

Month of September

THE 16TH DAY

AFTERFEAST OF THE EXALTATION OF THE PRECIOUS CROSS OF THE LORD
**Commemoration of Our Father among the Saints Ninian,
Bishop of the Picts, Enlightener of Scotland,
Equal of the Apostles**

At Vespers

On "Lord, I have cried...", 6 stichera: 3 of the Cross, in Tone IV: Spec. Mel.: "Thou hast given a sign..."—

Today Thy precious Cross hath shone forth radiantly like the sun, O Savior Christ, set up and elevated on the all-glorious place of the skull, on Thine all-holy mountain, showing forth most manifestly that it is thereby, O Omnipotent One, that Thou hast raised our nature up to the heavens, in that Thou lovest mankind.

Today, O Unapproachable One, the heavens have declared Thy glory unto men; for the image of the Cross, shining forth in radiance with unapproachable light, hath denounced the savage and cruel nature of those who slew God. Wherefore, we glorify Thy loving dispensation, O almighty Jesus, Savior of our souls.

By stretching forth his arms Moses vanquished Amalek, prefiguring the image of the Cross; and we now, bowing down before the tree of the Cross, trample the wiles and machinations of the enemy underfoot, having Christ as our champion, Who was lifted up upon it in the flesh, slew the serpent and saved man.

And 3 of the holy hierarch, in Tone I: Spec. Mel.: "Joy of the ranks of heaven..."—

Joy of the ranks of hierarchs, who didst follow in the steps of the apostles, the holy Ninian is praised with hymns for he brought the saving light of Christ unto those who sat in heathen darkness.

The holy hierarch Ninian, waging war against the devil in the land of the Picts, lifted high the Cross as a standard of victory; wherefore, as a valiant warrior of Christ, his abode is ever with the angels.

Dwelling now in light unapproachable, O most blessed Ninian, entreat Christ the Master of all, the King of kings and Lord of lords, that He move the people of Scotland to repentance and have mercy on us all.

Glory...: Idiomelon of the holy hierarch, in Tone VI—

Thou wast a true guide on the straight and narrow path which leadeth to the kingdom on high, O most blessed Ninian; for thou wast first to arrive in the land of the Picts, where thou didst bring the Faith of Christ to the heathen, giving them new birth in water and the Spirit. And amid their bleak forests and moors thou didst graft them, like wild olive-shoots, upon Christ, the Tree of Life, whence they were filled with the oil of His mercy. Wherefore, honoring thee as a peer of the apostles and the great hierarchs of old, we earnestly fall down before thee, crying aloud: Entreat the God of all in behalf of the Scottish land and all who honor thy memory with love!

Now & ever...: Idiomelon of the Cross, in the same tone—

The four corners of the world are sanctified today as the four parts of Thy Cross are elevated, O Christ our God; and the horn of all Orthodox hierarchs is exalted with it. Wherefore, we crush the horns of our enemies. Great art Thou, O Lord, and wondrous art

Thou in Thy works! Glory be to Thee!

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

We bow down before the place where the feet of Christ stood, exalting the thrice blessed Cross whereon was shed the blood of the Master Who hath poured forth resurrection upon the world.

Stichos: Exalt ye the Lord our God; and worship the footstool of His feet, for it is holy.

Having mortified the passions of flesh and spirit, O ye divinely wise, let us make haste to elevate ourselves above earthly things to the resting-place of heaven, through the exaltation of the Cross, having crucified ourselves with Christ the Master.

Stichos: God is our King before the ages, He hath wrought salvation in the midst of the earth.

An ever-flowing well-spring hath manifestly issued forth from the divine side of the Savior, watering the souls of those who with faith worship His divine sufferings, His Cross and resurrection.

Glory...: Idiomelon of the holy hierarch, in Tone VIII—

Cease not to make bold entreaty, O holy hierarch Ninian, in behalf of thy Scottish flock and the descendants of those whom thou didst beget in Christ by thine awesome evangelical feat, that, delivered from the righteous wrath of God by thy mighty mediation, we may joyously celebrate thy yearly feast.

Now & ever...: Idiomelon of the Cross, the composition of John the Monk, in the same tone—

That which Moses prefigured with his body of old cast down and vanquished Amalek; and David the psalmist, crying out, hath commanded us to bow down before Thy footstool, Thy precious Cross, O Christ God. Today we sinners also do homage with our unworthy lips to Thee Whose will it was to be nailed thereto; and, chanting, we pray: O Lord, vouchsafe that with the thief we may receive Thy kingdom!

