

Canon of the Theotokos from the previous Sunday matins, with 6 troparia; and that of the saints, with 8, troparia, the acrostic whereof is "Grace halloweth the stones of Barking", in Tone VIII—

Ode I

Irmos: In the Red Sea didst Thou engulf Pharaoh and his chariots, O Lord, and by Moses Thou didst save the people, who sang unto Thee a hymn of victory, in that Thou art our God and Deliverer.

Grant eloquence to our tongues and skill to our voices, O Lord, that we may glorify Thee, our God and Deliverer, and may honor with fitting hymns the venerable saints of Barking

Repentance and the humbling of all pride, obedience and the trampling down of vainglory did ye attain, O blessed ones, worshipping your God and Deliverer with humble and contrite heart.

All the passions of the soul and the temptations of the flesh did ye overcome, ascending the noetic ladder of the virtues, O saints; wherefore, ye have attained the kingdom of heaven.

Theotokion: Chanting fair hymns unto the most immaculate Mary, the unblemished ewe-lamb of Christ, we praise her as the wellspring from whence the saving Water of life hath been poured forth for us.

Katavasia: I will open my mouth..."

Ode III

Irmos: O Word of God, Who didst establish the heavens by Thine arm: with the enlightenment of the true understanding of Thee make steadfast the hearts of us who trust in Thee.

Escaping this world, like as the children of Israel fled the slavery of the Egyptian tyrant, by fasting, vigilance in prayer and charity the saints journeyed to the promised land of paradise.

Heaven rejoiceth exceedingly, and the lands of the English exult with jubilation, for the saints of Barking stand at the throne of God, interceding unceasingly for those who honor them.

All the angels of heaven stand in awe of the ascetic struggles of the venerable ones, who, through women weak of flesh, bravely defied our ancient foe and duly vanquished him.

Theotokion: Let us magnify the most pure Mother of God, the all-glorious Virgin Theotokos, who in her obedience submitted to the will of the Most High and gave birth unto Christ, our salvation.

Sessional hymn, in Tone I: Spec. Mel.: "Thy tomb, O Savior..."—

A splendid company of spiritual athletes, the godly women of Barking contended lawfully, seeking the prize which the Judge of the contest giveth to those who prevail; and having cast the adversary to the ground, they are honored as champions and have taken their place among the saints on high. *Twice*

Glory..., Now & ever...: Theotokion—

O all-holy Virgin, hope of Christians, with the hosts on high unceasingly entreat God, to Whom thou gavest birth in manner past understanding and recounting, that He grant remission of all our sins and correction of life unto those who ever glorify thee with faith and love.

Ode IV

Irmos: Stretch forth unto me a helping hand, as Thou didst to Peter, and have mercy and save me, in that Thou lovest mankind.

Loving their heavenly Bridegroom above all, and their neighbor as themselves, the saints of Barking shone with grace.

O the strength of spirit that the blessed ones have revealed! O the depths of their mercy and godly loving-kindness!

With hands outstretched, O holy ones, ye stand in the mansions of heaven, unceasingly entreating mercy for us.

Theotokion: Extend to us a helping hand, O Mistress, for without thine aid we shall surely perish; yea, rescue us from the pit of sin.

Ode V

Irmos: Going before me with the light of Thy knowledge, O Lord, out of the night of ignorance to the path of Thy commandments do Thou lead me who ever stray toward the soul-destroying way.

The holy Erkonwald, seeking shelter from the soul-destroying tempest, built his monastery at Chertsey; and taking thought for his pious sister, he likewise founded the convent at Barking.

Holy Ethelburga, like her brother, shone with the light of knowledge divine; wherefore, Christ made her a lamp unto the feet of her flock, guiding them along the path of His commandments.

The lands of the English, enshrouded by the darkness of ignorance, received the light of knowledge divine; for Erkonwald the bishop and Ethelburga the abbess shed the light of grace upon them.

Theotokion: How are we gone astray who call ourselves followers of Christ! How far from the straight paths of virtue have we wandered! But lead us to salvation by the ways of His commandments, O Virgin.

