

Month of October

THE 26TH DAY

Commemoration of Our Father among the Saints Cedd, Bishop of the East Saxons

Note: The service to the Holy Hierarch Cedd is transferred to the previous or to the following day, or to such other day as the ecclesiarch may designate, so as to avoid conflicting with the feast of the Greatmartyr Demetrius.

At Vespers

On "Lord, I have cried...", these stichera, in Tone VI: Spec. Mel.: "Having set all aside..."—

Like the four evangelists, the holy Cedd and his three brethren—the glorious Chad, with Caelin and Cynibil—gave themselves over to the service of God, and together sought enlightenment on Lindisfarne, the Holy Isle, receiving there the grace of ordination. And from there, like bright stars, they shone with spiritual rays, reflecting the ineffable splendor of Christ the Light upon the benighted English peoples.

As Paul, the apostle to the nations, took Barnabas and Silas on his journeys to convert unbelievers to Christ, so likewise did the holy Cedd choose a priestly companion, and together they boldly went forth, sowing the seeds of Christian teachings wherever they went. And by their toils the holy Faith took root among the English as in rich and fertile ground, yielding an abundant harvest of souls for the Lord.

Glorifying the Savior of all for His great mercy toward man, the holy hierarch Finan and his brethren raised Cedd to their ranks, to be bishop for the Kingdom of Essex, where he labored with great diligence and zeal for Christ the Master, founding churches throughout the land, establishing monastic abodes, celebrating the holy Mysteries for the faithful, and guiding all by the example of his meek and humble life.

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

Like precious jewels set in a diadem of gold all the Christian virtues shone forth with brilliance in the holy Cedd. For in him did mercy and truth meet together, in his life did righteousness and peace kiss each other, in him was meekness exalted and pride cast down, in him did love of God and neighbor reign supreme. Wherefore, yearning to acquire these spiritual riches for ourselves, let us ever beseech the Lord, that He grant us the strength of spirit and mind to contend well according to His law, that having, like His saints, run the good race, we also may receive the crown of glory from His almighty hand.

Now & ever...: Theotokion, or this stavrotheotokion, in the same tone: Spec. Mel.: "—

When of old the unblemished Ewe-lamb, the immaculate Mistress, beheld her Lamb lifted up upon the Cross, she exclaimed maternally and, marveling, cried out: "What is this sight, new and all-glorious, O my sweet Child? How is it that the ungrateful people have betrayed Thee to the judgment-seat of Pilate and condemn the Life of all to death? Yet do I hymn Thine ineffable condescension, O Word!"

Aposticha stichera from the Octoechos; and Glory...: Idiomelon, in Tone IV—

Knowing well the words of David the Psalmist, who, moved by the Spirit of God, chanted in exultation: "Behold now, what is so good or so joyous as for brethren to dwell together in unity?", at Whitby the wondrous Cedd bowed to the will of his brethren and,

in greatness of soul and charity of heart, embraced the path of unity. Wherefore, he is ever bedewed by the grace of Christ, for in holy unity hath the Lord commanded His blessing: life forevermore.

Now & ever...: Theotokion, or this stavrotheotokion, in the same tone: Spec. Mel.: "Called from on high..."--

O Mother, beholding Me hanging upon the Tree, thy Son and God, Who fixed the earth immovably upon the waters and fashioned all creation, do not lament Me, for I shall arise and be glorified, and with might shall I lay waste to the kingdom of hell; I shall destroy its power, and its prisoners shall I deliver from the wickedness thereof, in that I am compassionate; and I shall lead them to My Father, for I am the Lover of mankind.

Troparion of the saint, in Tone IV—

Let us celebrate with love the sacred memory of the bright luminary of the Church, for as a wondrous teacher and worker of miracles he shone forth in humility and meekness, and made the faithful steadfast in piety. Wherefore, joining chorus together, let us now cry out to him with faith and love: Rejoice, O Cedd our father, who ever prayest for our souls!

At Matins

At "God is the Lord...", the troparion of the saint, twice; Glory..., Now & ever...: Theotokion.

Canon of the saint, with 4 troparia, the acrostic whereof is "We bless Cedd, the flock's true shepherd", in Tone VII—

Ode I

Irmos: Let us chant a hymn of victory unto God, Who led Israel to freedom through the Red Sea, for He hath been glorified.

With hymns of praise let us worship the All-holy Trinity, Who hath glorified the wondrous Cedd with mighty miracles.