Troparion of the saint, in Tone I—

O Ninian, thou faithful servant of Christ, equal of the apostles, as a vessel overflowing with the love of Christ thou didst enlighten the land of the Picts with the Faith; wherefore, we beseech thee most earnestly: Entreat the life-creating Trinity, that the Scottish land may regain its ancient piety, that peace be granted to the world, and salvation to all who honor thy holy memory.

Glory..., Now & ever...: Troparion of the Cross, in the same tone—

O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance; grant victory unto Orthodox Christians over their adversaries, and by the power of Thy Cross preserve Thou Thy commonwealth.

At Matins

At "God is the Lord...", the troparion of the Cross, twice; Glory..., that of the holy hierarch; Now & ever...: that of the Cross, once.

Canon of the Cross, with 8 troparia, including the irmos (see in the Menaion); and that of the saint, with 4 troparia, the acrostic whereof is "This day Scotland rejoiceth in Ninian", in Tone I—

Ode I

Irmos: Of old, the most godly Moses provided a prefiguration, leading Israel in the Red Sea with Thy Cross, parting the water with his staff, and chanting a hymn of

exodus unto Thee, O Christ God.

The savage Picts, whom even the mighty armies of great Rome could not subdue, did meek Ninian lead into the eternal kingdom on high, chanting a hymn of exodus unto Thee, O Christ God.

His archpastoral staff in hand, the holy Ninian sailed across the cold northern seas, seeking a people who knew not the Lord, that he might teach them to chant unto Thee, O Christ God.

In Thy most precious Cross alone did Ninian glory, and he raised it up in the land of the heathen Picts, that, looking upon it, all might chant a hymn of exodus unto Thee, O Christ our God

Theotokion: Saved is mankind by the death of thy Son on the Cross, O holy Mother of the Lord, and freed from hades by His glorious resurrection; wherefore, we sing a hymn of exodus to Christ God.

Ode III

Irmos: O Master Christ, by Thy Cross establish me upon the rock of faith, that my mind may not be shaken by the assaults of the evil foe; for Thou alone art holy.

Deliver us from the assaults of the ancient adversary by thy prayers, O holy Ninian, and make us steadfast by the power of the Cross of Christ our God..

All the hordes of the demons cast themselves against the rock of thy faith, O saint of God, but, protected by the Cross, thou wast not shaken by their assaults.

Ye lands of the Scots, give glory unto your Creator and Master, Whose Cross was planted in your midst by the most glorious hierarch Ninian, His faithful servant.

Theotokion: Shaken are our souls by the assaults of the foe, for impotent and weak are we in doing the will of thy Son, O Virgin; but by thy supplications make us steadfast.

Kontakion of the holy hierarch, in Tone VI-

As a divinely eloquent preacher of Thy Gospel, O Lord, like Thy prophet who entered the lions' den did Thy servant Ninian tame the savage nature of the Picts, bringing them into Thy fold like gentle lambs. Wherefore, at his earnest supplication preserve us from evils and save us.

Ikos: The holy hierarch Ninian gave neither sleep to his eyes, nor slumber to his eyelids, until by great pangs and apostolic toil he had won the souls of the savage Picts for Thee, O Christ. And lo! by Thy grace that nation long flourished in piety. Wherefore, at his earnest supplication preserve us from evils and save us.

Sessional hymn of the holy hierarch, in Tone VIII: Spec. Mel.: "That which was mystically commanded..."—

Thy pure soul burning with love for God and neighbor, O Ninian, thou didst go forth to a distant and heathen land; and, armed with hierarchal grace as a shield, and bearing the Cross as thy weaponry, thou didst skillfully wage war against the demonic foe, manfully contending for possession of men's souls; and having prevailed over the foe most mightily, thou didst lay the spoils of thy victory at the feet of the King of kings, at Whose right hand thou standest for all eternity.

Glory..., Now & ever...: Sessional hymn of the Cross, in the same tone—

In the midst of Eden a tree budded forth death, and in the midst of all the world a tree budded forth life; for they who were incorrupt became corrupt on tasting the former, but they who have received the latter have inherited incorruption. For, as God, Thou

savest the human race through Thy Cross.

Ode IV

Irmos: Seeing Thee upon the Cross, O Mighty One, the great luminary was seized with trembling, and, furling its rays, it hid them; and all creation hymned Thy longsuffering with fear. For the earth hath been filled with Thy praise.

