

Month of February

THE 6TH DAY

AFTERFEAST OF THE MEETING OF THE LORD WITH SYMEON

Commemoration of Our Father among the Saints

The Holy Hierarch Amandus, Apostle of Flanders & Picardy

Enlightener of the Basques

Note: This service for St. Amandus is intended to be celebrated in conjunction with that of the holy hierarch Bucolus (in the Menaion).

At Vespers

On "Lord, I have cried...", 6 stichera: 3 of the venerable Bucolus (see in the Menaion), and 3 of the holy hierarch, in Tone V, Spec. Mel.: "Rejoice..."—

Rejoice, O Christian peoples, and make merry on this most festive day, the memorial of the wondrous hierarch Amandus, who, resplendent in divine radiance, brought the light of salvation to many who were benighted by heathen darkness! Rejoice now, ye faithful of the Belgian lands, and clap your hands with joy and gladness; for he who illumined your lands with the brightness of the Faith is now fittingly celebrated in all the world!

Rejoice, ye faithful of the Orthodox Church, and with jubilation keep feast on this most joyous day, whereon we celebrate the memory of the divinely wise hierarch Amandus! Leap for joy, ye people of Flanders, for your enlightener is exalted to the heavens, and, standing with all the saints and angels before the throne of the Lord of all, he intercedeth with boldness before Him, praying for those who entreat his aid, that God have mercy on us.

Rejoice, O Picardy and Artois, and leap up in exultation, for the glorious Amandus, who adorned your lands with monastic abodes, as a goldsmith adorneth a crown with precious stones, dwelleth now in the heavens, where he abideth eternally in the splendor of grace, keeping festival with the angelic hosts, and doth hymn the Holy Trinity with never-ceasing praises, bearing our urgent pleadings unto Him Whose loving-kindness with boundless.

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

Full of love for his Master, in his youth Amandus forsook his home, and fleeing the delusions and tumults of the world, found refuge in the monastic haven of the Isle of Yeu. And there, ascending the ladder of grace, he embraced the statutes of the Lord with faith, crying out to his earthly father: "Mine inheritance is Christ alone, and to him alone will I cling, my salvation and my God!" Wherefore, having endured to the end, he dwelleth now in the habitations of the saints, in the land of the living.

Now & ever...: Doxasticon of the Meeting (see in the Menaion).

Aposticha stichera of the Meeting (see in the Menaion); and Glory...: Idiomelon of the holy hierarch Amandus, in Tone V—

As an athlete of piety, Amandus trained his body with the rigors of fasting, putting down the uprisings of the passions and the flesh, striving earnestly to purify his mind, and repelling all the temptations of the evil one; wherefore, he was accounted worthy of the hierarchal dignity, wherein he brought the saving Faith to the heathen, tending them with his shepherd's staff by the still waters of redemption.

Now & ever...: Doxasticon of the Meeting (see in the Menaion).

Troparion of the holy hierarch Bucolus (see in the Menaion);

Glory...: that of the holy hierarch Amandus, in Tone III—

By thy discourse thou didst bring the glad tidings of salvation unto many nations and peoples, O Amandus; by thy tireless struggles thou didst win the heights of virtue, strengthening thy labors with signs and wonders from on high: wherefore, the Holy Church doth glorify thee; for thou sendest down upon it beams of grace divine from thy heavenly habitation.

Now & ever...: Troparion of the Meeting (see in the Menaion).

At Matins

At “God is the Lord...”, the troparion of the Meeting, once; that of the holy hierarch Bucolus (see in the Menaion); Glory...: that of the holy hierarch Amandus (above); Now & ever...: that of the Meeting, once.

Sessional hymns of the Meeting after the kathismata of the Psalter (see in the Menaion)

Canon of the Meeting, with 6 troparia, including the irmos, twice; canon of the holy hierarch Bucolus, with 4 troparia; and that of the holy hierarch Amandus, with 4 troparia, the acrostic whereof is “Flanders giveth thanks to God for Amand”, in Tone VIII—

Ode I

Irmos: Let us chant unto Christ, Who overthrew the tyranny of Pharaoh in the sea, and led Israel over to dry land, for He hath been glorified forever.

Fleeing the allurements and temptations wherewith the enemy of mankind doth ensnare us, Amandus ever sought the land of the living.

