

# Month of December

## THE 1<sup>ST</sup> DAY

### Commemoration of Our Father among the Saints Eligius the Goldsmith, Bishop of Noyon & Tournai, Enlightener of Flanders & Wonderworker of the Frankish Lands

*N.B.:* This service may be combined with either that of the Prophet Nahum or that of the righteous Philaret the Merciful. If the former, the hymns of the prophet precede those of the holy hierarch; if the latter, the hymns of the holy hierarch precede those of the righteous one.

### At Vespers

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

Adorned with a golden character, his virtues like brilliant jewels, in a corrupt and iniquitous age the holy Eligius shone with the luster of grace, enriching those around him. For, setting aside all costly raiment and the precious tokens of his rank, he took a hair-shirt for his vesture, and gave his substance to clothe and feed the poor; and as a true servant of Christ the Master, he ransomed many captives from slavery.

Setting all his hope on heaven, Eligius the holy hierarch journeyed throughout the land, bringing the light of Christ to those who lay in heathen darkness. Wherefore, rejoice, O Flanders, and be glad, ye lowlands! For the glorious Eligius raised you up to Faith in the Lord, to hope in the rewards He hath promised those who follow Him, and to the love that passeth all human understanding.

Having wrought thrones of gold for mighty kings and minted coins of silver and gold in their name, the sacred Eligius, seeking neither silver nor gold, used these precious metals for the glory of God Who is wondrous in His saints; for he wrought shrines to hold the bodies of the saints, likewise raised up wondrous churches, and founded many monasteries, wherein sinners might repent and offer praise to the Trinity.

*Glory...: Idiomelon, in Tone II—*

In a time of wars and sedition, when, athirst for power, kings slew their kin and nobles rose up against their rulers, Eligius shone forth in spiritual splendor, instructing all in the ways of peace, reproofing the guilty and defending the innocent; wherefore, he is known to men and angels as a son of God the Prince of peace, and he dwelleth in peace in the mansions on high.

*Now & ever...: Theotokion, or this stavrotheotokion, in the same tone: Spec. Mel.: “When from the Tree...”—*

Beholding the Creator of all Who endured much vexation and was lifted up upon the Cross, the all-pure one groaned, saying: “O all-hymned Lord, my Son and God, how is it that Thou endurest dishonor in the flesh, desiring to honor Thy creation? Glory to Thy great loving-kindness and condescension, O Thou Who lovest mankind!”

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

Aquitaine was blessed by thy birth and youth, O saint; Limoges was gladdened by thy manhood; Marseille beareth witness to thy great works of almsgiving and love; and Paris is yet adorned by thy wondrous artistry; but more than these doth Flanders rejoice,

for thou didst enrich it with the glorious Christian Faith more than treasures of gold and silver: and in thanksgiving its people ever praise thee, O most honored Eligius.

*Now & ever...: Theotokion, or this stavrotheotokion, in the same tone: Spec. Mel.: "O al-praised martyrs..."—*

Beholding her Lamb upon the Cross, bereft of form and beauty, the unblemished ewe-lamb and Mistress said, lamenting: "Woe is me! Whither hath Thy beauty set, O Thou Who art most sweet? Where is Thy comeliness? Where is the radiant grace of Thine image, O my Son most beloved?"

*Troparion of the saint, in Tone I—*

With gladsome voices let us celebrate the holy memory of Eligius, the great beacon illuming Flanders and all the lands of the Franks, for he set at naught the feeble attacks of the demons, and by his charity rendered the faithful steadfast in piety. Wherefore, joining chorus together, O ye Christians, let us all cry aloud to him: Rejoice, O Eligius our father, who prayest earnestly for all who honor thy holy memory with love!

### **At Matins**

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

*Canon of the holy hierarch, with 4 troparia, the acrostic whereof is "Golden are the virtues of holy Eligius", in Tone V—*

#### Ode I

*Irmos:* Christ, Who hath delivered our race from the madness of idolatry, hath appeared on earth! To Him alone let us chant, for He hath been glorified.

Grant me words wherewith I may praise thy favored servant fittingly, O Christ Who wast born for our salvation, for Thou hast glorified him.

O thy marvelous charity, O saint of God! For thou didst sell thy costly raiment to feed the poor and clothe the needy, for which thou art glorified.

Let us worship Christ, our glorious God incarnate, Who delivereth us from sin and damnation; for He giveth us wondrous helpers like Eligius.

*Theotokion:* Deliver us from our divers passions, O Mother of God, who gavest birth to Him on earth; for as thou art the Theotokos He hath glorified thee.