Ode VI

Irmos: I pour forth my prayer unto the Lord, and to Him do I declare my grief; for my soul is full of evil and my life hath drawn nigh unto hell, and like Jonah I pray: Lead me up from corruption, O God!

Ever pouring forth laudation unto Christ, O blessed Theogirtha, thou didst receive the strength to endure without complaint the dire pangs of illness; and He preserved thy

soul from corruption.

Sufferings torment our bodies and grief assaileth our souls, O Theogirtha, and we are sunk in despondency; but teach us to endure with patience the afflictions of our life, we pray thee fervently.

To the holy Theogirtha was entrusted the care of the novices; and with joy she taught them the ways of virtue, that they might avoid the mire of corruption and escape the nethermost pit.

Theotokion: O Lady, sorrows and grief overwhelm us, for our times are full of evil and our lives are fraught with trials; but pour forth thy compassions upon us like streams, restoring our souls.

Kontakion, in Tone IV—

Let us reverently honor the sacred memory of the saints of Barking today: Erkonwald the founder and his sister Ethelburga, the pious Hildelith, Theogirtha and Wulfhilda, Cuthburga and the virtuous Quenburga, and with them the multitude of their number who were slain out of hatred for Christ. And let us offer them joyful hymnody, for they have received the grace of the Holy Spirit to heal the infirmities of our souls.

Ikos Yearning for the noetic heights, O blessed ones, ye fled the world and its temptations with zeal, forsaking wealth, costly raiment, rich food and all comfort, and as monastics ye embraced humility, poverty and obedience, harrowing your bodies with the rigors of asceticism; and, having acquired true serenity of soul, ye attained the perfection of the virtues, O venerable ones. Wherefore, we cry out to you with faith: Entreat Christ the Master, as ones who have received the grace of the Holy Spirit to heal the infirmities of our souls.

Ode VII

Irmos: Blessed art Thou, O God of our fathers, Who didst bedew the children in the furnace and preserve her who gave Thee birth a Virgin after birthgiving!

Neither the torches of the heathen, nor their pitiless cruelty, nor yet their harsh battle cries dismayed the handmaids of the blessed God of our fathers.

Erkonwald raised up the walls of Barking, and Ethelburga and her successors filled it with grace; but the martyrs hallowed it with their own blood.

Shutting the nuns within the walls of the church, the ungodly set it ablaze; but as in the furnace of old, the martyrs cried: Blessed art Thou, O God of our fathers!

Theotokion: O most immaculate Mother of the God of our fathers, with the dew of thy supplications quench the burning fire of the carnal passions that beset us.

Ode VIII

Irmos: The King of glory Who is without beginning, before Whom the hosts of heaven tremble, hymn, ye priests, and exalt supremely for all ages!

For many years the Convent of Barking lay in ruins, like a fallow field, until Edgar and Duncan replanted it, reaping therefrom a rich new harvest.

Blessed Wulfilda the abbess received the gift of prophecy, and her sacred relics were discovered incorrupt, preserved by her Master, the King of glory.

Triadicon: Almighty, eternal, without beginning or end art Thou, O Holy Trinity our God; wherefore, even the sublime hosts stand in awe of Thee.

Theotokion: Right glorious art thou, O Queen of heaven, who standest at the throne of thy Son and God, in a place of honor above all the angelic ranks.

Ode IX

Irmos: Saved by thee, O pure Virgin, we confess thee to be in truth the Theotokos, magnifying thee with the incorporeal choirs.

Kings and princes, hierarchs, monastics and lay folk all came to Barking as to an earthly paradise, seeking refreshment for their souls.

In ruins doth Barking lie today; gone are its comely walls and towers. But the grace that dwelleth therein yet shineth like a beacon.

Now let us boldly confess the Orthodox Faith, which teacheth that the saints of God, with His angels, save us by their entreaties.

Theotokion: Grant peace profound, O most pure Theotokos, unto us who join our meager voices to those of the bodiless hosts, magnifying thee.