Leaving thy father's house in secret, O Amandus, thou didst pass over the waves of the sea, finding refuge for thy soul in a monastic haven.

As thy father commanded thee to return to him, O wise one, thou didst loudly declare: "Christ alone is mine inheritance, Who is glorified forever!"

Theotokion: Now let us sing praises to the King of all, Who in His mercy hearkeneth to the entreaties of His pure Mother, for He hath been glorified.

Ode III

Irmos: Thou art the confirmation of those who have recourse to Thee, O Lord; Thou art the light of the benighted; and my spirit doth hymn Thee.

Desiring to pursue perfection of soul, O saint, thou didst betake thyself to the holy Austregesilus, who guided thee in the paths of righteousness.

Eating only bread, and with water as his only drink, the holy Amandus laid waste his body for many years, routing all the passions of the flesh.

Rome beckoned thee to the tombs of the preëminent apostles and the martyrs, O divinely wise one, from whence thou didst receive divine grace.

Theotokion: Steadfast in the Faith of Christ, we have recourse ever to the Theotokos; and, praising her, we magnify her, our Queen, with glorious hymns
Kontakion of the holy hierarch Amandus, in Tone III: Spec. Mel.: “Today, the Virgin...”—

Moved by piety, the faithful glorify the wondrous Amandus today: the true servant of his Master and steward of His Mysteries, who journeyed into distant lands to bring to those in heathen darkness the grace of Christ, our preëternal God.

Ikos: Come, ye faithful, let us praise our God-bearing father Amandus, a tower of strength for the Holy Church, the herald of the glad tidings of the Gospel, arrayed in all the virtues as in splendid raiment, who sounded forth the divine clarion of the peerless Faith. For, driving the spiritual darkness of unbelief far from us, and burning away the gloom of iniquity with the fire of the Spirit, by his ascetic feats he transformed the Flemish people from wild beasts into a goodly flock for the Lord, bringing them into the Christian Church, and he filled the whole world with a multitude of miracles: wherefore, he standeth, crowned, before the Almighty, having brought nations and peoples out of heathen darkness by the grace of Christ, our preëternal God.

Sessional hymn of the holy hierarch Bucolus (see in the Menaion)

Glory...: Sessional hymn of the holy hierarch Amandus, in the same tone (IV) & melody ("Having been lifted up...")—

O Amandus, who didst freely take up thy cross, willingly following Christ thy Master, by the power of His grace thou didst work glorious miracles, thereby bringing many to the saving Faith. Wherefore, we beseech thee most earnestly: By thine entreaties move Christ our God to have mercy on us all.

Glory..., Now & ever...: Sessional hymn of the Meeting (see in the Menaion).

Ode IV

Irmos: What criest thou, O Prophet Habbakuk? What hast thou seen which filleth thee with awe? Beholding God come forth from Thæman, I was afraid!

Great is the grace of hierarchal ordination, which thou didst humbly receive, O saint; and in that exalted rank thou didst ever do the will of Christ.

In Ghent, the heathen stopped their ears to thy preaching, O Amandus; but seeing thee raise the dead to life, filled with awe they hearkened unto thee.

Visiting the Flemish lands, Amandus established habitations of monastics therein, where praise and supplications were offered up to God day and night.

Theotokion: Each of the prophets foretold the birth of the Messiah through thee, O all-holy Virgin; for with noetic eyes they foresaw thine incomparable purity.

Ode V

Irmos: With Thy light illumine my mind, I pray Thee, O God, that, having risen at dawn out of the night, I may hymn Thy great goodness.

The iniquitous king, unable to bear thy fatherly reproofs, O saint, banished thee forthwith; but thou didst rejoice therein for piety's sake.

How beautiful were thine apostolic feet, O Amandus, which bore thee to the far country of the Slavs, to proclaim the glad tidings of peace!

The raging billows of the sea could not withstand the grace within thee, O holy hierarch, for thou didst still them by thy mighty supplications.

Theotokion: Hosts of angels bow down in homage before thee, O Theotokos, for as the Mother of the Light thou hast shone the light of salvation upon us.

Ode VI

Irmos: Thou didst cause Jonah to sojourn alone within the sea monster, O Lord. Save me, who am caught in the nets of the enemy, as thou didst save him from corruption.

Amandus, like a good shepherd, strove to tend the flock of Christ with the rod of justice and goodly order, summoning his fellow bishops to uproot evils and sin.