#### Ode III

*Irmos:* Be Thou my confirmation and refuge, O Savior; and vouchsafe Thy kingdom, O Word and Master, unto those who truly confess Thy divine incarnation with all their heart.

Eligius was found worthy to dwell in Thy kingdom on high, O Lord, for on earth he was a sure refuge for those in need, and he helpeth those who confess Thy divine incarnation.

Neither gold, nor silver, nor jewels held sway in thy soul, O saint of God; but rather thou didst hold Faith in Christ and all the virtues as thy treasure, and therein was thy heart also confirmed.

As a pious Christian thou couldst not bear to see thy fellow men languishing in bondage, and, imitating Christ, Who hath delivered us from slavery to sin, thou didst pay their ransom.

*Theotokion:* Refuge and haven art thou for us, who are pursued without mercy by the hordes of hades; wherefore, finding rest and peace with thee, O Lady, we praise thee as the helper of our race.

*Sessional hymn, in Tone IV: Spec. Mel.: "Go Thou quickly before..."—*

When misfortunes and calamities overwhelm us, when the wiles and deceits of the enemy would drag us down into the abyss of perdition, stand forth right speedily before the throne of Christ, O holy one, and make earnest supplication in behalf of us sinners, that He may ever treat us with loving-kindness.

*Glory..., Now & ever...: Theotokion—*

O pure and most immaculate one who knewest not man, and who alone gavest birth in time to the timeless Son and Word of God: With the holy and honored patriarchs and martyrs, with the prophets and the venerable, entreat Him, that He grant us cleansing and great mercy.

*Or this stavrotheotokion—*

As she beheld Thee, O Word of God, suspended upon the Cross, Thine all-pure Mother cried out, lamenting maternally: "What is this new and awesome wonder, O my Son? Why is it that Thou, the Life of all, dost taste of death, desiring to bring life to the dead, in that Thou art full of loving-kindness?"

#### Ode IV

*Irmos:* Hearing of Thine advent from the densely wooded mountain, the prophet cried aloud: Glory to Thine ineffable incarnation!

Eligius, full of piety, founded many monasteries, wherein repentant sinners could cry aloud: Glory to Thine ineffable incarnation!

Thou didst shed tears in abundance, O blessed one, weeping and crying aloud to Christ: Glory to Thine ineffable incarnation!

Having the great Columbanus as thine instructor, thou didst dwell on earth like an angel, and wast guided by his monastic rule.

*Theotokion:* Emerging from thee, the densely wooded mountain that Habbakuk beheld in prophecy, O Lady, Christ hath saved mankind.

#### Ode V

*Irmos:* Shine forth the light of the understanding of Thee, O Christ God; illumine our hearts, and save our souls.

Vile simony was repugnant to thee, O God-bearer, and thou didst strive mightily to uproot it in every place.

In Paris thou didst glorify the saints of God, and there didst dedicate a church to the apostle of the nations.

Restoring the ancient church of the hieromartyr Martial of Limoges, thou didst call Paris to pray therein.

*Theotokion:* The Light of salvation shone forth from thine immaculate womb, O Mother, leading us to knowledge divine.

#### Ode VI

*Irmos:* In my grief I cried aloud: O my Savior. I pray Thee, in that Thou art merciful deliver me from the afflictions and infirmities which assail me, being mindful of Thy mercy!

Unto thy Savior didst thou unceasingly pray, O divinely wise one, that He deliver thy people from misfortunes and all ailments, in that He is merciful and full of loving-kindness.

Entreating the saints to intercede for thee and thy flock, O holy one, thou didst glorify them, fashioning rich shrines to hold the precious relics of the holy Martin and Dionysius.

Seeing thy piety and perceiving thy godly wisdom, with one voice the faithful chose thee as a worthy successor to the holy Acharius, whose manner of life thou didst imitate, O saint.

*Theotokion:* O Mother of my Savior, in thy mercy lighten the grief that oppressteth me, wretch that I am, and dispel all the sorrows that assail me, that in joy and gladness I may praise thee.

*Kontakion, in Tone IV—*

Having enslaved thyself to the Lord, O wise one, in His service thou didst lay waste thy body by fasting, and in thy charity becamest a precious vessel of the Holy Spirit. Wherefore, thou wast the chosen shepherd His rational flock, which thou didst graze upon the meadows of piety, leading them to the still waters of faith. For this cause, we entreat thee: Be thou ever mindful of us who honor thy memory, that we may all cry out to thee: Rejoice, O most honored Eligius!

