

Month of April
THE 29TH DAY
Commemoration of Our Father among the Saints
Erconwald, Bishop of London

N.B.: Though the traditional date of the holy hierarch's commemoration is the 30th of April, we transfer it to the 29th of April so as to avoid its coincidence with the feast of the holy Apostle James, son of Zebedee, the brother of the Apostle John the Theologian.

At Vespers

On "Lord, I have cried...", 6 stichera: 3 from the Pentecostarion, and 3 of the holy hierarch, in Tone II: Spec. Mel.: "When from the Tree..."—

When the light of Orthodoxy dawned upon the English lands, and the hearts of many were filled with saving grace, then did Erconwald, the scion of a princely house, follow the words of the Gospel, disposing of his inheritance; and following Christ the Lord, he took up his cross, establishing two abodes for ascetic labors.

When he had fought the good fight unremittingly, guiding his monastic flock with great prudence, then was the venerable Erconwald given a further task: for, mindful of the needs of the London flock, the holy hierarch Theodore desired for them a godly shepherd, and summoned the blessed one to take up the see of the holy Mellitus.

When grace filled the wondrous Erconwald, exalting him upon the hierarchal throne, then did he shine forth in holiness with great splendor, working countless miracles and healing the sick by his supplications. Wherefore, the faithful of London, honoring his godliness, had recourse to him in life and to his holy relics after his repose.

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

Like the sun hath thy memorial dawned for the Church, spiritually enlightening all who celebrate it today; wherefore, we cry out unto thee: Rejoice, O true follower of Christ, who, following His commandments, didst sell all that thou didst possess! Rejoice, O instructor of piety and virtue! Rejoice, thou boast of monastics and glory of hierarchs! O right blessed father Erconwald, beseech Christ God most earnestly, that He grant peace to the world and salvation to our souls.

Now & ever...: Doxasticon from the Pentecostarion.

Aposticha stichera from the Pentecostarion; and Glory...: Idiomelon of the holy hierarch, in Tone VI—

Thy virtue and holiness revealed thee to all as a model of meekness and humility, O holy hierarch Erconwald; and after thy repose, as during thy life, thou hast wrought abundant miracles, for even the litter that bore thy much-suffering body healed the infirmities of those who touched it with faith. Wherefore, we pray thee unceasingly: Entreat Christ God, that at thy mighty intercession He save our souls.

Now & ever...: Doxasticon from the Pentecostarion.

Troparion of the holy hierarch, in Tone II—

Resplendent with rays of grace divine, thou didst enlighten thy people with the Christian Faith, O Erconwald, guardian of the Mysteries of Christ; and working wonders by the power of the Spirit, thou dost manifestly heal sufferings of body and soul for those who have recourse to thee with confidence. Wherefore, take pity on us, thy children in the Faith, and beseech Christ God, that He save our souls.

Glory..., Now & ever...: Troparion from the Pentecostarion, or as prescribed by the Typicon.

At Matins

At "God is the Lord...", the troparion from the Pentecostarion, twice; Glory..., that of the holy hierarch; Now & ever...: Troparion or theotokion, as prescribed by the Pentecostarion.

Canon from the Pentecostarion, with 6 troparia, including the irmos; and that of the holy hierarch, with 4 troparia, the acrostic whereof is "Chertsey and Barking dance with London", in Tone VI—

Ode I

Irmos: The perceptible Pharaoh was drowned with all his army, but Israel, crossing through the midst of the sea, cried aloud: Let us chant unto the Lord God, for He hath been glorified!

Come, ye Christians, and let us chant with gladness unto our Lord and God, Who in the wondrous Erconwald hath given us so great an intercessor, in that He hath been glorified!

Having burned with godly desire for Christ thy Master and Teacher, thou didst sell all thou didst possess, that thou mightest chant unto the Lord God, for He hath been glorified.