Neither the rigors of travel and thine apostolic labors, nor the burden of advancing years, prevailed on thee to forsake the preaching of the Gospel, O holy hierarch.

Keeping in mind that victory is won by him who runneth the race till the end, though full of years the holy one set forth to save the Basques from corruption.

Theotokion: Save us, O Lady, from the malice of the evil one, and free us from his tangled webs by thy mighty supplications to thy Son, our Savior and Redeemer, O Mistress!

Kontakion & ikos of the Meeting (see in the Menaion)

Ode VII

Irmos: When the children were cast into the furnace, the tyrant, seeing the countenance of the Fourth, Who appeared as the Son of God, cried out with them: Blessed art Thou, O God, forever!

Thou wast a spiritual goldsmith, O saint, for thou didst make the great Convent of Nivelles a jewel wherein like gems Gertrude and Itta were set, who sang: Blessed art Thou, O God, forever!

O the glory of thy labors and toils, O hierarch! For thou didst adorn Flanders with many monastic habitations, as the lilies of the field bedeck the meadows of Christ our God forever.

Growing weak in body, yet didst thou increase in the strength of thy soul day by day, O divinely wise Amandus, rising from glory to glory in the sight of our God, Who is blessed forever.

Theotokion: O wondrous mystery far surpassing the understanding of mortals! One of the Trinity dwelt within thee, O Theotokos, yet burned thee not! Blessed is our incarnate God forever!

Ode VIII

Irmos: All creation blesseth Thee, O Lord. The hosts of heaven glorified Thee with the children. And we hymn and exalt Thee supremely for all ages.

Disdaining riches and worldly glory, thy disciple Bavo heeded thy preaching, O Amandus, and gave all his wealth to found an illustrious monastery.

Following the precepts of Christ thy Master, O holy one, thou didst tirelessly pursue virtue, hymning and exalting God supremely for all ages.

O blessed hierarch, thine example and corrections touched the hearts even of the barbarous Franks, and they glorified the Lord supremely for all ages.

Triadicon: Receive our worship, O Holy Trinity our God, Who with hymns art glorified supremely in the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, for all ages.

Theotokion: All creation falleth silent, O Lady, unable to utter fitting praises wherewith to glorify thee; but we make bold to exalt thee in hymns for all ages.

Ode IX

Irmos: Rejoice, O thou who art full of grace, who wast raised in the holy of holies and gavest birth to the Light of the universe! We magnify thy birthgiving with hymns!

Magnifying thy wondrous works, O saint, we gaze with reverence upon the stones of Elnone, the monastery where thou didst repose, whence we receive grace divine.

As the Lord saith, His kingdom is taken by force, O holy one; wherefore, assail heaven with the power of thy mediation, that with thee we may enter its holy of holies.

Now shine forth upon us the light of God's loving-kindness, O Amandus, that, illumined thereby, we may magnify the mighty works wrought by Him through thee.

Theotokion: Disdain not our meager praises, O thou who art full of grace, neither disdain the offerings of our defiled mouths, for we dare not remain silent concerning thy purity.

Exapostilarion of the holy hierarch: Spec. Mel.: “By the Spirit in the holy place...”—

Called by the Spirit to spread the teachings of the Gospel throughout many lands, Amandus was like a ship moved by the breath of God, having the Cross of the Savior as its mast and sail, whereby many were brought safely to the haven of salvation.

Glory..., Now & ever...: Exapostilarion of the Meeting (see in the Menaion).

Aposticha stichera of the Meeting (see in the Menaion); and Glory...: Idiomelon of the holy hierarch Amandus, in Tone I—

Enfeebled by thy mighty labors, O Amandus, thou didst set aside thine honors and toils, and, seeking spiritual stillness, thou didst withdraw to the shelter of thy monastery at Elnone, there to live out thy remaining days in fasting and prayer; and in that place thou didst surrender thy soul into the hands of the Lord, Whom thou didst wondrously serve throughout thy life, leaving behind thy holy relics, from whence all manner of healings gushed forth in witness to the favor thou hast with the Trinity.

Now & ever...: Doxasticon of the Meeting (see in the Menaion)

At Liturgy

On the Beatitudes: Troparia from the appointed ode or odes of the canon of the Meeting (see in the Menaion).