*Ikos:* With hymns let us now honor the shepherd and teacher of Flanders, of Frisia and all the lands of the Franks, that at his supplications we may be delivered from the assaults of the demons; for he was shown to be blameless and incorrupt, a holy hierarch hallowed in body and soul. Wherefore, come, ye faithful Christians, and let us utter fitting praise to the true champion of the Church, the proclaimer of the Orthodox Faith, the all-wondrous worker of miracles, the merciful intercessor for our souls, the most honored Eligius!

#### Ode VII

*Irmos:* Blessed art Thou, O God of our fathers, Who didst quench the fiery furnace in Babylon and preserve the children therein as in a bridal-chamber!

Full of grace divine, O Eligius, thou wast an ornament of the Church of Tournai and a mighty standard for the Church of Noyon, O holy hierarch.

Heathens were greater in number than Christians in the lands placed under thy spiritual care, O godly father, but thou didst bring them into thy flock.

O God of our fathers, the great Eligius preached Thy holy name among the barbarian tribes, bringing Thy light to the Frisians, Flemish and Swabians.

*Theotokion:* Looking with awe upon thy wondrous assent, O Maiden, the archangel exclaimed: Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the Fruit of thy womb!

#### Ode VIII

*Irmos:* O ye people, hymn Christ the King, Whom the cherubim hymn and the seraphim glorify, and exalt Him supremely for all ages!

Ye people, in hymns let us praise the sacred Eligius, to whom Christ revealed the precious relics of the holy hieromartyr Piatas.

Exalting the great achievements of the holy wonderworker Fursey, O Eligius, thou didst transfer his relics to a fitting shrine.

Laboring as an apostle of Christ in a rude and barbaric land, O saint, thou didst amaze the bodiless hosts with thy longsuffering.

*Theotokion:* Incarnate and born of thee, the Queen of heaven, O Mary, Christ the King is glorified supremely by the angels for all ages.

#### Ode IX

*Irmos:* O the wonder! For the nature perfected in thee is renewed, O Theotokos, and God becometh man. And theologizing that there are two natures in Him, we magnify thee.

God took thy holy soul into His hands when thou didst reach the end of thine earthly life, O hierarch, and the earth received thy precious body at thy city of Noyon.

In word and deed didst thou worship Christ in two natures and wills, but a single hypostasis: the Word incarnate of the blessed Theotokos, whom we magnify, O Eligius.

Uttering theology, thou didst lead thy flock to paradise, O holy one; wherefore, taught by thee, we worship the Offspring of the Theotokos: the Word Who became man.

*Theotokion:* Sing ye now of the divine incarnation and nativity of Christ, O ye faithful! For through the Theotokos did He become man while remaining God, in unconfused union.

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

Hearken, ye angels, to our joyful utterance, for with gladsome voices we exalt the holy Eligius, who, trampling down the snares of the enemy of our race, freeth us therefrom like sparrows. O ye Christians, let us praise the wondrous hierarch unceasingly in melodious spiritual songs.

*Theotokion—*

O ye faithful, come, and with a pure conscience let us glorify the Mother of our God, who bore within her womb Christ, the divine infant Savior. For in that she hath maternal boldness before her Son, she intercedeth unceasingly in our behalf, and granteth her servants rich and abundant mercies.

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

Willingly shouldering the easy yoke of Christ, O blessed father Eligius, thou didst bear it with humble-mindedness, adorning thy soul with fasting, prayer, guilelessness and all the Christian virtues. Thou didst serve thy rulers and people with great diligence and zeal; and bringing peace and enlightenment to those in thy charge, thou becamest for them a spiritual bulwark and tower of defense. Wherefore, magnifying thee with love, in thanksgiving we beseech thee: O wondrous hierarch, entreat Christ our God, Who hath magnified thee with glory divine, that He have pity and save our souls!

*Now & ever...: Theotokion, or this stavrotheotokion, in the same tone: Spec. Mel. : "Having set all aside..."—*

A sword pierced thy heart, O all-pure Mistress, as Symeon said, when thou didst behold Him Who shone forth from thee ineffably, condemned by the iniquitous and lifted up upon the Cross, tasting vinegar and gall, His side pierced, His hands and feet run through with nails; and, lamenting, thou didst exclaim, crying out maternally: "What is this new mystery, O my Child most sweet?"

### At Liturgy

*Prokimenon, in Tone I—*

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

*Stichos:* The mouth of the righteous is exercised in wisdom, and his tongue shall speak of judgment.

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, in Tone II—*

*Stichos:* The mouth of the righteous shall meditate wisdom, and his tongue shall speak of judgment.

*Stichos:* The law of his God is in his heart, and his steps shall not be tripped.

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 who 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.