Crossing the turbulent seas, O Ninian, thou didst betake thyself to Rome, where thou wast taught the mysteries of the Faith, and didst take upon thy shoulders the Cross of Christ, with Whose praise thy lips were ever filled.

Over the city of Rome did the vision of the Cross of Christ appear to the mighty Constantine, and there also did the holy Ninian take up the same Cross, receiving the grace of the hierarchal rank at the tombs of the apostles.

The land of Italy is mild, full of verdant fields and vineyards; but Ninian heeded the call of the Lord, to labor in His vineyard in a far land of mists and cold, stony fells and barren moors, teaching the heathen to sing His praise.

Theotokion: Let us praise the sovereign Lady, the Queen of heaven and earth, the all-pure Bride of God, Who, in conceiving the preëternal and infinite Word within her womb, herself became more spacious than all the heavens.

Ode V

Irmos: Rising at dawn, we hymn Thee, O compassionate Savior, finding peace through Thy Cross, whereby Thou hast restored the human race, leading us to the never-waning Light.

At Whithorn did the holy Ninian build a church of stone, setting upon it the Cross of the Lord, and there he celebrated the sacred Mysteries, filling the people with never-waning light.

Ninian dwelt in a cave of rock, serving well the Savior Who in His compassion deigned to be born in a cave in Bethlehem of Judæa, that He might lead all men to never-waning light.

Dawning like the sun, the Christian Faith illumined the hearts and souls of a barbarous race, and, taught by the hierarch Ninian, they passed from darkness to never-waning light.

Theotokion: Rising at dawn, we sinners hymn the most compassionate Lady, into whose loving care our Savior entrusted us as He hung upon the Cross to restore our race to its pristine state.

Ode VI

Irmos: With his arms stretched forth in the belly of the sea monster, Jonah showed forth an image of the divine Cross and saw himself saved from the beast by Thy power, O Word.

Ever preaching Thee, the divine Word Who wast nailed to the Cross that we might be saved from the dominion of the beast, Ninian was filled with Thine ineffable power, O Savior.

Jonah vainly sought to hide from the Lord, setting sail for Tharsis; but Ninian willingly sailed to Britain, to save the Picts from the might of the beast by the power of the Cross.

Ocean's depths and turbulent waves could not turn the bold Ninian from his holy task, and with the Cross as his mast and sail, and the wind of the Spirit, he followed the apostles.

Theotokion: In sorrow the Mother of the Word stood at the foot of His Cross, and her soul was pierced as with a sword, beholding Him suffering agony and death to accomplish man's salvation.

Kontakion of the Cross, in Tone IV—

O Thou Who wast lifted up willingly upon the Cross, bestow Thy compassions upon the new community called after Thee, O Christ God; gladden by Thy power Orthodox Christians, granting them victory over all adversaries. May they have as an ally the invincible trophy, the weapon of peace.

Ikos: He who was caught up to the third heaven of paradise and heard unspeakable and divine words which the human tongue cannot utter, what writeth he to the Galatians, which, as lovers of the Scriptures, ye have both read and come to understand?—God forbid, saith he, that I should glory, save only in the Cross of the Lord,—whereon having suffered He slew the passions. Let us all then firmly hold this boast, the Cross of the Lord; for this Wood is our salvation, the invincible trophy, the weapon of peace!

Ode VII

Irmos: O Thou Who didst deliver the children from the flame, assuming flesh Thou didst come to earth, and nailed to the Cross Thou hast granted us salvation. O Christ, Thou only God of our fathers, blessed and all-glorious art Thou!

Celts and Picts alike languished in dark ignorance until the glorious Ninian arrived in their midst and preached the Word of God, teaching them to cry aloud: O Christ, Thou only God of our fathers, blessed and all-glorious art Thou!

Eternal flame awaited the souls of those who dwelt in the darkness of unbelief, but Ninian brought them the glad tidings of salvation, that they might sing: O Christ, Thou only God of our fathers, blessed and all-glorious art Thou!

Thou didst proclaim the Gospel of the Lord like an apostle, O blessed one, by thy word, deed and God-pleasing manner of life leading all to sing with joy: O Christ, Thou only God of our fathers, blessed and all-glorious art Thou!

Theotokion: How can we, who are wretched sinners, dare to lift our spiritual eyes to the holy Mother of Him Who was nailed to the Cross? For her sake we cry out: O Christ, Thou only God of our fathers, blessed and all-glorious art Thou!