Exapostilarion: Spec. Mel.: "Hearken, ye women..."—

Taught heavenly wisdom, by your virtues ye escaped the snares of the primeval foe and took wing on high, like comely sparrows, O most glorious ones; and as disciples of the Master ye bore witness to the truth of His teachings. *Twice*

Theotokion—

O Theotokos, Ever-virgin Mother, who gavest birth to the Light Who eternally emitteth the uncreated Light: by thine unceasing intercession before the never-waning Light deliver from all condemnation those who hymn thee.

On the Praises, 4 stichera, in Tone IV: Special Mel.: "As one valiant among the martyrs..."—

Assembling at Barking this day, O ye who love the saints of God, let us praise the venerable ones who shone forth therein in ages past, for they finished the race of piety and kept the faith, and have received from God the victor's wreath. Wherefore, they have won a dwelling-place on high, where in heavenly bliss they rejoice forever. *Twice*

Armed with fasting as a shield and prayer as a two-edged sword, the saints of Barking fought as valiant warriors in the army of the King of all; and, contending with godly zeal, they put the besieging enemy to flight. Wherefore, delivered from the same foe by their holy prayers, we celebrate their sacred memory with sacred hymns.

Though assailed on every side by the hordes of the adversary, yet amid the fray we have as mighty allies the glorious saints of Barking, whose fervent entreaties in our behalf rain down upon the armies of Satan like arrows all aflame, piercing their noetic armor and driving them away; wherefore, we honor them with great praise.

Glory...: Idiomelon, in the same tone—

Open Thou our fleshly eyes, O Physician of souls and bodies, for when we look upon what remains of Barking we see but bare and moss-enshrouded stones. But reveal to our spiritual eyes the noetic light, which dwelleth here forever, undimmed by the passage of time. For by their great love and devotion its venerable saints drew down upon this place grace from God, and it shineth here unto eternity for those with eyes to see.

Now & ever...: Theotokion, in the same tone—

Preserve thy servants from all misfortunes, O blessed Theotokos, that we may all glorify thee, the hope of our souls.

Great Doxology. Troparion. Litanies. Dismissal. First Hour.

At Liturgy

On the Beatitudes, 8 troparia: 4 from Ode III and 4 from Ode VI of the canon of the

saints.

Prokimenon of the saints, in Tone IV—

Wondrous is God in His saints, the God of Israel.

Stichos: In congregations bless ye God, the Lord from the well-springs of Israel.

And the prokimenon of Saturday, in Tone VIII—

Be glad in the Lord, and rejoice, ye righteous.

Epistle to the Galatians, § 213

Brethren: The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. Let us not be desirous of vainglory, provoking one another, envying one another. Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye who are spiritual, restore such a one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

And the epistle appointed for Saturday.

Alleluia of the saints, in Tone I—

Stichos: With patience I waited patiently for the Lord, and He was attentive unto me, and He hearkened unto my supplication.

Stichos: And He brought me up out of the pit of misery, and from the mire of clay.

And the Alleluia of Saturday, in Tone IV—

Stichos: The righteous cried, and the Lord heard them, and He delivered them out of all their tribulations.

Gospel according to Luke, § 24

At that time, Jesus stood in the plain, and the company of His disciples, and a great multitude of people out of all Judea and Jerusalem, and from the sea coast of Tyre and Sidon, who came to hear Him, and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were vexed with unclean spirits: and they were healed. And the whole multitude sought to touch Him: for there went virtue out of Him, and healed them all. And He lifted up His eyes on His disciples, and said: "Blessed be ye poor: for yours is the kingdom of God. Blessed are ye that hunger now: for ye shall be filled. Blessed are ye that weep now: for ye shall laugh. Blessed are ye, when men shall hate you, and when they shall separate you from their company, and shall reproach you, and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of man's sake. Rejoice ye in that day, and leap for joy: for, behold, your reward is great in heaven."

And the Gospel for Saturday.

Communion Verse—

Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous; praise is meet for the upright.