Ensnared in the toils of the passions and defiled by mine iniquities, yet do I make bold to praise the holy hierarch of God.

By his zealous labors the saint of Christ triumphed utterly over the darkness of idolatry, and hath thus passed into glory.

Theotokion: Lovingly do we ever sing reverent hymns to the Theotokos, for she hath been glorified by her Creator and Son.

Ode III

Irmos: The Church of Christ hath been made steadfast through faith; for it unceasingly crieth out in hymns, chanting: Holy art Thou, O Lord! My spirit doth hymn Thee!

Even now, in these latter days, when the love of many hath grown cold, the Church of Christ still singeth: Holy art thou, O Cedd, most wondrous in holiness!

Steadfast did the blessed Cedd make the Church of Christ in Essex; and, taught by him, the faithful sang with joy: Holy art Thou, O Lord! Our spirit doth hymn Thee!

Stuck are we in the mire of our iniquities, and we choke on the stench of our sins; but Cedd pulleth us forth to sing: Holy art Thou, O Lord, and wondrous in Thy saints!

Theotokion: Come, ye faithful of the Orthodox Church, let us lift our voices to the Virgin Mother of God, crying: Holy art thou, O Lady, whom we hymn with all our soul!

Sessional hymn, in Tone : Spec. Mel.: "Go thou quickly before..."—

With great zeal the wondrous Cedd labored in Thy vineyard, O Master; for, granted divine strength and wisdom, he overcame the weakness of the flesh, set at naught the wiles of the demons, and by his love moved the people to repentance. Wherefore, at his entreaties, save Thou our souls, O Lord.

Glory..., Now & ever...: Theotokion—

By thy divine birthgiving, O pure one, thou hast made new our mortal nature which had grown corrupt in earthly passions, and hast raised all up from death to a life of incorruption. Wherefore, we all call thee blessed, as is meet, O all-glorious Virgin, as thou didst foretell.

Stavrotheotokion—

O all-immaculate Mother of Christ God: a sword pierced thine all-holy soul, when thou didst see thy Son and God crucified of His own will; Him do thou entreat without ceasing, O blessed one, that He grant us the forgiveness of our transgressions.

Ode IV

Irmos: I heard report of Thee, O Lord, and I was afraid; I understood Thy works, and was filled with awe: for Thou hast destroyed death by Thy Cross, granting us life.

Even after his repose, the holy Cedd, ever mindful of the flock given into his pastoral care, delivered from the plague his disciple, who had yet to be baptized.

Doubt not the report of the wonders wrought through the intercessions of the hierarch of Christ, for he hath acquired great boldness before the Ruler of all!

Divers miracles did the God-bearer Cedd work among his people: for he healed all manner of ailments of body and soul and by grace cast out demons from men.

Theotokion: The words of the archangel filled even the seraphim with awe and dread when they understood that the Word became flesh in thy womb, O all-pure one.

Ode V

Irmos: Night is bereft of light for those without faith, O Christ, but for the faithful there is enlightenment in the sweetness of Thy words; wherefore, I rise early unto Thee and hymn Thy divinity.

How brightly burneth the lamp of Cedd's virtues, giving light to those astray in the night of heathen darkness, and guiding them to the house of Christ, where they are warmed by his great fervor.

Ever delighting in the sweetness of his words, the reason-endowed sheep knew the voice of Cedd, their shepherd, who drove from them the soul-destroying wolves of heathen delusion.

Flourishing in the garden of the Savior like a mighty tree, in whose branches the faithful, like doves, found shelter, Cedd spread a verdant shade, shielding them from the heat of sin and error.

Theotokion: Languishing in the darkness of sin, yet are we, the faithful, filled with light at thy mediation before the throne of glory, whereon Christ, thy Son, doth sit eternally with the Father and the Spirit.

Ode VI

Irmos: I cried out to Thee, O Lord, when I was afflicted, and Thou didst raise up my life, O greatly Merciful One.

O the mercy of our mighty Lord, Who hath sent us so great an ally in the midst of the conflicts of our life!

Crying out in anguish to the venerable Cedd, we entreat him to lift us up from the mire of our transgressions.

Knowing the power of the prayers of the holy one, in the midst of our afflictions we beseech his mighty aid.

Theotokion: Scourged by the misfortunes of life, we cry out to thee, O Maiden: Raise us up to repentance, O all-pure one!