Ever waging the ascetic struggle, O most blessed one, thou wast an example for monks and a model for nuns, teaching them to chant unto the Lord God, for He hath been glorified.

Theotokion: Rescue us from Satan and his hordes, O Lady, as of old thy Son delivered the children of Israel from Pharaoh and his army, that we may chant unto Him, for He hath been glorified.

Ode III

Irmos: Establish Thy Church, O Lord Who didst set up the heavens with understanding, that it may hymn Thine all-pure dispensation, O Thou Who alone lovest mankind.

The Monasteries of Chertsey and Barking held thee to be their boast and glory, for thou didst found them both, that monastics might hymn therein Him Who loveth mankind.

Setting up the Convent of Barking with understanding, O wise one, thou didst put thy sister, Ethelburga, to rule therein, that she might lead her flock unto Him Who loveth mankind.

Establishing the peoples of the English lands in faith and piety, Erconwald set up monastic habitations, wherein prayers could ever be offered unto Him Who loveth mankind.

Theotokion: Ye magnify your Queen with immaterial lips, O heavenly intelligences; for, in accordance with divine dispensation, she conceived and gave birth to God Who loveth mankind.

Kontakion of the holy hierarch, in Tone VIII: Spec. Mel.: "To thee, the champion leader..."—

To thee, the guardian of London, do we, thy servants, chant hymns of jubilation and praise, as ones delivered from tribulations, O saint of God. As thou hast glory in the

highest, free us from all temptations, that we may cry to thee: Rejoice, O Erconwald most honored!

Sessional hymn of the holy hierarch, in Tone III: Spec. Mel.: "Of the divine faith..."—

By forsaking rank and riches thou didst free thy heart to follow Christ, and in founding abodes of piety thou didst enable the faithful to do likewise; wherefore, Christ God hath given thee the power to work countless miracles for those who entreat thee with faith, O Erconwald.

Glory..., Now & ever...: Sessional hymn from the Pentecostarion.

Ode IV

Irmos: The prophet, foreseeing Thine ineffable mystery, O Christ, declared to Thee beforehand: Thou hast set forth a mighty love of strength, O compassionate Father; for Thou hast sent the only-begotten Son into the world for its cleansing, O Good One.

As thou didst scale the ladder of the virtues, O venerable one, thou didst ascend from glory to glory, until thou didst stand before the throne of the King of heaven, the only-begotten Son of the all-good Father.

Not able to endure the might of thy deified spirit, O holy hierarch, the wicked one, the primeval enemy of the human race, fled from thy presence, for thou didst shine with the light of the only-begotten Son of God.

Declaring the greatness of God's dispensation for man's salvation, how He came into the world and became man that man might become divine, Erconwald taught his flock divine and most holy mysteries.

Theotokion: Begotten of the unoriginate Father timelessly, the only-begotten Son of God descended into thy womb, O all-pure Virgin, that in His love and compassion He might save the human race from sin and death.

Ode V

Irmos: O Christ Who makest the light to shine upon the world, illumine the heart of me who out of the night cry unto Thee, and save me.

Angles and Saxons, who lay in the darkness of ignorance did the holy one enlighten with the truth of man's redemption.

Resplendent in holiness hard won by ascetic toil, the virtues and the love of Christ, the hierarch wrought many wonders.

Knowing the perils of the passions of the flesh, having overcome and put them to flight, Erconwald taught all to trample upon them.

Theotokion: In despair amid the moonless night of despondency, we call upon thy goodness, O Mother of God: Save us who hymn thee!

Ode VI

Irmos: Beset by evil deeds, I cried out with all my heart: O Lord, from corruption lead me up, who am outcast, I pray! For I have remembered Thee, O Savior, and my heart hath been filled with gladness.

Never tiring to go among the poor and afflicted and heal their ailments, when Erconwald fell ill himself, he had himself borne among them on a litter, the very touch whereof eased their grievous pangs.