Ode VIII

Irmos: Once, when Daniel, who is great among the prophets, was cast into the lions' den, and, stretching forth his arms in the form of the Cross he was saved from being devoured by them, blessing Christ God forever.

In the land of the Picts, Ninian toiled like a good husbandman, striving mightily to save the goodly harvest of men's souls from the demons who, like a plague of locusts, would have devoured them forever.

Now let us praise the hierarch Ninian, great among the saints of God, who wielding Cross as a mighty staff, saved the sheep of his fold from the spiritual lion, that they might bless Christ God forever.

Now let the pipes of the Scots sound forth in victory, for the Cross, borne like a battle standard by the bold Ninian, hath triumphed over the hordes of the adversary, putting them to headlong flight.

Theotokion: In thee alone to we set our hope of salvation, after Christ thy Son, O Virgin; for as He hung, nailed, upon the Cross, He entrusted us to thy maternal care, that,

saved, we may bless Him as God forever.

Ode IX

Irmos: O Virgin Mother, true Theotokos who without seed gavest birth to Christ our God, Who was lifted up upon the Cross in the flesh: all of us, the faithful, magnify thee with Him as is meet.

Never may the memory of the godly Ninian fade among the faithful of Scotland, for he was the first of the servants of God to bring to their shores the Christian Faith, wherein lieth our salvation.

In these latter times, when, as Christ foretold, the love of many hath grown cold, let us yet magnify His holy hierarch, in whom faith, hope and love burned brightly, that they may warm our souls.

Triadicon: All-holy Trinity, almighty Godhead—only-begotten Word, unoriginate Father, and Holy Spirit Who proceedeth from Him and is sent upon the world by the Son—we, the Orthodox, worship Thee.

Theotokion: Now let us hymn the Virgin Theotokos, the all-immaculate Mother of Christ Jesus, Who was nailed to the Cross for our sake and for our salvation; and let us magnify her with Him as is meet.

Exapostilarion of the holy hierarch: Spec. Mel.: “ ”—

Moved the Spirit, thou didst journey to the land of the Picts, and, having preached the Gospel to the heathen of those parts, thou didst convert multitudes. Wherefore, with love we celebrate thy memory as a good and faithful servant of Christ thy Master.

Glory..., Now & ever..., that of the Cross—

With splendors of bright radiance and divine desire the Cross of the Lord, which lieth before us, doth summon all to its elevation. Come ye all, and with joy, love and fear let us kiss it with faith and glorify the one Creator and Master!

Aposticha stichera of the Cross, in Tone II: Spec. Mel.: “O house of Ephratha...”—

With mystic hymnody together let us hymn the Cross of the Lord, whereon the Savior was crucified, the Resurrection of all.

Stichos: Exalt ye the Lord our God; and worship the footstool of His feet, for it is holy.

Come, ye multitudes of monastics, and, having assembled, in godly manner let us hymn the life-bearing Tree whereon Christ was stretched out.

Stichos: God is our King before the ages, He hath wrought salvation in the midst of the earth.

O ye faithful, let us glorify the Cross of the Lord, whereon the blood of the Master was poured forth for the deliverance of all.

Glory...: Idiomelon of the holy hierarch, in Tone I—

The angels of heaven were filled with joy, beholding the holy Ninian in their midst; the choir of the apostles, with the first-called Andrew at their head, welcomed him into their sacred company, and the ranks of hierarchs, led by the holy Martin, greeted his arrival with gladness. And together, they all join chorus forever, praising and worshiping the triune Godhead, Who reigneth over all eternally.

Now & ever...: Idiomelon of the Cross, the composition of Andrew of Jerusalem, in the same tone—

Today the holy words of David have received their fulfillment; for, lo! we manifestly worship the footstool of Thine all-pure feet, O most Compassionate One, and

cry out to Thee, placing our trust in the shelter of Thy wings: Let the light of Thy countenance be shined upon us! Exalt Thou the horn of Thine Orthodox people through the elevation of Thy Cross, O greatly merciful Christ!

At Liturgy

Prokimenon, in Tone I—

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

Stichos: Hear this, all ye nations; give ear, all ye that inhabit the world.

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: for this He did once, when He offered up Himself. For the law maketh men high priests that 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, in Tone II—

Stichos: Give heed, O my people, to my law; incline your ear unto the words of my mouth.

Stichos: I will open my mouth in parables, I will utter dark sayings which have been from the beginning.

Gospel according to Matthew, § 11

The Lord said to His disciples: “Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father Who is in heaven. Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled. Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.”

Communion Verse—

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