Kontakion, in Tone VIII: Spec. Mel.: "As first fruits..."—

Lifting our voices in psalms and spiritual songs, with reverence let us hasten in prayer to the glorious Cedd, the excellent physician of all maladies and our fervent advocate before the throne of Christ, Who hath bestowed upon him the grace of healing in abundance.

Ikos: Let us praise the holy Cedd, who, having lived blamelessly a meek and guileless life, hath gained entry to the courts of the house of our God, where he standeth with boldness before the throne of glory: for he was a teacher of heavenly wisdom, a feeder of the hungry, a helper of all in need, and a great champion of piety, and Christ hath bestowed upon him the grace of healing in abundance.

Ode VII

Irmos: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our fathers, Who by Thine Angel saved the children in the furnace, and transformed the flame into dew for them!

The burning heat of our passions is quenched by the prayers of the holy Cedd, and the flames of demonic temptations are extinguished by his mediation.

Rescued are we from the furnace of misfortunes, for the Savior sendeth his radiant angel, the holy hierarch Cedd, to pull us from the fire and flames of sin.

Unto the Lord God of our fathers let us fervently give thanks, for, He hath given Cedd to us as a champion and ally against the dread enemy of our race.

Theotokion: Exulting in thy maternal protection, O Mother of God, we escape the burning flames that our iniquities feed, for we are bedewed by thy mercy.

Ode VIII

Irmos: O ye people, hymn Christ our God, the Creator of all and Savior of our souls, and exalt Him supremely forever!

Sing ye now, O people, to Cedd, glorious in humility and wondrous in meekness, who ever prayeth for our souls!

Heaven received the venerable Cedd with jubilation, welcoming the faithful servant of the Creator into its courts.

Triadicon: Exalt ye above all the one God in three Hypostases—the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit—our Creator and Savior!

Theotokion: Praise the Mother of the Most High, O ye people of God, for she ineffably gave birth to the Creator and Savior.

Ode IX

Irmos: With hymns let us magnify the true Theotokos, the holy tabernacle, the animate ark, which the Wisdom of God hath made.

Hymns of praise and thanksgiving are all that we can offer unto the divinely wise hierarch of Christ, and even these are unworthy.

Ever full of godly wisdom and prudence, the virtuous Cedd led his people to piety and the right worship of the one triune Godhead.

Reclining now at the banquet of the Lamb of God, Cedd is ever nourished by the

deifying vision of His glorious countenance.

Theotokion: Devoutly let us magnify the true Theotokos, for in manner past all understanding she gave flesh to the Word and Wisdom of God.

Exapostilarion—

Watered by thine apostolic labors as by a gentle rain, O God-bearing Cedd, England crieth out to thee: Thou art my boast and the adornment of the Church of Christ!

Now & ever...: Theotokion—

O Virgin Mother, delight of the angels, comfort of the sorrowful, intercessor for all Christians: Help us, and deliver us from everlasting torments by thy mighty entreaties.

Aposticha stichera from the Octoechos; and Glory...: Idiomelon, in Tone VI—

When, weary of his apostolic labors, the venerable hierarch Chad reposed in the Lord, and his spirit ascended on high in a pillar of light. in token of the great favor he had found with God, then did the pious with spiritual eyes behold a vision: his holy brother, Cedd, who had gone before him, greeting and embracing him on his entry into paradise. Wherefore, filled with awe and holy fear, we celebrate their memory with faith and love, magnifying the Lord Who hath received them into glory.

Now & ever...: Theotokion, or this stavrotheotokion, in the same tone: Spec. Mel. : “On the third day...”—

Standing with the virginal disciple by the Tree at the time of the crucifixion, the Virgin cried aloud, weeping: “Woe is me! How is it that Thou sufferest, O Christ, Who art the dispassion of all?”

At Liturgy

Prokimenon, in Tone VII—

Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints.

Stichos: What shall I render unto the Lord for all that He hath rendered unto me?

Epistle to the Hebrews, § 335

Brethren: Obey those who have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as ones who must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you. Pray for us: for we trust we have a good conscience, in all things willing to live honestly. But I beseech you the rather to do this, that I may be restored to you the sooner. Now the God of peace, Who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do His will, working in you that which is well pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to Whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Alleluia, in Tone IV—

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

Stichos: Many are the tribulations of the righteous, but the Lord shall deliver them out of them all.

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 Judæa 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 who hunger now: for ye shall be filled. Blessed are ye who 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."

Communion Verse—

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