Godliness filled thy countenance with divine radiance, O holy one, for which cause Sebba the King and the holy hierarch Theodore prevailed upon thee to ascend the see of London, filling all with gladness.

Descending its ancient course, the Thames washed the fields of Chertsey and of

Barking, and its waters streamed past the great cathedral of London, where the holy hierarch shone forth in this life and after his repose.

Theotokion: As ones weighed down by grievous transgressions, in anguish we cry out from the depths of our hearts: O Lady, stretch forth thine all-pure hand and rescue us; for without thine aid we will surely perish utterly.

Kontakion & ikos from the Pentecostarion.

Ode VII

Irmos: We have sinned, we have committed iniquity, we have dealt unjustly before Thee. We have neither kept nor done as Thou hast commanded us. But deliver us not up utterly, O God of our fathers.

Neither assaults by the passions nor worldly temptations moved the gaze of Erconwald from the face of his Lord; wherefore, he now crieth out: Deliver them not up utterly, O God of our fathers!

Conscious of our manifold sins and iniquities, we dare not lift our eyes unto the just Judge; but we have Erconwald as an advocate, who pleadeth: Deliver them not up utterly, O God of our fathers!

England, thou art stuck in the mire of sin, having strayed from the straight and narrow path of the teachings of Christ; but call upon Erconwald with faith, lest the God of thy fathers deliver thee up utterly.

Theotokion: We sinners fear the dread tribunal, where our iniquities will be examined by the impartial Judge and our doom will be pronounced forthwith; yet deliver us not up, O Lady, but stand as advocate for us.

Ode VIII

Irmos: Let us sing unto Christ the hymn of the youths, chanting with them: Let all creation bless the Lord and exalt Him supremely for all ages!

In godly worship let us praise Him Who showeth His great mercy unto us; and with His saint let us bless and exalt Him supremely for all ages.

The faithful chanted hymns of thanksgiving unto God for Erconwald, singing: Let all creation bless the Lord and exalt Him supremely for all ages!

Having laid aside his rank, the holy one withdrew to Barking, that for the rest of his life he might bless the Lord and exalt Him supremely for all ages.

Triadicon: Let us all worship God—the Father without beginning, the begotten Son, and the divine Spirit,—supremely exalting the Trinity for all ages!

Theotokion: O the surpassing majesty of Christ our God, the Lord of lords and King of all, Whom all creation doth bless and exalt supremely for all ages!

Ode IX

Irmos: All of us, the generations of men, magnify thee, O Virgin Theotokos, the wellspring of our life.

Not honoring thy precious relics, O saint, the ungodly demolished thy tomb and concealed thy holy remains.

Delighting in the healings that God poureth forth upon us through Erconwald, we duly glorify him.

O all-glorious hierarch, protector and defender of London, set at naught the wiles of our ancient foe.

Theotokion: Now let us praise as is meet the all-pure Maiden, who of her precious blood gave birth to the Source of life.

Exapostilarion of the holy hierarch: Spec. Mel.: "Hearken, ye women..."—

Let us lift up our voices in the sound of rejoicing, for Christ God, Who vanquished sin and death, hath given us a worthy ally in Erconwald. Wherefore, hark ye and make haste, O ye Orthodox, for he is hymned by the angelic choirs, with whom let us join in song.

Glory..., Now & ever...: Exapostilarion from the Pentecostarion.

Aposticha stichera from the Pentecostarion; and Glory...: Idiomelon of the holy hierarch, in Tone III—

Like the mighty Thames doth Erconwald arrive for his annual memorial, giving rise to goodly tides of grace that carry the glorious commerce of the virtues to the faithful of London; and with clarion-voiced proclamation he calleth upon all to worship the indivisible Godhead in three Persons; and, pouring forth divine teachings, watereth the minds and souls of all who honor him with love.

Now & ever...: Doxasticon from the Pentecostarion.

At Liturgy

On the Beatitudes, 6 troparia from the appointed ode of the canon of the Pentecostarion.